



Turimiquire Foundation

Annual Report 2009

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: THE CAIRO CONSENSUS

Our Foundation finds its precedents and inspiration in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994. Fully 180 countries came together to do something about some of the world's most pressing issues, including unsustainable population growth, poverty, erasing inequities within societies, empowering women, and promoting human rights. The consensus was that no single solution could reduce poverty and successfully forge economic development. Today, the broader goals of Cairo remain as relevant as ever:

- ◆ high-quality health care, including family planning
- ◆ the education and empowerment of women
- ◆ responsible economic development

Every year, progress is made to reduce poverty, promote women's empowerment, prevent unintended pregnancies, and save lives. However, over a billion people still live in abject poverty. The reality is that persistent poverty and lack of access to family planning services continue to undermine efforts to

improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Our Foundation offers a real methodology to tackle these big Cairo issues. Our **Recipe for a Community** is the organic outgrowth of years of experience responding to what low-income families have told us that they need. The Recipe offers them the tools to make the best informed decisions for themselves:

- 1) **Stabilize the Family** (family planning services and reproductive health education for adolescents)
- 2) **Focus on Education** (emphasizing young girls and women, and including basic literacy for adults)
- 3) **Improve Infrastructure and Development** (after you have first invested in your human capital)

We invite you to visit our website for a fuller explanation — please see our 2008 Annual Report titled [Recipe for a Community](#).

The local problems we face in the Turimiquire region are the same problems facing much of the less developed world. We facilitate genuine local progress in family planning, adolescent reproductive health education, high school and college education for a previously isolated generation of rural youth, and infrastructure development. It is in *the crucible of small local experiments like ours* that the effective methods and solutions for Cairo's genuine vision are being forged and tempered. Think globally and act locally!

We invite you to support our efforts. Thank you,



Young Marbelys with her daughter (left), a new baby, and other family members. Like many clients of the Foundation, she lives in a remote rural area, several walking hours away from the nearest road, far from public services.



RECIPE FOR A COMMUNITY

We present here what we have learned as a Foundation after working for more than a decade in our developing world community. We discuss what really works when it comes to providing human services in areas of poverty, infrastructure constraints, and socioeconomic instability. We offer this formula as a tactical roadmap that begins with the following core concepts:

Be there: Living with the people we serve, we are able to experience their problems first-hand and evolve our programs in response to the needs of our community. The programs we develop are the programs that the community wants. They fit us. We do not just show them *what* is needed in human capital. We help alleviate specific obstacles to human development, primarily a lack of access to the most basic medical and educational services, and to elementary infrastructure. The road of us in the developed world can scarcely imagine. Most newly empowered people rapidly take their own progress toward their lives.

Use existing initiatives: Integrate with the community, and make full use of the facilities that already exist.

Grow slowly and organically: On a shoestring budget, with a volunteer Board, volunteer Officers, and a handful of paid Venezuelan employees, the Foundation has built a replicable service delivery model that is changing thousands of lives. How? Clarity and focus. Every step we take must be calibrated to make optimal use of our limited resources. We have learned that the road of us in the developed world can scarcely imagine. Most newly empowered people rapidly take their own progress toward their lives.

Stay humble and lead: We have all grown and learned together in this very human enterprise. This is not an exercise in imposing our own particular values or culture on anyone. It is about serving, not about changing lives, dreams, and accomplishments in some pretty tough and demanding circumstances.

We feel very fortunate to be part of the growing global movement to dignify all human beings, with the basic opportunities that those of us in the developed world so often take for granted. And it has been our greatest reward to witness the environmental improvement that can also come when families and communities are empowered to improve their world.



Here the Foundation organizes a medical day. Members together the cooperation of the Rio Turimiquire with the public health organization that serves the Turimiquire community is doing a study of local parasites. Our Ministry of Health is offering free medical and dental services for the children. The Foundation is providing dental services for the children, and the **Fundación Servir** is providing family planning and reproductive health.

The Turimiquire Foundation is part of the Cairo initiative.

Reproductive Health: A Tale of Three Women

Petra (far right) and her two daughters live several hours walking up a remote river valley far from most public services. We have known Petra since she was younger than her daughter Heidi (left). She has always been a hard working ray of sunshine in our valley, an exemplary member of the community. We watched her grow up, get married (unusually late for this area—all of 24 years old), have six children, and come to our Foundation to receive a tubal sterilization when she and her husband Arcadio decided that six was enough! Some years later, her eldest daughter **Daicy**, center, came to the Foundation for birth control pills when she was in her teens with her first boyfriend. This allowed her to work through what eventually proved to be an



unstable relationship without unduly complicated consequences. She later married and is now pregnant with her second child, relying on the Foundation's assistance in order to space her children and direct her own reproductive health. Her husband shares and supports her choices, and also heads one of the valley baseball teams that we support. Younger **Heidi** is now 18 years old. She completed high school in this remote rural area as one of our scholarship students, and we are especially proud that she is one of our first high school graduates to be attending college with our support. Heidi has participated in our periodic workshops on reproductive health, which emphasize responsible informed sexuality in order to avoid unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. She is well aware of her options, and has sensibly chosen for now not to be sexually active while she pursues her studies and gives shape to her young life.

We are proud of the constructive role that we have played in each of these (and thousands of other women's) lives, helping empower them to take control of their reproductive health. In a matter of years, in less than one complete generation, the choices for these women have opened tremendously. Petra lived in a world not so long ago where 14 year old girls often became pregnant, and were sequentially pregnant thereafter, commonly not experiencing their monthly menses for years on end. Six or eight children later, when enough offspring had survived infancy, they might seek a tubal ligation, the most popular birth control method here in Venezuela. Waiting years for this elective public health service at the overwhelmed public hospital, they often had even more children in the interim for lack of alternatives. Fortunately, Petra was able to receive her tubal ligation promptly with our Foundation when she was ready. Her eldest daughter Daicy understood from the beginning that she could be in a relationship without necessarily having a baby, and she thoughtfully chose to delay, and then to space and have her children when she was ready. Younger Heidi has had more opportunities for schooling and is the first in her family to go to college, an enormous step forward. (Both of her parents are illiterate.) Raising a family is not a priority for her yet, and she is clear about controlling her own destiny.

The Foundation seeks to serve women effectively in each of these three stages in their reproductive lives, helping to inform and to empower them to create the futures that they themselves want to have. Many of us in the developed world take these basic options for granted, but the consequences are simply enormous for the youngsters and families throughout the less developed world who have neither the information nor the tools to make these essential choices.

Integrating population dynamics into development strategies.

Casa Barrancas Community Center

Our Community Center offers the only local school library and computer center for youngsters in our remote rural valley. Students who hike several hours down to the road to go to high school can now leave their school clothes and books in these lockers, and not have to carry them up and down the mountain. Three students share each locker, an important convenience in their lives.



Sports are an important part of education, especially to help young men stay in school and out of trouble. The Foundation supplies local youth and adults with a variety of used sporting equipment.

Venezuela is a baseball nation, and these boys play passionate hardball on fields that they themselves clear of stumps and rocks with our support. For young males, sports offers a real alternative to drugs, crime, teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The girls are equally athletic, and like to play kickball and basketball.



College Scholarships



In 2009, 46 rural students received scholarship support to go to high school. The five young ladies here represent the first wave of scholarship students who have graduated and begun to study at local community colleges. They are the first generation in their families to reach higher education, a real achievement considering that most of their parents are illiterate. They receive modest monthly stipends from the Foundation to pursue their college studies. Education for young women is a critical long-term pillar in global efforts to lift communities out of poverty, going hand-in-hand with control over their reproductive health.

Senior Citizens



Although our Foundation works primarily in reproductive health during the years of fertility, our extensive connections within the public and private health system often allow us to assist senior citizens with a variety of their health issues. Here we have brought together many of our rural valley's seniors to attend a government-sponsored health event to assess their well-being. More importantly, they are also registering in the national social security program so that they can begin to receive modest old-age benefits which rural citizens are typically unaware of.

Administrative Improvements

In 2009, **Fundación ServYr** (our sister Venezuelan organization which directly executes Turimiquire programs in-country) received national tax exempt status, and we filed our first respective tax return. We were also re-certified regionally to work with adolescents for the period 2009-2014, our second such certification by CMDNNA, the state agency for the protection of children and adolescents. Over the years, we have become a truly Venezuelan organization, directed and principally staffed by local professional women. We would like to especially thank our director, Dr. Maria Eugenia Yañez, and our administrator Yudeccy Folcott, for all they have done to make this possible.

Casa ServYr, our modest headquarters in old town Cumaná, now houses computer facilities for rural students, and a medical office for our family planning program, along with our administrative offices. Most of our work continues to occur in the field, in rural areas and in a range of public and private health, education, and community facilities in several counties.



Foundation Director Dr. Maria Eugenia (left) conducts a meeting with Dr. Silvia Quijada, who coordinates our family planning program, and Dr. Luis Felipe Siso, the surgeon who directs our laparoscopic surgery program.

Our Administrative Report

Acknowledgements:

The Foundation counts on the material donations and in-kind support offered by various organizations and individuals with whom we work, both in the United States and in Venezuela. We thank our fine network of partners!

Clínica Santa Rosa, Cumaná

Clinica Grupo Medico Sucre, Cumaná



In 2009, we spent more than we brought in.

Please help us cover this growth!

The Turimiquire Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

You can now contribute online at www.turimiquire.org/contribute/

2009 Finances

| Expenses | | % | Income | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|
| Administration: | | 8.9% | Donors \$5,000 and higher | \$ 25,000 |
| Office and Administration | \$ 5,359 | 6.4% | Andrew Tobias and Charles Nolan | \$ 10,000 |
| Fund Raising | \$ 2,074 | 2.5% | Charles Merrill | \$ 5,500 |
| Programs: | | 91.1% | Merrill Family Charitable Trust | \$ 3,000 |
| Field Staff | \$ 4,131 | 5 % | Organizations and Churches | \$ 3,000 |
| Casa ServYr | \$ 2,483 | 3 % | Assorted Donations up to \$4,999 | \$ 20,320 |
| Family Planning | \$ 47,413 | 57 % | Interest Income | \$ 904 |
| Reproductive Health Education | \$ 5,317 | 6.4 % | Total | \$67,724 |
| Rural Education | \$ 2,277 | 2.7 % | PLUS: Our sister Venezuelan Foundation <i>Fundación ServYr</i> independently received and spent \$15,262 in patient co-pays and in-country material support in 2009. | |
| Casa Barrancas | \$ 8,184 | 9.8 % | | |
| Family Assistance | \$ 4,285 | 5.2 % | | |
| Rural Development | \$ 1,631 | 2 % | | |
| Total | \$ 83,153 | 100% | | |

The Numbers: Family Planning Services for more than 25,000 Women

| Years | Number of New Women Served | Number of Patient Visits | Monthly Cycles of Hormonal Birth Control | IUDs Placed | Average Age | Average # of Children |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1997-2008 | 20650 | 69048 | 55601 | 4918 | 23.9 | 2.2 |
| 2009 | 1427 | 6957 | 5265 | 102 | 23 | 1.3 |
| Totals: | 22077 | 76005 | 60866 | 5020 | 23.8 | 2.1 |
| Tubal Sterilizations | Years | Patients | Average Age | Average # of Children | | |
| | 1997-2008 | 2686 | 28.9 | 3.9 | | |
| | 2009 | 251 | 28.6 | 3.3 | | |
| Totals: | 2937 | 28.9 | 3.9 | | | |



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