



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



## Reading Corners: Promoting Literacy in Ecuador



### 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 Ecuador devotes a large part of its budget to paying teachers' salaries and covering 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 schools. The organization recognizes that reading and writing make up a fundamental part of education across all subjects, 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:

The national director of Fe y Alegría Ecuador declared literacy promotion in all subjects as a crucial goal for the organization and its schools. One of the programs designed to achieve this goal is creating a system of "Reading Corners" in every classroom in FyA's elementary schools. These Reading Corners will be set up in one area of the classroom, allowing children to sit down with a book or teachers to read aloud to their classes. The reading corners can be used by teachers to encourage a love of reading and develop reading and writing skills among their students.

The Reading Corners will each consist of at least 300 books for the appropriate grade levels. The project also calls for furniture for the Corners, teacher training to help teachers promote literacy in their curricula, and a regional coordinator who will oversee the project and keep promoting it over the long-term.

### Cost of the Project:

\$5,000	Furniture, equipment, and teaching materials
\$7,500	Construction, where necessary
\$3,000	Teacher training and administrative costs
<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>TOTAL (per Reading Corner)</b>

### Impact:

- Reading and writing integrated into all areas of teaching in the classroom
- Books made available to students who currently have little or no access to them
- Improved literacy education, led by trained teachers