

## Computers in the Classroom: Technological Literacy for Primary School Students in Caracas, Venezuela



### 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 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 Many schools that do have computers are using old, outdated models that were donated years ago.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 Unidad Educativa Jose Maria Olaso provides a high-quality and caring education to 674 students ranging from pre-school through sixth grade. The school is a haven in one of Caracas' most disadvantaged and neglected neighborhoods, and provides free education to its extremely poor population.

The school is using very outdated, used computers donated several years ago by a private corporation. The project seeks to install 30 new computers to be used as their primary teaching computers. The computer teacher will be trained to use the new computers as part of the curriculum.

All of the students at this school have computer classes at least once per week. The school would also like to set up the computer lab as an internet café after school hours, to provide cheap and local internet access for the neighborhood residents. The current two computer teachers would lead classes with the new computers, and could oversee installation and training.

### Cost of the Project:

\$12,000	Total requested for 30 computers, purchased locally, including auxiliary costs such as installation and wiring (\$500 each)
\$1,000	Cost of training 2 teachers
<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

### Impact:

- 674 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