



1.3 Million Students 32,000 Teachers 2,600 Schools/Centers 16 Countries



## Community Outreach in Paraguay



### About Fe y Alegria:

The International Federation of Fe y Alegría (IFFyA) is the largest and most successful education provider in Latin America and the Caribbean outside of public education systems.

IFFyA is a Jesuit-sponsored network of schools, vocational training centers, and community services that reaches over 1.3 million of the poorest and most isolated members of society. It works in close partnership with the Education Ministries of 16 countries.

The first Fe y Alegría organization was founded by much-loved Jesuit José María Vélaz of Venezuela in 1955. It has inspired similar programs all over the world, including the Cristo Rey Catholic schools in the U.S.

### Background Information

In Paraguay, the lack of widespread high-quality education has contributed to a sense of disenfranchisement among the people, especially the poor in rural areas, and to a lack of civic engagement with government and public offices. In general, they do not have the skills or knowledge necessary to navigate the realm of politics or public administration.

The indigenous people of Paraguay, in particular the Guarani, are among some of the most marginalized and impoverished members of society. They oftentimes receive little in the way of social services, and special attention must be paid to improving their social and economic situation.



### Project Description:

In addition to its schools and vocational training centers, Fe y Alegría serves the people of Latin America by educating citizens about their rights, and teaching them how to interact with local government and other public officials. Fe y Alegría in Paraguay has developed a proposal to reach out to community leaders in towns and cities where FyA runs schools—they will run classes for Fe y Alegría school teachers, public school teachers, individuals recognized by the community as respected leaders, and other interested volunteers. These classes, run over a two-year period, will impart the necessary skills to help them communicate with government, respond to discrimination, and advocate for fiscal responsibility and representation.

Over the two years that this project will operate, 1,150 people will receive training. In addition to learning the described skills, they will also participate in leadership training that will enable them to share what they know with the rest of the community, and encourage broader involvement. This project, a public-private partnership, will bring together different sectors of society to improve the living conditions of all.

### Impact:

- Greater engagement of civil society with government
- Increased attention from government paid to the most isolated and often-forgotten segments of the population
- Poor, rural populations participating more fully in their society's social and economic development