



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



Computers in the Classroom: Technological Literacy for Students in Quito, Ecuador



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

Out of all of Fe y Alegría's schools in 16 countries, only 15% have computers, and even fewer are connected to the internet. Many schools that do have computers are using old, outdated models that were donated years ago. The Fe y Alegría schools struggle to make do without, using typewriters to teach typing skills and appealing to corporations for donations.

The International Federation has made technology a priority, realizing that their students must be technologically literate to truly move up in society. They are turning more of their attention to equipping schools with computers, connecting them to the Internet, and training their teachers to use them and teach them effectively.



Project Description:

The Ponce Martinez Elementary and Middle School in Quito provides high-quality education for over 700 students, who all come from extremely poor neighborhoods. The school was built to address the serious lack of quality education that existed in the neighborhood, and much of the community aided in its construction. Today it serves as not only a school but a community center, operating a small business for neighborhood mothers, and running evening classes for illiterate adults.

The school currently has a computer lab with only 40 computers for 700 students. All students have computer class one hour per week, but are forced to sit three students to a computer. The school also has no connection to the Internet. The school would like to hold more frequent computer classes for the students, in which each student sits at his or her own computer to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The project funds the purchase of 60 new computers, Internet connection and the cost of training two computer teachers at the school.

Cost of the Project:

\$28,500	Total requested for 60 computers, purchased locally, including auxiliary costs such as installation and wiring (\$475 each)
\$1,500	Cost of training 2 teachers
\$30,000	TOTAL

Impact:

- 700 more students each year with better access to computers and receiving better education
- Computers used in basic education classes to improve the quality of math, writing, reading and science education
- Technologically literate students and teachers who will share their knowledge with others