



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



## Computers in the Classroom: Technological Literacy in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic



### About Fe y Alegría:

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

### 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 Many schools that do have computers are using old, outdated models that were donated years ago.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, as they realize that their students must be technologically literate to truly move up in society. They are turning more of their attention to equipping more schools with computers, connecting them to the internet, and training their teachers to use them and teach them effectively.



### Project Description:

In Quito, Ecuador, the Ponce Martinez School educates 700 students in one of the poorest neighborhoods on the outskirts of the capital. The school has a computer lab with approximately 30 computers, insufficient for the size of the school. Students have computer class only one period per week, and must sit three students to a computer. The school would like to add 35 more computers to the lab and to classrooms.

In Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, the Henriquez Ureña School has an even more dire situation: 4 computers for 1,800 students. At this school students are taught on typewriters and out-of-date computers that do not allow them to learn much more than basic typing skills. The school would like to receive up to 80 computers, purchased new and installed professionally. Up to three teachers per school will also be trained in the use of these computers and how to teach students in their use.

### Cost of the Project:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| \$55,000        | Total requested for 115 computers  |
|                 | Cost of each computer, purchased locally, including auxiliary costs such as installation and wiring (\$475 each) |
| \$3,000         | Cost of training 6 teachers  |
| <b>\$58,000</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>   |

### Impact:

- 2,500 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