



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



Public Libraries in 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

Fe y Alegría Ecuador devotes a large part of its budget to operational costs. Because of this, they have not been able to expand their capacities in certain areas—among them, improving the quality of literacy education at their educational centers. The organization recognizes that reading and writing make up a fundamental part of education across all subjects, for children and adults, and would like to improve their resources for literacy education.

One of the most important needs felt by FyA is its lack of funds to purchase books. They have several initiatives already designed for setting up libraries, reading programs, and other literacy initiatives, but are unable to move forward until they secure additional funding.



Project Description:

FyA Ecuador understands that literacy needs to be fostered not just in the classroom, but in the communities where its schools are located. Because of this, they have long had plans to set up community libraries. By performing diagnostic studies of the neighborhoods where they work, they have identified communities that lack any public space for adult education or recreation through books and computers. Through surveys of community members, FyA realized that these populations have problems that would benefit from the development of cultural activity and education.

FyA would like to build libraries open to all community members, each housing at least 4,000 books and providing free Internet access. At these libraries, they would also host programs for children and adolescents, offering recreational and after-school programs promoting good health, cultural and artistic expression, dialogue, leadership development, and programs that celebrate literacy. The libraries would serve not just as a place for books, but as a place for community development and life-long education.

Cost of the Project:

\$42,200	Books, furniture, and equipment
\$40,000	Construction costs
\$18,600	Human resources and administrative costs
\$100,800	TOTAL (per library)

Impact:

- An expansive local center of information, ideas and knowledge for community members
- Improved civic involvement in social development and cultural expression
- Greater connectedness to the rest of the world through books and Internet access
- Improved literacy and vocational skills