



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



School Library for Primary School in Caracas



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

In the United States books are a regular feature in any school. Children are lent a textbook for each class every year in most public schools, and they have school libraries and local public libraries where they can find entertaining reading on their own. While students are always encouraged to read more than they do, there are always books available.

In most parts of Latin America, however, books are a precious commodity. Many rural areas have no library at all, and schools lack the funding to buy them. Fe y Alegría schools all emphasize reading skills and do their best to provide books for their students, but this is not always possible and there are rarely enough books to go around.



Project Description:

The Jose Maria Olaso school 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 does not currently have a library and would like to greatly expand the supply of books for their students. They would like to convert one of their spare rooms into a library for all of the students to use, with new or gently used books in Spanish, at an appropriate reading level for the students. The goal is to encourage a love of reading among the students and improve literacy, as well as the quality of literacy education in the school. The school would also like to set up five computer stations in the library. Teachers would be trained in operating and maintaining the library.

Cost of the Project:

\$5,000	Books and teaching materials
\$2,000	Materials
\$2,375	Computer stations
\$2,000	Four training sessions for teachers
\$11,375	TOTAL

Impact:

- Encourage a love of reading for 674 students every year
- Improve literacy levels: most youths in Venezuela are literate, but read at low levels for their age compared to other countries
- Deepen the quality of other classes at the school by providing supportive educational materials