



Turimiquire Foundation

Annual Report 2002

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING HUMAN SERVICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN THE TURIMIQUIRE WATERSHED OF NORTHEASTERN VENEZUELA, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FAMILY PLANNING AND EDUCATION.

Venezuela in Crisis

Political turmoil is up, while the economy is down. There is massive inflation, the GNP has dropped sharply, and unemployment is estimated at above 20%. The once-popular president has faced increasing discontent, and nationwide work stoppages and protests have further destabilized the situation. Rampant crime exacerbated by the high rate of poverty has affected the business climate, greatly reducing tourism and foreign investment. The public health sector is in particularly dire straits. There are frequent strikes by medical personnel who are often not paid, and whose work is impeded by the scarcity of materials needed in local clinics and hospitals. The **Turimiquire Foundation** works closely with Venezuelan institutions to assist them in providing public services under these difficult conditions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a year of new programs and dramatic events. Venezuelan society is engulfed in an important political debate about the country's future. Amidst strikes and changes in the public institutions with which we work, the Foundation steadily provides the services in education, health, and sustainable livelihood that people need.

Venezuela's crisis comes at a time when world attention is preoccupied with emergencies in other parts of the globe. As an NGO, we offer innovative, collaborative programs on a shoe-string budget which can succeed not only here in Venezuela, but in other developing countries around the world.

We are proud of our record in 2002. We kept our non-program costs below 4%. This means that over 96 cents on every dollar went directly towards providing services which improve the lives of low income Venezuelans.

Thank you for your support!



Foundation President Steven Bloomstein (far left) with doctors, nurses and social workers in front of the mural at the entrance to the new Orientation Center for Adolescents in Cumaná, which opened in November.

Steven Bloomstein

SETTING A SCHOOL ON ITS FEET by Lindsey Bloom

American Jewish World Service Volunteer Lindsey Bloom worked in the Río Brito valley from December 2001 to March 2002.

When I arrived in the *Río Brito* valley, I found that the small, local elementary school had not been functioning for months. Children would wait outside of the locked cement block school buildings, hoping a teacher might arrive to offer classes. When I began teaching at the school, every day more and more students showed up as news spread through the valley that there was a *maestra* giving classes. One day, Eduardo watched through the barred school room windows but refused to come in and participate. I encouraged him to come into the classroom but he just shook his head and remained outside. "Maestra, he doesn't have shoes," a little girl informed me. "Que importa?" I asked, removing my own shoes. Surprised by such an informal gesture from the *maestra*, my students' mouths dropped in astonishment. But Eduardo giggled and sheepishly came inside.

Gradually, my work shifted from teaching and tutoring to helping the community in their pursuit of a functional, funded school. After contacting education officials in Cumaná, fundraising in my home community in Alaska, and facilitating community meetings, the school was reopened with three new local teachers, a parent-teacher association, and a restored national food program supplying school lunches. *(continued on page 3)*



AJWS volunteer Lindsey Bloom taught a bookmaking workshop to children on the Río Brito.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: A network of successful partnerships

Family Planning 2002 Highlights

- Introduced a family planning video to high schools and public health facilities
- Opened an orientation center for teens at a public clinic in Cumaná
- Distributed over 800 family planning posters to all urban and rural public health facilities in the State of Sucre through Fundasalud
- Distributed contraceptive supplies to the remote peninsula of Araya
- Facilitated government purchase and distribution of contraceptives
- Supported the Mobile Reproductive Health Unit in Cariaco
- Improved social marketing of our services

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Under the current government, public access to contraceptives has increased, although the services still do not meet the demand. This has allowed us to emphasize reproductive health education, directed primarily at the huge adolescent population (almost 50% of Venezuelans are under 21 years of age). In 2002, we reached over



A reproductive health seminar for adolescents at the Ambulatorio Fe y Alegria in Cumaná.

2000 people in a series of reproductive health workshops in Cumaná and in Cumanacoa. We remodeled a section of the Ambulatorio Fe y Alegria to serve as an adolescent center, and are providing services with FUNDASALUD, the public health department, and with CEPEP, the Committee for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy within the State Office for Women's Affairs.

EXPANDING OUR SERVICES

Our network of family planning services in Cumaná and surrounding areas continues to flourish. We had a record year at the UTOC clinic, thanks to patient collaborations, our reputation for quality service, and our strong outreach into the community, where the demand for these services is very high. We are focusing more on IUDs as the contraceptive of choice for young (often adolescent) mothers, and we helped to facilitate a State purchase of 2000 IUDs through our social marketing supplier, PROSALUD, in Caracas. These IUDs have now been distributed throughout the State public health system.

2002 Reproductive Health Educational Workshops

Place	Number of Workshops	Average Participants per Workshop	Total Participants
Cumanacoa	53	23.7	1257
Cumaná	40	19.8	791
Adolescent Center (December only)	6	19.5	117
TOTAL	109	21.7	2165



Staff at the public Hospital Julio Rodríguez, where the Foundation opened a family planning clinic in 2002.

Family Planning Consultations in Cumanacoa and Cumaná

Tubal Sterilizations

Year	Number of New Women Served	Number of Patient Visits	Birth Control Pills	IUDs	Related Health Care	Average Age	Average Number of Children	Patients	Average Age	Average Number of Children
1997-2001	2775	8156	4915	1338	1138	24.5	2.6	966	29.2	4.7
2002	1332	2035	1117	538	299	22.8	1.8	266	28.4	3.5
TOTAL	4107	10191	6032	1876	1437	24.2	2.5	1232	29.1	4.5

EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOOD: *Helping people help themselves*

BRITO JOURNAL by Bob Albert

Foundation Board Member Bob Albert directs our rural programs from his home at Dos Pasos Farm on the Río Brito.

A few years ago we began distributing vitamins to some older *Briteños*. They reported improvements in their mobility, breathing and general well-being. I'm often embarrassed when an aging *campesino* calls out to me, "May God repay you for all of your help!" just because I gave him a few supplements. Now we get requests from all ages, and distribute children's vitamins at the school. We have to exhort "Only one per day!", since the kids love the flavored vitamins. These days I always carry a stash of vitamin pills to hand out, and wish we had more vitamins to distribute.

This little contribution to local health is emblematic of our role in the *Brito* community. Neighbors borrow tools, take hinges to fix the church door, or a sledge hammer to improve public trails. We provide rechargeable batteries and solar chargers for flashlights and radios, which are important appliances here. We feed hungry animals and treat them for parasites. Our approach is to find out what people want and respond to the extent that we can.



Bob and Pilita, a Capuchin monkey.

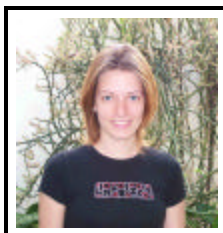
Rural Program 2002 Highlights

- Facilitated two new teaching positions for members of the Brito community with the National Ministry of Education
- February 21 "School Day" with visits from a delegate of the German Embassy and the Head of Education for the State of Sucre
- Completed first year of classes in our new kindergarten
- Built new cafeteria for Brito school in collaboration with FUNDASOES, the Venezuelan social development agency
- Equipped three more families with solar electricity
- Ongoing sales of subsidized school supplies at our Centros Escolares
- Began on-site development of a new community center near the road.

2002 INTERNS: WORKING IN EDUCATION

In addition to our work in the *Barrancas-Tigre* kindergarten and *Río Brito* elementary school, we offer tutoring and academic support to children in Cumaná and in the valley. This year, a few children from the *Brito* began high school in Cumaná. Our interns are helping these children adjust to the academic and social rigors of urban high school.

Cynthia Hemadi, a student from the nearby city of Puerto La Cruz, tutored high school students and worked in the Foundation office.



Radhika Thakkar (far right), a student at Tufts University, spent the summer tutoring barrio children in Cumaná. She and her students are shown at right with the mural they painted in the Foundation schoolroom.



SETTING A SCHOOL ON ITS FEET by Lindsey Bloom (continued from page 1)

The "School Day" on February 21, 2002, held at the end of my time in Venezuela, was one of the more memorable days of my life. The entire *Brito* community came to show support for their school. The Director of Education for the State came and announced that they would hire Franklin, a local *Briteño*, as the head teacher at the school, a decision I had been advocating. Other people also spoke, and we gave out certificates of appreciation to individuals who had helped to get the school going. It was such a beautiful thing to see their beaming faces as they were recognized in front of their community! With the help of Board member Ranny Bledsoe, I organized a sale of used clothing which had been donated to the Foundation, and the proceeds were used to buy books and supplies for the school. It was a wonderful opportunity for the people of the *Brito* valley, who are so poor, to buy clothing and shoes at very low prices, and they were really happy. The kids sang and we danced -- it was an incredibly special day and a great way to end my project there.



The community gathers in front of the school on February 21, when we celebrated with visits from the Ministry of Education and Peter Winkler, the delegate from the German Embassy, which funded our education program in 2002.

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Please help us continue our work!!!*

A MODEL OF COLLABORATION

The Foundation's work is made possible by the many people and organizations who generously support us in so many different ways. Administrative costs are kept very low less than 4% in 2002. All officers and members of the Board donate their services. Volunteers and their sponsors cover their own expenses. Groups send us medical supplies and used clothing. Institutions with which we work in the State of Sucre offer us infrastructure free of charge. We cannot recognize all of our supporters here, but we would like to acknowledge some of the organizations which have offered us material support over the past year:

- Editorial Santillana, Caracas (schoolbooks)
- Johns Hopkins University Population Program (educational materials)
- PROSALUD, Caracas (educational materials and contraceptives)
- PLAFAM, Caracas (educational materials and contraceptives)
- Schering Venezuela, Caracas (contraceptives)
- Direct Relief International (medical supplies)
- Montreal Jewish General Hospital & McGill University (medical/dental)

We would also like to recognize our clients, who contributed over \$4,000 in 2002 for services in sliding scale fees. These voluntary donations, from people of very low income, are the strongest statement we receive about the importance of our work in family planning.

For more information about the Turimiquire Foundation and our programs, visit our new website at <http://www.turimiquire.org>



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Turimiquire Foundation 2002 Finances

Expenses		Percent of Budget	Income	
Administration		3.7%	<i>Anonymous donors</i>	\$20,000
Office	\$ 493	1.1%	<i>Mertz-Gilmore Foundation</i>	\$13,500
Fund Raising	\$ 1,160	2.6%	<i>Charles Merrill</i>	\$7,500
Programs		96.3%	<i>Andrew Tobias & Charles Nolan</i>	\$5,000
Staff	\$ 584	1.3%	<i>American Jewish World Service</i>	\$4,000
Family Planning Aid to Rural Women	\$ 145	0.3%	<i>Merrill Family Charitable Trust</i>	\$4,000
Family Planning Clinics	\$ 34,952	78.7%	<i>Assorted donations \$1000 to \$4,999</i>	\$8,500
Education	\$ 3,747	8.4%	<i>Assorted donations up to \$1000</i>	\$7,579
Rural and Agriculture	\$ 1,601	3.6%	TOTAL	\$70,079
Assistance, Loans and Micro-Enterprise	\$ 1,277	2.9%	Thank you for your continued support !!!	
Alternative Energy	\$ 471	1.1%		
TOTAL	\$ 44,431	100%		