



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



## Long-Distance Education in Six Countries



### 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

Fe y Alegría has been working in the field of technical education and vocational training for the past 50 years, offering a variety of programs and services in 370 technical education centers throughout Latin America. In 2004 there were 28,725 students in technical education courses, 72,144 students in vocational training, 12,619 students in technical and vocational long-distance courses, for a total of 113,488 people served.

The goal of long-distance technical education is to allow the continuing education of more than one hundred thousand impoverished young people and adults, both men and women. Students are diverse but have an average age of 18 years, and live mostly in rural areas where traditional and public schools cannot reach them. In these places, radio is the only means of communication.



### Project Description:

The project consists in the development and implementation of technical training programs distributed through the radio network of Fe y Alegría (IRFA). The distance education will be supported by occasional in-person classes that students will be assisted to attend, as well, so that they can receive direct guidance from Fe y Alegría teachers. The program will be implemented in six countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. These countries were selected because of their decades of experience using long-distance education, and because of their existing infrastructure for such programs.

The aim of this project is to reach those who have been most excluded by the formal education systems of their countries, and especially from the system of professional technical training. They have been left without the means to pursue a livelihood to support themselves and their families, and are therefore excluded from mainstream society. This program will offer them a technical and vocational education that will enable them to enter the labor market, develop entrepreneurial skills, increase their income and quality of life, and help them to become full, contributing members in their communities and societies.

### Cost of the Project:

\$427,753	Total cost of the project
\$121,258	Fe y Alegría contribution
<b>\$306,495</b>	<b>Total requested</b>

### Impact:

- Wide-scale impact at low cost, because of affordability of radio education
- Active community involvement, with grassroots leaders volunteering for the training sessions.
- Documenting, disclosing, replicating and scaling experiences.