



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



## Helping Teachers Reach Out to Troubled Youths in Venezuela



### 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 addition to formal schools, Fe y Alegría provides alternative education such as distance learning via radio, teacher training workshops, and vocational training programs. It also makes efforts to reach out to particularly vulnerable populations. One of those populations is high school dropouts or students who have been expelled from the Venezuelan public school system.

There are few programs in Venezuela that help young adults reinsert into society and the educational system. In most countries, youths older than 15 years old cannot enroll in the regular schools, and can only join programs designed for adults. Fe y Alegría Venezuela has created a program to respond to this need.



### Project Description:

The Educational Centers for Vocational Training (CECAL) focuses on former students between the ages of 15 and 25 who dropped out or were expelled from the public educational system. These youths mostly left school because of a lack of family support, drug use, or criminal activities. They are not ready to return to regular schools or adult programs and need special assistance in re-adapting to society.

CECAL teaches these unemployed, troubled youths to fight drug use and live well with others in society, in addition to helping them get their high school diplomas. Students also graduate from CECAL programs with training in vocations that will help them find jobs and support themselves. Because there are so few programs of this kind in Venezuela, Fe y Alegría's efforts are so important.

In order to reach even more students and be more successful in their efforts, Fe y Alegría would like to implement a teacher training program, helping teachers become better prepared to assist this vulnerable population. Fe y Alegría needs funding to operate the course over a three-year period in the Zulia region of Venezuela.

### Cost of the Project:

**\$192,000** Total requested, covering \$32,000 per semester, for six semesters over three years

### Impact:

- Teachers with better classroom and vocational skills to share with their students
- Students better equipped with professional skills to make a living after graduation
- Formerly troubled youths re-integrated into society and contributing to their communities