



# Turimiquire Foundation

## Annual Report 2018

Our U.S.-based non-profit 501(c)3 Foundation has served the low-income population of Sucre state in north-eastern Venezuela since 1997. Based on more than 40 years of living and working in impoverished rural regions of Venezuela, we have developed our [Recipe for a Thriving Community](#) as a four point blueprint for action that guides our work in these rural communities:

### (1) FAMILY PLANNING: *Empowering women and families with the means to control their own fertility.*

- ⇒ In 2018, we offered our services to more than **1,500** additional reproductive-age women and their families, delivering **11,987 Couple Years of Protection (CYPs)** - the metric by which USAID measures family planning achievement - to the low-income populations that we serve.
- ⇒ Calculating an average family of five, over **6000 additional family members** also benefited in 2018.
- ⇒ Cumulatively, from May 1997 through December 2018, we have delivered a total of **117,740 Couple Years of Protection** to low-income families seeking to control their fertility.
- ⇒ To achieve this, we have served over **50,000** low-income women since 1997 with birth control methods, including **6576 tubal sterilizations**, the most popular contraceptive method for mature women and their families here in Venezuela. Over **200,000 additional family members** have also benefited
- ⇒ We have done this on an average budget of less than **\$55,000** a year dedicated to family planning and reproductive health. Our average operating costs, at **\$9.39 per CYP**, are well below documented averages.
- ⇒ Venezuela has a growing young population with one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Latin America and the Caribbean. Starting in 2003, we have offered a total of **2,970 Workshops in Sexual and Reproductive Health** to more than **55,000 participants**, primarily students and teenagers.
- ⇒ We are reaching more and younger women with reversible family planning. In the past, rural women survived significant infant and maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as economic adversity that is often directly related to supporting large families, until they would finally seek surgical sterilization in their early 30's. Now, in 2018, the average woman we serve is in her mid 20s with two children, taking control of her reproductive health and fertility with reversible options much earlier in life.
- ⇒ Women relieved of the burden of involuntary fertility become outspoken examples for their extended families and neighbors, showcasing the improved quality of life accessible through controlling the size of their families.
- ⇒ As the *only* civil organization offering these services in the eastern half of Venezuela, we have become the local reference point for family planning services and reproductive health education. In the current economic crisis, with contraceptives becoming largely unavailable, our resources have been stretched to an extreme.

### (2) EDUCATION: *Once families gain control of their fertility, they concentrate on giving their children the best possible future through schooling.*

- ⇒ Our **Scholarship Program** for the *Vía Cumanacoa* community enables some **50 rural students** each year to continue their studies at local high schools. Over 500 students from semi-literate families have now attended high school and almost 100 have graduated. Previously, most students in this community abandoned their formal education at or before the sixth grade.
- ⇒ At any given time, some twenty or more of these high school graduates are now continuing their studies at the *college level* with ongoing Foundation support, a real precedent. Each year more students graduate from high school and some of the best students continue to college.
- ⇒ Our *Brito-Barrancas Education Program* offers staffed library and computer facilities upriver – two hours walking distance from the nearest road—to support students at the remote rural high school, and our rural high school and college students, as well as low-income urban students, regularly study at our urban *Computer Center* in Cumaná, which offers free Internet, tutoring and a study area for schoolwork.

### (3) HUMANITARIAN AID: *The current Venezuelan crisis has generated great human need.*

- ⇒ In 2018, we performed 866 surgical procedures for low-income individuals who can no longer count on Venezuela's public health system, for a cumulative total of 7125 surgeries since we initiated this program. We have also realized dozens of laparoscopic diagnoses and biopsies for patients in need.
- ⇒ We also provide emergency assistance to dozens of rural families, helping to alleviate a myriad of problems, including basic nutrition for children, in this time of acute crisis in Venezuela.

**(4) COMMUNITY: Investing in people first!**

We develop community infrastructure in the remote road-less rural valley that we work and live in. We support projects in water delivery, electricity, public trail improvement, and agriculture, including the cultivation of unusual tropical fruits like Durian, Mangosteen, Jackfruit, Rollinia and Canistel. Our downriver Community Center serves as a base for local commerce and town-related activities.

We work hard to accomplish a great deal on a small budget. We simply *do more with less*:

- ⇒ We spend very little on infrastructure and staffing. Instead, we ride "piggy-back" on existing public and private health infrastructure, adding only specifically what is needed for them to deliver their services more effectively.
  - ⇒ Donations, *social marketing*, and sliding scale fees for our medical services all help to cover our operating costs. Our services are offered at highly subsidized prices, and *no one is turned away* for not being able to pay. Most everyone can help with *something*, and a few need extra help from us.
  - ⇒ We invest *minimally in public outreach*. Women and families proactively promote our services through word-of-mouth, and state public health facilities and private agencies now regularly refer clients to us.
  - ⇒ Our Officers and Board Members are volunteer. All of our paid staff are Venezuelan.
  - ⇒ [Fundación ServYr](#), our non-profit organization in Venezuela, received the rough equivalent of **\$4471** in patient co-pays and in-country local currency support in 2018. This amount, much less than in previous years, reflects the massive devaluation of the Venezuelan currency in the current crisis.
  - ⇒ Administrative costs, including fundraising, were **5.8%** of our overall budget. **94.2 cents** of every dollar went directly into the field. Over the past eighteen years, almost **94%** of our budget has gone directly into the field, and we are striving to be even more efficient.
  - ⇒ We confront the same social problems and highly inadequate services in the face of growing populations with critically unmet needs, that exist in most other less developed countries. We believe that effective on-the-ground solutions for poverty are being forged today in the crucible of small, community-based experiments like our own.
- In Venezuela, a little can go a long way, but there are no short cuts. We thank you for your help and hope that you will continue to support this urgent work!

The Turimiquire Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
**Donations are fully tax deductible.**  
 Please contribute by check, payable to the Turimiquire Foundation, or online at [www.turimiquire.org/donate-now/](http://www.turimiquire.org/donate-now/)

Our Finances in 2018				
Calendar Year Expenses		%	Calendar Year Income	
Non-program overhead:		6%	Multiple Donors over \$5,000	\$ 50,000
Adminis- tration and Infrastruc-	\$ 7,929	5%	Grants and Support from Trusts and Foundations	\$70,250
Fund Raising	\$ 1,347	1%	Donations \$1000- \$5,000	\$ 38,540
<b>Programs:</b>		<b>94%</b>	Individual donations up to \$1000	<b>\$ 25,297</b>
Family Planning Services and Reprod Health Education			Interest Income	<b>\$41</b>
<b>\$ 115,225</b>		72%	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$184,128</b>
Humanitarian Assistance: Surgical, Medical, Nutritional and Family Emergencies			In 2018 and now in 2019, we express a special thanks to the <b>Erik and Edith Bergstrom Foundation</b> for their generous support of our work in family planning. <b>In-country social marketing revenues</b> and donations were able to fund much of our rural scholarship and reproductive health education programs, plus some of our work in rural development and eco-agriculture. We were thus able to dedicate more of our dollar resources to <b>family planning</b> and <b>humanitarian aid</b> in the current crisis.	
<b>\$ 30,386</b>		19%		
Rural Education Center and Student Scholarships				
<b>\$ 2,700</b>		2%		
Rural Development and Agriculture				
<b>\$ 1,229</b>		1%		
<b>TOTAL</b>				
<b>\$158,815</b>		100%		
Most of the revenue generated over 2018 costs has already been committed to important growth in our 2019 programs in the face of the crisis here.				

**Turimiquire Foundation**

16 Crescent Street  
 Cambridge, MA  
 U.S.A. 02138  
 Tel: (617) 721-9445  
 Steven Bloomstein, president  
 bloomst@gmail.com  
 William Bloomstein, secretary  
 wittcreative@comcast.net  
[turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com)  
[www.turimiquire.org](http://www.turimiquire.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Turimiquire](https://www.facebook.com/Turimiquire)