



Turimiquire Foundation

www.turimiquire.org

**“When we dream alone, it is only a dream.
When we dream with others, it is the beginning of reality.”**

Dom Camera Helder

April 2, 2012

Our Mission, Achievements and History

The Turimiquire Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit organization that has served the low-income population of Sucre state in northeastern Venezuela since 1996. Based on more than 30 years of experience in the impoverished regions of northeastern Venezuela, we have developed our [Recipe for a Thriving Community](#) as a blueprint for realizing the [Millennium Development Goals](#) adopted by the United Nations in the year 2000. We believe that it is in the crucible of *small, community-based experiments like our own* that some of the most effective solutions for the broad Millennium Vision are being forged today.

Our [Recipe](#) guides our work in three key areas:

[Health and Women](#)

The first and crucial step towards truly empowering women is to offer them the means to control their own fertility. Through 2011, we have offered **58,374** [Couple Years of Protection \(CYPs\)](#), the metric by which USAID measures family planning achievement, to both the rural and urban populations that we serve, but the vast unmet need for family planning and reproductive health services far exceeds our current capacity to provide.

[Education and Children](#)

Once families have gained control of their fertility, they concentrate on giving their children the best possible future through schooling. We support students in remote rural areas and marginal urban barrios through educational and cultural programs at our rural [Casa Barrancas Community Center](#) and at our urban headquarters, [Casa ServYr](#).

[Sustainable Livelihood](#)

We focus on environmentally sensitive rural community development through introducing low impact utilities like solar electricity and gravity piped water systems, and promoting ecological agriculture, generating the means for self-sustaining employment towards an enduring rural future.

[Reproductive Health and Family Planning](#)

The Turimiquire Foundation and *Fundación ServYr* work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the State of Sucre, the State Office of Gender and Women’s Affairs, the private sector, and with PROSALUD InterAmericana and PLAFAM / IPPF-WHR in Caracas. In

Turimiquire Foundation

selected public health establishments, we distribute free contraceptives and offer free family planning consultations directed by gynecologist-obstetricians. Within the private sector, we offer subsidized family planning and reproductive health consultations for low-income patients. We have offered surgical sterilizations since 1997. In 2005, we began using the less invasive laparoscopic technology that allows patients to recover and return to their daily activities more rapidly. We offer workshops on sexual and reproductive health and family planning in schools and other public venues.

The following table summarizes our activities from May, 1997 through December, 2011:

Total number of women attended	26,297
Total number of family planning visits	95,306
Hormonal Contraceptives distributed	74,478 (monthly cycles)
Intrauterine Devices placed	5,441 (IUDs)
Tubal Sterilizations	3,389
Sexual and Reproductive Health workshops	2,027
Student and adult participants in our workshops	42,507

Chronology of Selected Projects in Reproductive Health and Family Planning:

- 1997:** Initiation of family planning services in Cumanacoa and rural Montes County.
- 1999:** Initiation of family planning services in Cumaná and rural Sucre County.
- 2000:** Initiation of a family planning clinic in the Fe y Alegría Urban Public Health Clinic, Cumaná.
- 2002:** Establishment of the *Adolescent Orientation Center* in the Fe y Alegría Urban Public Health Clinic, Cumaná, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the State Office of Gender and Women’s Affairs, offering education and information on sexual and reproductive health to adolescents both within and outside of the school system.
- 2003:** Initiation of Educational Workshops on sexual and reproductive health, family planning, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, gender-based perspectives, etc., in schools and public health facilities in several counties.
- 2003:** Initiation of family planning services in the “Dr. Julio Rodriguez” Urban Public Hospital, Cumaná.
- 2005:** Adolescents who have attended our sexual responsibility workshops write and present a play titled *Nothing’s Going to Happen to Me... (but it did!)* organized by the youth theater group of the nearby Culture Foundation of San Juan de Macarapana.
- 2006:** Initiation of *Pana a Pana* (Buddy to Buddy) project in Cumaná to serve educators and facilitators in sexual and reproductive health among their peers.
- 2007-2009:** Project financed by the State government in 2007, continuing through 2009, executed by *Fundación ServYr* for the reduction of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections in adolescent populations of four rural counties.
- 2009:** Intensified reproductive health outreach at public health facilities along the rural Cumaná-Cumanacoa road.
- 2010-2011:** Strengthening family planning services at the “Dr. Julio Rodriguez” Hospital, Cumaná.

Turimiquire Foundation

General Health

We collaborate periodically with the state Children's Foundation (*Fundación del Niño Sucre*), the Ministry of Health (*FUNDASALUD*), the Lion's Club (*Club de Leones*), and the State University (*Universidad del Oriente*) in rural medical outreach, offering attention in the areas of pediatrics, vaccinations, family planning, tuberculosis, *chagas* disease testing, evaluation and treatment of respiratory inadequacy, and dentistry.

Rural Education

We support various educational activities in the rural areas of Barrancas-Tigre, Río Brito, and nearby communities along the Cumaná-Cumanacoa road. We help fund and maintain the following educational programs:

- Two outlets of *subsidized school supplies*, beginning in 1995.
- *Barrancas kindergarten*, which we founded in 2001.
- *Brito-Barrancas Community Center*, staffed library and computer facilities.
- *Teacher education and school activities* at the remote Río Brito elementary school.
- *Scholarship Program* for the Río Brito community that enables 45 rural students to continue their studies at local high schools. In 2008, some of these students began graduating from high school and ten students are now studying at the college level with ongoing Foundation support, a significant step forward for this rural community.
- *Internet/Computer Center* in Cumaná.

Chronology of Selected Projects in Rural Education:

- 2001:** Establishment, with the financial support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the first **Kindergarten** and **Barrancas Community Library** in Tigre-Barrancas for students along the Cumaná-Cumanacoa road.
- 2003:** Renovation, with the financial support of the Embassy of the Netherlands, of the *Madre María* Child Care Center for the Agua Santa Community, and of the Barrancas Community Library.
- 2003:** Initiation of our **Scholarship Program** for remote rural students who wish to continue their studies in high school, growing to over 40 students participating yearly.
- 2004:** Installation of an **Internet/Computer Center** in *Casa ServYr*, Fundación ServYr's headquarters in Cumaná, with free access for low-income members of the rural and urban *barrio* communities for their studies and general use.
- 2004:** State University (*Universidad de Oriente*) makes a major donation of books and materials for the rural Barrancas Community Library.
- 2005:** Construction of the **School Cafeteria** for the remote Río Brito elementary school.
- 2006:** Creation of the **Brito-Barrancas Community Center** integrating a variety of programs for children, adolescents, and adults, including a staffed library, tutoring, and computer lessons; art, dance, and cultural activities; dental attention (with support of Sucre State Children's Foundation); and medical attention (with support of Sucre State Public Health Ministry).
- 2007-2009:** *Fundación ServYr* and the Brito-Barrancas Community Center receive financing from the Sucre State Government for development of community programs.
- 2009-2011:** Our high school **Scholarship Program** which supports 45 rural students annually, now has ten graduating students who are continuing to college with our support. Each year's high school graduating class sends several more rural students to college.

Turimiquire Foundation

Sustainable Rural Development

We work with the *campesino* populations in the rural areas of Barrancas, Rio Brito, and along the Cumaná-Cumanacoa road to help improve agriculture and rural infrastructure, and to conserve their traditions and lifestyle. We have helped to diversify local agriculture and encourage eco-agricultural practices, including the successful introduction of fruit trees from other tropical areas of the world. We support projects such as the development of carpentry using local timber from fallen and standing dead trees. We have implemented the use of solar energy and gravity-piped water delivery for remote communities off the public services grid.

Chronology of Selected Projects in Sustainable Rural Development:

- 1996-present:** Support for **Los Dos Pasos Juntos**, our experimental eco-agricultural fruit farm, and community center for the upper Río Brito valley.
- 1996-present:** Initiation of **Vaccination** campaigns for burros and other domestic animals against paralytic rabies and encephalitis with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. These campaigns continue periodically.
- 1998:** Initiation of our **Solar Energy Program**, which installed solar electric systems in 25 houses, and the church and school of the remote Rio Brito valley; with financial support from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2001.
- 1999:** Our **experimental fruit plantings** of Jackfruit, Rollinia and various locally unknown tropical fruits begin to bear quality fruit. We begin seedling nurseries with this first generation of Venezuelan cultivars.
- 2001:** Distribution of these **tropical fruit seedlings** to nearby farmers and enthusiasts.
- 2003:** Initial use of **Brito-Barrancas Community Center** to store agricultural products in transit to the Cumaná market and for building materials for Brito valley projects, and as a care station for the community's pack animals.
- 2005:** Installation of **Gravity-piped Potable Water** for 20 valley families.
- 2006:** Installation of gravity-piped potable water for 95 additional families, using our successful system as a model, now with government funding.
- 2006:** **Carpentry Classes** at the Brito-Barrancas Community Center using ecologically-harvested local wood.
- 2007:** Our **Durian** trees begin to produce quality fruit, and we start Durian tree nurseries with first generation Venezuelan seed for future distribution of this renowned fruit, relatively unknown in Venezuela and in most of South America.
- 2007-2008:** **Classes** in food preparation and handicrafts at the Brito-Barrancas Community Center.
- 2008-2011:** Distribution of **Durian, Jackfruit** and **Rollinia** seedlings to local farmers, along with our other little known tropical fruit cultivars.

Turimiquire Foundation

CONTACTS

UNITED STATES:

William Bloomstein, Secretary and Treasurer
33 Richdale Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140, U.S.A.
617-721-9445 • wittcreative@comcast.net

VENEZUELA:

Steven Bloomstein, President
Apartado 295, Cumaná, Edo. Sucre 6101-A, Venezuela
011-58-293-431-1935 • bloomst@gmail.com

www.turimiquire.org

turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com

Turimiquire Foundation

is a 501(c)3 non-profit private operating foundation registered in the United States.

To learn more, please visit us at:

<http://www.turimiquire.org/>

*where you can see a video about our work,
download our annual reports and fact sheets,
and make a donation to assist our work!*

All U.S. donations are fully tax deductible.

Fundación ServYr

is our “sister” nonprofit foundation in Venezuela that we established for executing Turimiquire Foundation programs in-county. ServYr is registered as a Venezuelan non-profit service organization, with certification on the national, state and municipal levels. Funds raised by the Turimiquire Foundation are administered through Fundación ServYr, which also raises program funds separately within Venezuela.

To learn more about us in Spanish, please visit

<http://www.fundacionservyr.org/>

Thank you for your support!