



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



Teacher Training and Technical Skills Program in Panama



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 places a heavy emphasis on teacher training for its nearly 32,000 teachers. It continually works to perfect teachers' skills, as well as their sense of service and mission. In Panama, many of the teachers must be trained to work effectively with the indigenous people of the country, as FyA Panama makes a special effort to reach these underserved and marginalized peoples.

The unique circumstances of the children's lives, such as poverty and inequality, require teachers to be trained to confront problems that they might not be used to facing. They need to learn how to reach out to these youths, how to involve their families and communities, and how to provide the best possible education so that students finish their studies and move on to productive lives after graduation.



Project Description:

The main objective of this project is to increase the quality of education being provided to indigenous people and other impoverished segments of the population. FyA addresses their specific needs by using innovative methodologies to teach Spanish language, math, and Information Technology. This project proposes updating and improving the curricula currently being used to improve the quality of education provided. It will take approximately 2 years to execute.

The project will be a collaboration between FyA and public schools, providing training to 34 Fe y Alegría school teachers and 41 public teachers. The project seeks to improve their pedagogical skills, computer and IT knowledge, and provide them with a new educational approach adapted to the local realities. The program will also train teachers in citizenship matters and in student personality evaluations. The training program will build on Fe y Alegría's unique and praised approach of classroom-based training where teachers are trained by other teachers. Teachers learn by doing, and through examples provided by experienced peers. Fe y Alegría's teacher training program emphasizes practice and community oriented methods, and is well-suited to the needs of the populations they serve.

Cost of the Project:

\$18,985	Materials
\$16,866	Human resources
\$115,474	Operating expenses
\$108,061	Travel expenses
\$71,833	Equipment
\$130,039	TOTAL

Impact:

- Higher graduation rates among high-risk students
- Improved cooperation between teachers, parents, and principals on behalf of the students
- Over 2,000 students from low income families with access to teachers who have experience in problem solving and offering guidance