PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT

PROJECT: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS
EDUCATION
SEGMENT: LITERACY AND BASIC EDUCATION

Project Information

Club in charge of this project: Rotary Club São José do Rio Preto Novo Cinquentenário / District 4480

Beneficiary Institution:
Instituto Riopretense dos Cegos Trabalhadores - IRCT (Blind Institute of São José do Rio Preto/SP/Brazil)
The Institute was founded on 1st September, 1948, as a non-profit organization focused on philanthropy, without distinction of race, color, social conditions, political or religion belief.

Improvements provided by the project: Upgrade and renew the education system for students with visual impairment improved by the use of new assistive technology equipment.

Assistive technology equipment: The institute needs a total of 18 new equipment to be able to improve and offer a good education for its students. Find the entire list on the 5th item of this project.

Total amount required: US$ 32,608.70

We are looking for international partners to sponsor with us this important project.

1 - Introduction

Inclusion is a much-discussed topic nowadays, because regardless of having a disability or not, every individual has a series of rights that must be respected by all, especially when it comes to a quality education.

However, the dependence of having another person to assist performing day-to-day life routines at home, at school or at work, constrains many disabled people.

This project will provide assistive technology options to facilitate the independence of blind and low vision people. Also, will increase their quality of life, maximize social inclusion by providing a quality education that any child should have, expanding communication and mobility options to let them in control of their environment, work and abilities.

2 - Purpose

Guarantee better literacy, education, reading, writing and rehabilitation for students. Thereby, the visually impaired students will be well included in society and in the professional market.

3- Target Audience

The audience would be 70 students from 6 to 45 years old with total visual disability or low vision problems. Those students are inserted into the public or private educational system or are part of literacy program for adults, which prrovides opportunities for them to have access to education, literacy, reading, writing and bringing several benefits.

Nowadays, school independence is fundamental for those people who are at the edge of society, without opportunities and suffering prejudice.

4 - Justification

The use of assistive technology offers different features to assist visually impaired in their day-to-day, allowing them to improve their intellectual knowledge through assisted reading, printing in Braille, audio content, expansion of information

by physical and virtual magnifying glasses, audio typing and others. In addition, facilitates simple tasks like cooking, dressing, feeding, bathing without the assistance of another person.

Assistive technologies are tools that facilitate and ensure qualitative learning and greater autonomy of the individual in society. These features are classified and arranged according to their purpose and need.

5 – Assistive Technology Equipaments required

The devices below are the materials that we will obtain through our project and which will assist in the education and rehabilitation of students who attends to the Blind Institute of São José do Rio Preto.

- **Focus 40 Blue** – a braile keyboard and control, that allows the user to connect and use other devices in an easier way. Estimated value: US $ 5,188.40
- **Eye-Pal Ace Plus -** a portable scanner, reader, and video magnifier in one lightweight, battery-operated device. Estimated value: US $ 6,231.88
- **Sara Pc –** a new generation of self-contained scanning and reading appliance for printed text or human-like speech. The student can use it with different voices and languages. Three units required. Estimated value of each: US $ 579.71
- **Jaws** – an universal **screen** reader software, developed for computer users whose vision loss prevents them from seeing screen. Three units required. Estimated value of each: US $ 1,594.20
- **Teca Fuser** – a printer that transforms printed images or draws with black carbon-based pen, in reliefed figures. It is used in adapted content production centers and schools to explain students the outlines of several objects, geometric shapes, mathematical symbols, animals, graphics, location of maps and others. Estimated value: US $ 3,333.33
- **Topaz 20"** - Equipment that has a 20" screen coupled to a base that extends printed content in live mode or different contrasts. Estimated value: US $ 4,956.52
- **Ruby XL HD** - Portable handheld electronic magnifier with exclusive internal memory for 80 images that can be transferred to a USB stick. Two units required. Estimated value of each: US $ 1,449.27
- **Vargian** – A QWERTY keyboard to computers like all conventional keyboards, but its increases characters by 400% the images and texts. Three units required. Estimated value of each: US $ 434.78
- **Magic 12 -** Software that expands content displayed on the computer screen, with the possibility of different configurations to adapt to the user's needs. Two units required. Estimated value of each: US $ 724.63

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