



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



School Libraries for Fe y Alegría Centers 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:

Part of Fe y Alegría Ecuador's initiative to promote literacy in their schools is the creation of a network of libraries located at each school. Few of the country's schools have libraries, and public libraries are also rare and under-funded. Fe y Alegría Ecuador would like to install full libraries into their schools, allowing students and teachers access to books in a way that they have never had. Each school library would be put into place in elementary schools and high schools, and would contain at least 600 books per library: 40 pedagogical books for teachers, and 560 for students, appropriate to the grade levels at that school.

Each library would provide not only books but a space for reading, for educational activities, and would also contain a few computers with Internet access, which the majority of these schools also lack. A library coordinator would be hired to oversee and promote literacy projects in each school, and teachers would be trained in order to better integrate books, reading and writing in all subject matters.

Cost of the Project:

\$42,200	Furniture, equipment, and teaching materials
\$40,000	Construction, where necessary
\$18,600	Teacher training and library coordinator
\$100,800	TOTAL (per library)

Impact:

- A wide array of books made available to every student at each school
- Ongoing promotion of literacy at each school by the library coordinator
- Reading and writing integrated into all areas of education, fostering higher levels of literacy among students