



# Turimiquire Foundation

## Annual Report 2003

**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.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Amidst the political, economic, and social events which are enacted daily in Venezuela during this turbulent epoch in its history, the Turimiquire Foundation steadily continues its work. While many institutions are faltering under the pressure of these times, we concentrate on the delivery of basic services, and are developing a growing web of committed workers in reproductive health, education, and rural livelihood. As our reputation grows, we are frequently sought out by Venezuelans who wish to increase social support to the impoverished sector of the country.

For the North American members of our Foundation, Venezuela has been an inspiration and a delight — we have been welcomed by its people, nourished by its natural beauty, and enriched by the wisdom of its simpler, family-centered culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to give something back for all that we have received, and we thank all of our contributors for helping us to do this. We hope that you will continue to support this important work.

**Thank you!!!**

*Steven Bloomstein*



Rural Program Director Bob Albert (far left), volunteer Lindsey Bloom (6th from left) and participants at our May "School Day" fundraiser held at Casa Barrancas, the center of Foundation activities in the lower Río Brito valley.

### TEACHING TEENS TO BE CAREFUL by Dr. María Eugenia Yañez



Dr. María Eugenia Yañez giving a class on reproductive health and family planning at our Adolescent Center in the Ambulatorio Fe y Alegría, Cumaná, in October, 2003.

*Dr. María Eugenia Yañez is on the board of our Venezuelan sister foundation, Fundación ServYr, and is the head of Maternal Infant Health for Cumaná.*

In the County Office for Maternal-Infant Health, which I direct, our studies of adolescents are alarming. Adolescents comprise 34% of all pregnancies, and of these teens, 24% have already had a previous pregnancy. These are often low-income youngsters from the barrios who have had little access to reliable information about sexuality and often rely on wrong information. Many of them do not know what responsible, safe sexuality means. In our efforts to help the youth of Sucre, the Foundation has been a determined and unconditional supporter. They have worked with our teams of social workers and nurses to carry out workshops for young people in health centers and schools throughout our area. With their help, we have a chance of making significant progress in our campaign to reduce teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

# HELPING PEOPLE HELP EACH OTHER: *A network of ongoing*

The Turimiquire Foundation represents the culmination of more than 25 years of living and working in our Venezuelan community. The close bonds we have created allow us to realize a dual objective: to connect people in need to the institutions that can help them, and to provide support so that Venezuelan organizations can accomplish their stated social missions. Each year, we implement new initiatives while strengthening our established programs, in order to develop a permanent, reliable web of social services in our region. Here are examples of some of our new and ongoing programs.

**NEW**

## Rural Medical Education

This project, organized by Dr. Silvia Quijada at Ambulatorio Cantarrana, offers monthly workshops in dental and rural hygiene and in reproductive and pediatric health to the various communities we serve along the Via Cumanacoa.



Social Worker Juan Carlos Gonzalez talks to women in Barrancas.

## Adolescent Center

The Orientation Center for Adolescents, located at the urban clinic Ambulatorio Fe y Alegría, has been open for more than a year now. Young people come to the Center for information on reproductive health, teenage pregnancy, contraceptives, and for counseling and medical referrals. We are also developing an outreach program for urban high schools.



Dr. Yvelise Parrella with the winning results of a high school poster contest on sexuality sponsored by the Adolescent Center.

## Support for Rural Schools



Students in front of the Brito School's new mural.

We continue our close collaboration with the elementary school in the Río Brito valley, including support for substitute teachers, provision of educational materials, making subsidized school supplies available at our **Centros Escolares**, and facilitating teachers' efforts to continue their own education. With the help of American Jewish World Service intern Lindsey Bloom, residents painted lovely murals on the walls of the school. Lindsey also organized a School Day on May 25, where donated used clothing was sold at nominal prices. The proceeds were used to buy books and supplies for the school. We are helping to set up the new cafeteria, where the state school lunch program has again begun to serve meals with the help of the community.

## Family Planning

We support the provision of family planning and related reproductive health services at ten public and private clinics in Cumaná and the surrounding rural area. In collaboration with **FundaSalud**, the state public health service, we have been able to offer contraceptives to the low-income public on a sliding fee scale, and always without cost to those who cannot afford them. The Venezuelan government supports family planning, but their contraceptive services and supplies are nowhere equal to the demand, and we help fill the gaps in these services, both publicly and privately. We also continue our program of tubal sterilizations at the private UTOC clinic, offering mature women with multiple children reliable and inexpensive access to the method of contraception that is widely preferred here.

**For more information about the Turimiquire Foundation and our programs, please**

**visit our web site at:**

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

Family Planning in Cumaná and Municipio Sucre								Tubal Sterilizations		
Year	Number of New Women Served	Total Number Patient Visits	Birth Control Pills (Cycles)	IUDs	Related Reproductive Health Care	Mean Age	Average Number of Children	Pa-tients	Mean Age	Average Number of Children
1997-2002	4107	10191	6032	1876	1437	23.6	2.2	1232	28.8	4.1
2003	1606	3152	2177	481	541	24.1	1.8	230	27.3	3.2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5713</b>	<b>13343</b>	<b>8209</b>	<b>2357</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>

**NEW**

## High School Scholarship Program

Last year, American Jewish World Service volunteer Lindsey Bloom began a scholarship program which allows students from the Río Brito to continue their studies at high schools in Cumaná and along the Vía Cumanacoa. Funding provides school supplies and required uniforms, transportation, and tutoring to support their studies. This popular program began with six qualified rural students, and in the course of the school year has grown to include twelve students.



Scholarship students in front of Brito School.

**NEW**

## Child Care Center Madre María



Multihogar Madre María.

With the help of a grant from the Dutch Embassy in Caracas, we renovated the Multihogar Madre María, a rural childcare center on the Vía Cumanacoa. Funds were used to renovate bathrooms and the kitchen, install a new higher roof, improve plumbing, electricity and security, and acquire new furniture and preschool materials for the children.

## • And More ...

- Ongoing support for Barrancas kindergarten, including staff, provision of new refrigerator, stove, and school furniture.
- Teacher workshop offered by visiting American Jewish World Service board member Joyanne Bloom and art teacher Lisa Blacher.
- Support for our rural public library, including improved roof, furniture, and books.
- Installation and maintenance of solar electricity in remote rural homes.
- Emergency assistance and modest short-term loans to families in need.
- Provision of reproductive health materials to high schools and public health centers.
- Subsidized family planning program at the public Hospital Julio Rodriguez in Cumaná.
- Family planning and related medical consultations with the **Instituto Autonomo Mercado Municipal de Cumaná** (the public market workers union) through the UTOC clinic.
- Networking with other family planning and educational agencies in Venezuela, and with the pharmaceutical companies that supply contraceptives at reduced cost.

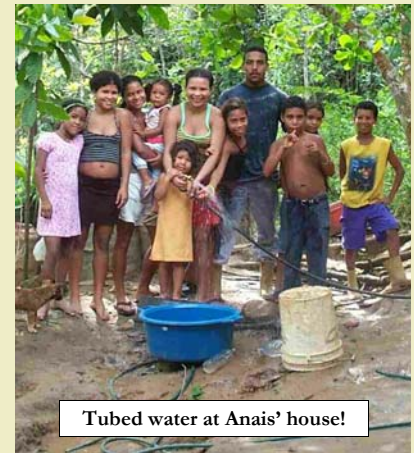
## Reproductive Health Education

A growing number of health professionals participate in our workshops, which served over 3,800 people in 2003. We focus these workshops on high school students, since teenagers are the age group here that is most in need of access to both reproductive health education and services. Over 50% of Venezuela's population is below the age of 21, and they represent over 33% of all pregnancies in the country, most of which are unplanned.

Reproductive Health Educational Workshops				
	2003		2002	
Place	Number of Workshops	Number of Participants	Number of Workshops	Number of Participants
Municipio	7	179		
Adolescent Center	65	1463	2	69
Fe y Alegría	17	196	41	791
Cantarrana	42	788		
Rural	63	1267	52	1257
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>3893</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2117</b>

## BRITO JOURNAL by Bob Albert: PIPED WATER FOR RURAL HOMES

A star attraction in the Brito valley is the river, with clear, clean water from many streams feeding it. Nevertheless, getting that water to the houses entails a lot of hard work hauling it in buckets – work done mostly by the women and children. In setting up the irrigation for experimental plantings, we discovered a semi-hard tubing available at quite a low price. José and Abercio had been after me for two years to figure out a way to get water to their houses. They scouted up a stream that gave enough altitude above their houses and arranged for me to get them several rolls of hose, which they quickly installed. Then they said we had to put one in at old Patricio's, since he is too old to haul water from the river. Pretty soon other families were hounding me for tubing. Over the year we have put in running water at 17 households at a tiny cost to the Foundation.



Tubed water at Anais' house!

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: *Everyone helps where they can*

## MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

While the Foundation provides most of the funds that drive its programs, we depend on the material and in-kind support offered by various organizations with which we work. Particular thanks for 2003 go to the following groups:

- **FUNDASALUD, Cumaná** (clinic space and medical support)
- **PROSALUD, Caracas** (educational materials and contraceptives)
- **Direct Relief International** (medical supplies)
- **Health Partners International of Canada** (medical supplies)
- **Jewish General Hospital, Montreal** (medical and dental supplies)
- **Juneau Charter School, Juneau, Alaska** (school supplies)

**THE TURIMIQUIRE FOUNDATION  
IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.  
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK!!!**

## Welcome to Our New Board Member



Dr. Lesley Alpert, Dr. Silvia Quijada, and staff of Ambulatorio Cantarrana.

Dr. Lesley Alpert was born in Colombia and lived in Venezuela before studying in the U.S., where she received her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Tufts University. A physician at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, Lesley supports our medical, dental, and rural activities.

## Turimiquire Foundation 2003 Finances

Expenses		Percent of Budget	Income	
<b>Administration:</b>		<b>6.5%</b>	<i>Anonymous Donors</i>	\$ 20,000
Office and Administration	\$ 734	1.6	<i>Andrew Tobias and Charles Nolan</i>	\$ 10,000
Fund Raising	\$ 2,341	4.9	<i>American Jewish World Service</i>	\$ 8,000
<b>Programs:</b>		<b>93.5%</b>	<i>Charles Merrill</i>	\$ 4,000
Staff	\$ 882	1.9	<i>Merrill Family Charitable Trust</i>	\$ 3,000
Casa ServYr	\$ 14,382	30.3	<i>Mertz-Gilmore Foundation</i>	\$ 2,000
Family Planning Aid to Rural Women	\$ 421	0.9	<i>Assorted Donations \$1,000 to \$4,999</i>	\$ 4,000
Family Planning Clinics	\$ 19,996	42.2	<i>Assorted Donations up to \$1,000</i>	\$ 6,542
Education	\$ 4,937	10.4	<i>Interest Income</i>	\$ 1,190
Rural and Agriculture	\$ 1,670	3.5	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 58,732</b>
Assistance, Loans and Micro-Enterprise	\$ 1,384	2.9	<i>A very favorable exchange rate allowed us to do "more for less" in 2003, as well as acquire Casa ServYr, our new base of operations.</i>	
Alternative Energy	\$ 646	1.4		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 47,392</b>	<b>100%</b>		

## The Foundation Has a New Home!

We're happy to report that we have a new, independent base of operations in Venezuela. The house is named Casa ServYr, after Fundación ServYr, our sister foundation in Cumaná. It is being refurbished, and plans include an office, space for classes, a computer center, a kitchen for use by local microentrepreneurs, and dormitory space for rural students who are studying in town. Our first activity in Casa ServYr is a "Digital Divide" program that offers computer and Internet access and instruction to high school and adult education students, as well as to their teachers and other community workers.



North American and Venezuelan members of the board of Fundación ServYr in front of Casa ServYr. Four ServYr board members also serve on the board of the Turimiquire Foundation.



## Turimiquire Foundation

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