



# Turimiquire Foundation

[www.turimiquire.org](http://www.turimiquire.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Turimiquire](https://www.facebook.com/Turimiquire)  
[turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com)

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

January 30, 2023

## ***Our Mission, Achievements and History***

The Turimiquire Foundation is a US-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has served the low-income population of *Sucre* state in northeastern Venezuela since 1996.

[Our Mission](#) is to help low-income families and communities in rural northeastern Venezuela to develop their potential and break out of the cycle of poverty characteristic of this region. We empower rural families by integrating family planning and public health and education programs with agricultural and environmental projects to help rural communities become productive and sustainable. We also offer targeted humanitarian aid in response to the current Venezuelan crisis.

With 25+ years of experience, we believe that *small, community-based ventures like our own* can offer effective models and solutions in the less developed world. **We think globally and act locally** to contribute to the [United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform Our World](#).

Our [Recipe for a Thriving Community](#) defines our mission and work in four key areas:

### [Health and Women](#)

The first and crucial step towards truly empowering women is to offer them the means to control their fertility. Through 2022, we have provided **239,255+** [Couple Years of Protection](#), the metric by which USAID measures family planning achievement, to more than **70,500** rural and low-income urban women and their families. The vast unmet need for family planning and reproductive health services exceed our capacity to provide.

### [Education and Children](#)

Once families gain 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 scholarships and educational and cultural programs at our rural [Rio Brito Education Center](#) and at our urban headquarters, [Casa ServYr](#).

### [Sustainable Livelihood](#)

We focus on environmentally sensitive rural community development, introducing low-impact utilities like solar electricity and gravity water systems, and promoting ecological agriculture, tree permaculture, and reforestation, generating tools and self-sustaining employment for an enduring rural future.

### [Humanitarian Aid](#)

We offer measured assistance to rural low-income Venezuelans impacted by the extended socio-economic crisis in the country. Health and personal problems can become insuperable obstacles, and our selective help can permit families and the rural community to overcome critical issues and move forward.

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## Reproductive Health and Family Planning

The Turimiquire Foundation in the USA and our associate civil organization *Fundación ServYr* in Venezuela execute our programs in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the State of *Sucre*, with various State and Municipal Offices for Health, Education and Agriculture, with national organizations, and in partnership with private sector doctors and health facilities.

We offer family planning consultations and distribute contraceptives under medical supervision at selected public health establishments. Through the private sector, we subsidize family planning and reproductive health consultations for low-income patients, offer contraceptives through social marketing, and provide laparoscopic surgical sterilizations and other remedial surgeries. In public health facilities, in public and private schools and via other public venues, we present workshops on sexual and reproductive health, family planning, substance abuse and gender violence for adolescents and adults.

**The following table summarizes our activities from May 1997 through December 2022:**

<b>Total Number of Women Attended</b>	<b>70,500 +</b>
<b>Total Number of Family Planning Visits</b>	<b>263,800 +</b>
<b>Hormonal Contraceptives Distributed</b>	<b>208,800 +</b> (birth control pills, injections, implants and emergency Plan B)
<b>Intrauterine Devices Placed</b>	<b>11,800+</b> (IUDs)
<b>Related Reproductive and Family Health Care Consults</b>	<b>17,000+</b>
<b>Tubal Sterilizations and Vasectomies</b>	<b>12,852+</b>
<b>Other Surgeries starting in 2015</b>	<b>1245</b>
<b>Annual Distribution of Condoms</b>	<b>10,000 +</b>
<b>Sexual and Reproductive Health Workshops</b>	<b>3950 +</b>
<b>Student and Adult Participants in our Workshops</b>	<b>80,600 +</b>

### 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* Public Health Clinic.
- 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 Gender and Women's Affairs, offering education and information on sexual and reproductive health to adolescents within and outside of school.
- 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.
- 2003:** Initiation of family planning services in the "*Dr. Julio Rodríguez*" Urban Public Hospital, *Cumaná*.
- 2005:** Adolescents who have attended our responsible sexuality 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 Culture Foundation of *San Juan de Macarapana*.
- 2005:** We begin the first program of less invasive laparoscopic surgical sterilizations for low-income patients in our state of *Sucre*.
- 2006:** Initiation of *Pana a Pana* (Buddy to Buddy) project in *Cumaná* to serve educators and peer facilitators in sexual and reproductive health.

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- 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:** Increasing reproductive health outreach and family planning at public health facilities along the rural *Cumaná-Cumanacoa* road.
- 2010-2011:** Strengthening family planning services at the “*Dr. Julio Rodríguez*” Hospital, *Cumaná*.
- 2012:** Increasing reproductive health outreach and family planning at public health facilities along the rural *Santa Fe - Nurucual* road.
- 2012:** Reproductive Health Education Project financed by the *Sucre* Municipal government in 2012 and 2013, executed by *Fundación ServYr*; for the reduction of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections in the adolescent population of *Sucre* County.
- 2012:** Collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health in the Establishment of the *Adolescent Orientation Center* in the *Salvador Allende* Urban Public Health Clinic, *Cumaná*.
- 2013:** We incorporate and train several new staff to present our expanding responsible sexuality workshops. Our family planning program continues to expand into more rural areas.
- 2014-2020:** We strengthen our rural family planning service delivery with new personnel, additional health care facilities, increased social marketing and more onsite evaluations.
- 2015-2021:** We increase our humanitarian aid and surgery program to perform more laparoscopic tubal sterilizations, to repair more hernias, and facilitate a growing number of cesarean sections, oncologic, pediatric and orthopedic interventions, diagnoses and biopsies, responding to low-income patients who can no longer count on the public health system during the current economic crisis in Venezuela.
- 2018-2022:** With the assistance of the **Eric and Edith Bergstrom Foundation**, the **Population Connection**, and other foundations we extend and almost double our family planning impact going forward, building infrastructure and outreach.

## General Health and Humanitarian Aid, a Growing Necessity

- We collaborate periodically with public and private institutions in rural medical campaigns, offering attention in the areas of pediatrics, vaccinations, family planning, tuberculosis, *chagas* disease testing, treatment of respiratory inadequacy, dentistry and other health issues.
- In 2015, we begin to offer surgical procedures for low-income individuals who can no longer count on Venezuela's public health sector. These included more laparoscopic tubal sterilizations, hernia repairs, emergency caesarean sections, various orthopedic, oncologic and pediatric interventions, as well as laparoscopic diagnoses and biopsies, cat scans and other diagnostic procedures.
- We are also providing emergency assistance to dozens of rural families, helping to alleviate a myriad of problems, including basic nutrition and keeping children in school, in this time of acute crisis in Venezuela.

## Rural Education

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

- Outlets for *subsidized school supplies*.
- *High School Scholarship Program* for the *Río Brito* community that each year enables 50-60 rural students to continue their studies at local high schools. Before we instituted this program in 2003, most students in this community abandoned their formal education at or before the sixth grade. More than 500 students have attended high school to date, and more than 100 students have received their high school diplomas.
- *College Scholarship Program* for the *Río Brito* community. In 2008, our first students graduated from high school and some of these students entered community college. Each year a few more enter college, and we now have up to 20 selected students studying at the college level with ongoing Foundation support -- a significant advance for this community. To date, five of our students have graduated from college in nursing, education and food technology.
- *Brito Education Center* two walking hours upriver with laptop computers and a small library, to serve the new rural *Brito* high school.

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- *Support for the rural Río Brito elementary and high schools and the Barrancas pre-school.*
- *Internet-Computer Center in Cumaná where our scholarship and other low-income students come to study and to learn computing skills, and community activists meet to write proposals.*

## 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 Maria* Child Care Center in 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, soon increasing with up to 50 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.
- 2009-2012:** Our high school **Scholarship Program** now has graduating students who are continuing to college. Each year's high school graduating class sends several more rural students to college. Two of our early rural staff members graduate from college with our help.
- 2013:** Fifteen students are enrolled in college with our support. Two of our early high school scholarship students receive their degrees in nursing, our first college graduates through the scholarship program!
- 2013:** We extend our rural center to a remote site up the *Río Brito* valley, several walking hours from the road, where we offer computer activities and tutoring for our high school scholarship students. In *Cumana*, we offer tutoring for our high school graduates entering university.
- 2014:** One more student enters college, and one more graduates from college. One nursing graduate joins the public health workforce and works with our Foundation on rural family planning.
- 2014:** We enable three of the rural school teachers to begin coursework for college education degrees.
- 2015:** Eleven more students join our college scholarship program, with a total of 20 now enrolled.
- 2016-19:** More students, including low-income urban *barrio* students with rural precedents, join our college scholarship program, with a highpoint of 25 students actively enrolled. 500+ students have now attended high school with our support and over 100 have graduated.
- 2020-2022:** We adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic to keep our students studying online via access to laptops and smartphones.

## ServYr Merida

In 2013 we formed [SERVYR MERIDA](http://turimiquire.org/servyr-merida/) (<http://turimiquire.org/servyr-merida/>) and began to support our partner Gisela de Sarrazin in her talented, energetic work helping to educate the rural *campesinos* and afflicted youth of Mérida. In 2019 Board Member Robert Albert joined forces with Gisela working in Merida. This is a special opportunity for us to extend our work to another part of Venezuela in crisis.

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## 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, such as Durian, Mangosteen and Jackfruit. We have supported 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 water delivery for remote hill communities off the public services grid.

### Chronology of Selected Projects in Sustainable Rural Development:

- 1996-present:** Support for *Los Dos Pasos Juntos*, our eco-agricultural fruit farm, and community resource for the upper Río Brito valley.
- 1996-present:** Periodic **Vaccination** campaigns against paralytic rabies and encephalitis for burros and other domestic animals with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- 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 plantings of *Jackfruit*, *Rollinia* and various locally unknown tropical fruits begin to bear quality fruit. We begin nurseries with seed from this first generation of Venezuelan cultivars.
- 2001:** Distribution of these tropical fruit seedlings to farmers and enthusiasts.
- 2003:** Initial use of *Brito-Barrancas* Community Center to store agricultural products in transit to the Cumaná market and 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 nurseries with first generation Venezuelan seed for future distribution of this renowned fruit, relatively unknown in Venezuela and the rest of South America.
- 2007-2008:** Classes in food preparation and handicrafts at the *Brito-Barrancas* Community Center.
- 2008-2021:** Increasing distribution of **Durian, Mangosteen, Jackfruit** and **Rollinia** seedlings to local farmers, along with our other new tropical fruit cultivars.  
Maintenance of gravity-piped **water** and public **electricity** for over 100 families in the remote Río Brito valley.  
Baseball and soccer **sports** activities for the community youth.  
Support for provisional boat ferry and infrastructure alternatives after the Brito suspension bridge is swept away in rural floods in Sept. 2016.
- 2020-2021:** Reparation of the bridge completed in early 2021 and ongoing maintenance.
- 2022:** We begin a sustained campaign to disseminate Durian and our other unusual fruit seedlings to interested *campesinos* and small farmers.

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## CONTACTS

### VENEZUELA:

Steven Bloomstein, President  
Cumaná, Edo. Sucre 6101-A, Venezuela  
+1 857 928 4749 (USA cell and WhatsApp)  
+58 414 776 1729 (Venezuelan cell and WhatsApp)  
[bloomst@gmail.com](mailto:bloomst@gmail.com)

### UNITED STATES:

William Bloomstein, Secretary and Treasurer  
Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.  
617-721-9445 • [wittcreate@gmail.com](mailto:wittcreate@gmail.com)

[www.turimiquire.org](http://www.turimiquire.org)

[turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:turimiquirefoundation@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/Turimiquire](https://www.facebook.com/Turimiquire)

## Turimiquire Foundation

is a 501(c)3 non-profit private operating foundation registered in the United States.  
Our Federal or Employment Identification Number is 04-3286660.

To learn more, please visit us at:

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

where you can learn about how we began, see videos about our work,  
listen to radio interviews, download our annual reports, newsletters and fact sheets,  
and make a donation to assist our work!

All U.S. donations are fully tax deductible.

## *Fundación ServYr*

*is our associate organization which executes Turimiquire Foundation programs in Venezuela.  
Fundación ServYr is a registered civic human services organization, with certification at the national,  
state and municipal levels in Venezuela.  
Funds raised by the Turimiquire Foundation are administered in Venezuela through Fundación ServYr,  
which also raises program funds independently within Venezuela.*

*To learn more about us in Spanish, please visit*

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or write us at

[fundacionservyr@gmail.com](mailto:fundacionservyr@gmail.com)

Gracias & Thank you for your support!