



Turimiquire Foundation

Annual Report 2005

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: *THINGS WE HAVE TO CELEBRATE*

On November 22, 2005, more than 240 adolescents from local high schools attended "A Mi No Me Va a Pasar" (It Won't Happen To Me), a play about teenage pregnancy adapted from our reproductive health materials and presented in a Cumaná theater by rural students from the *Fundación Casa Cultural de San Juan*, a small youth center near where we do most of our rural work. Produced with the support of the Ministry of Health, the Mayor's office, Fundación del Niño (Children's Foundation), and the State Office of Women's Affairs, the event was a genuine collaborative success. The teenage acting was wonderful, the theater was packed, and the audience loved it. The play has already been brought back for an encore performance in early 2006! We are very pleased with this way of both reaching teenagers and directly involving them in learning about this vital part of their young lives. We do the behind-the-scenes work of offering people vital public health and education services, so this was a special opportunity to celebrate our work with others. We report 2005 as "a year in the life of a Foundation" with genuine accomplishments to be proud of.

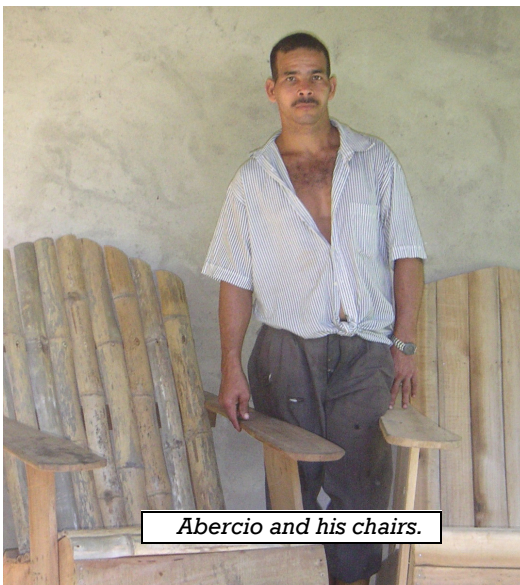
Please continue to support us. Thank you!



Teen actors from "A Mi No Me Va a Pasar" take a bow.

Steven Bloomstein

BRITO JOURNAL: ABERCIO'S CHAIRS by Bob Albert, Director of Rural Programs











Abercio and his chairs.

Bob, a longtime resident of the valley, is President of its Neighborhood Association.

Tropical forests are made up of an astounding variety of trees for whose properties the *campesinos* are the best practical reference I have found. So much interesting wood around, yet it is usually going to waste in spite of the endless need for boards. After years of making boards with a machete (it takes a long time), we developed a local team of sawyers working with a chainsaw and simple Alaska mill, which is a frame one person can easily carry into the woods to make boards from fallen trees, without harm to the forest.

Seeing the stacks of boards and the local v-shaped *turi* chairs, Board member Lesley Alpert brought a simple pattern for Adirondack chairs, which have a similar form, albeit larger and fancier. She traced the key piece on a board for our carpenter-in-training, Abercio, and made a little cardboard model to guide him. He made one for us with bamboo slats as the backrest. A week later, when I went past his house, two Adirondack chairs had appeared on their porch—a medium one for wife Anaís, and a little one for daughter María Rosa. We improved the design, and Abercio made another chair for us from our own wood. Soon he was nailing together more to fill requests for chairs in town, including selling some of them. Since then, he has made and sold a number of beds as well from our local sustainable lumber supply.

<div>2005: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A FOUNDATION</div> <div>"To act, that each to-morrow finds us further than to-day." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</div>				
<div>February</div> <div>Rural Scholarships</div> <p>Once a month, Foundation staff meets with our rural scholarship students and their families for a progress report. We currently sponsor 27 rural high school students who receive support for transportation, school uniforms, books, supplies, and tutoring. Most of these students walk more than an hour to the road from their remote valley homes.</p> 	<div>March</div> <div>Public Schools</div>  <p>Volunteer Amelie Baker (left) spent March working with high school students and teachers in Cumaná and in rural areas. Currently, the Foundation supports a rural pre-school, a rural elementary school, a rural library, and offers subsidized school supplies through our two <i>Centros Escolares</i>.</p>	<div>April</div> <div>Rural Health</div> <p>Drs. Silvia Quijada and Gil Laya meet with patients during a medical "operativo" at the rural <i>ambulatorio</i> at Tataracual. There were three such events in 2005, offered through a partnership with the Lion's Club of Cumaná. At these <i>operativos</i>, pediatricians, gynecologists, and internists reached more than 1,000 people from outlying rural areas who do not have regular access to health care. Many of the medicines used at these events are provided by our donor partners, including Direct Relief in Santa Barbara, CA, and Health Partners International in Montreal.</p> 	<div>May</div> <div>Libraries</div> <p>President Steven Bloomstein meets with librarian Maryori Rivas and Chabela Rengel, who runs our two <i>Centro Escolares</i> (see March). Our rural library opened in 2004 with the support of the local university – we now have a state-funded librarian and have opened a small branch upriver.</p> 	<div>June</div> <div>Family Planning</div> <p>Gynecologist Del Valle Smith attends to a rural mother. The unmet demand for family planning is enormous in the areas where we work. Our birth control programs include oral contraceptives, IUDs, and monthly injections. Voluntary surgical sterilization is the favored contraceptive option for women who already have the children they want. In June, laparoscopic surgery became available in our tubal sterilization program for women seeking this family planning method – the first such service offered to the low-income public in the state of Sucre!</p> 
<div>January:</div> <div>Reproductive Health Education</div> <p>American Jewish World Service volunteer Jana Sharp was with us in January to share the expertise she has gained through her work with IDENTITY, an organization for Latina youth in Maryland. Jana offered model reproductive health education workshops to Cumaná health care providers and at selected high schools, and conducted needs assessment interviews with both rural and urban <i>barrio</i> women and youth. We offer our workshops through government social agencies, and via the public health and education systems, with a special focus on reaching low-income people at risk as they enter adolescence.</p> 		<div>The Turimiquire Foundation represents the culmination of more than 29 years of living and working in Venezuela. We do not create new organizations or propound social policy, but offer financial, administrative, and material support to existing institutions. This empowers Venezuelan public service professionals to:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect low-income individuals and families to the services they need. • Help governmental agencies meet their mandates. • Strengthen a permanent, reliable web of social services in our region. 		<div>July:</div> <div>Rural Living</div> <p>Our annual used clothing sale has become a community tradition over the years. Initially, our supply of quality used clothing came mainly from the U.S., but now Venezuelans are contributing their own used clothing as well. Once a year, we hold a community day, sell the clothing at very low prices, and use these funds for a chosen need, usually in education. In 2005, we had our most successful event yet, and divided the proceeds between the scholarship program and our new Community Center. All revenue and disbursements are publicly posted, so residents know that this is a transparent process in which the funds flow right back into their community.</p> 
<div>December</div> <div>Building a Tradition of Public Service</div> <p>The bi-annual reunion of Fundación ServYr, the Foundation's sister non-profit organization in Venezuela, was held on December 22nd. Fundación ServYr is the only non-governmental service organization of its kind in the region and is staffed entirely by Venezuelan citizens and permanent residents. ServYr executes our programs and also raises funds within Venezuela to support our projects.</p> 	<div>November</div> <div>Public Health</div>  <p>Board Member Dr. Lesley Alpert (left) donates a microscope to the Ambulatorio Cantarrana medical lab, and delivers fast-acting insulin to the Diabetes Center at Julio Rodríguez Hospital. Lesley also facilitated an "operativo" to diagnose <i>mal de chagas</i>, a debilitating disease in the rural tropics. We provide a range of medical support for low-income Venezuelans through the public and private health systems.</p>	<div>October</div> <div>New Community Center</div>  <p>American Jewish World Service volunteer Lindsey Bloom with rural program director Robert Albert and valley residents at our new Casa Comunitaria Brito-Barrancas. In a six-month period, Lindsey and Foundation intern Brian Delay turned Casa Barrancas into a lively community center with a library, small computer center, classes in dance, theatre, and ceramics (in collaboration with the youth community center in a nearby town), carpentry workshops, community meeting area, and storage space for <i>campesinos</i> on day trips to town.</p>	<div>September</div> <div>Partnerships</div>  <p>In September, we received a check for 5,000,000 Bolivares (\$2,300) from the Venezuelan government to purchase contraceptives and distribute them to the public health clinics where we work. We are the primary source of birth control supplies for our area and have excellent contacts with the NGOs and multinationals that supply us with quality contraceptives at the lowest prices. We work in direct collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.</p> 	<div>August</div> <div>Computer Center</div>  <p>Marcela Amaya, a valley resident who has been a high school scholarship student and will begin her university studies with the Foundation's support, helps with computer classes at our Casa ServYr Computer Center. This small center serves low-income rural and <i>barrio</i> students who otherwise would not have access to this technology. Rural school teachers, community activists, micro-entrepreneurs, and university students also regularly use our computers to develop their projects.</p>

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: *Maximum results at minimum cost*



FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY: As the Foundation matures, our programs are increasingly being managed by talented Venezuelan professionals. Maria Eugenia Yañez (left) is the public health doctor in charge of our county's maternal and infant health program for the Ministry of Public Health. She has worked with us for many years and will become Director of our reproductive health program starting in 2006. Iliana Ortiz (right), who has done an excellent job directing our rural scholarship program, will become Coordinator of our entire rural education program in 2006. We look forward to their stewardship, and to supporting them through increasing our own fund-raising efforts. Please continue to help us help others!



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STATISTICS

Years	Reproductive Health Education				Family Planning Services							Tubal Sterilizations		
	Cumaná		Rural		Number of New Women Served	Number of Patient Visits	Monthly Cycles of Birth Control Pills	IUDs Placed	Related Reproductive Health Care	Average Age	Average Number of Children	Patients	Average Age	Average Number of Children
	Workshops	Participants	Workshops	Participants										
1997-2003	269	5603	63	1267	5713	13343	8209	2357	1978	24.2	2.2	1462	28.2	3.8
2004	247	5754	135	2590	2746	7341	6266	396	926	24.2	2.1	228	27.7	3.2
2005	224	6179	119	2235	2958	11296	9465	786	1415	24.2	2.0	226	28.8	3.5
Totals:	740	17536	317	6092	11417	31980	23940	3539	4319	24.2	2.1	1916	28.2	3.5

FINANCIAL REPORT

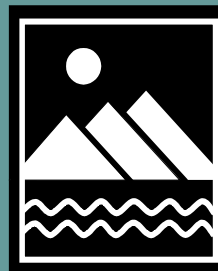
The Foundation grew so significantly in 2005 that we now face a potential deficit.
Please help us stay in the black this year, and build vital cash reserves!

Expenses in 2005			%	Income in 2005			%
Administration:			5%	Donations \$5000 and over:			43.3
Office and Administration	\$ 1,934		2.7	Donations under \$5000:			36.5
Fund Raising	\$ 1,693		2.3	Foundations:			17.9
Programs:			95%	Interest Income:			2.4
Field Staff	\$ 1,895		2.6	TOTAL			100%
Casa ServYr	\$ 821		1.1	Donations in Venezuela to Fundación ServYr			
Family Planning Services	\$ 42,181		58.2	Family Planning: Donations, Co-pays		\$ 1,390	
Reproductive Health Education	\$ 6,687		9.2	Education: Donations, Clothing Sales		\$ 979	
Rural Education	\$ 9,509		13.1	Material Donations		\$ 7,614	
Sustainable Agriculture	\$ 1,600		2.2	TOTAL			\$ 9,983
Assistance, Loans, Micro-Enterprise	\$ 2,765		3.8				
Casa Barrancas - Brito community	\$ 3,437		4.7				
TOTAL	\$ 72,522		100%				

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR MATERIAL SUPPORT:

American Airlines □ American Jewish World Service □ Direct Relief International □ FundaSalud Estado / Municipio Sucre □ Health Partners International Canada □ Mertz-Gilmore Foundation □ Office of the Governor of Sucre □ Plafam Caracas □ Prosalud Inter-Americana Caracas □ Santa Rosa Clinic Cumaná □ Schering Venezuela Caracas □ UTOC Clinic Cumaná

The Turimiquire Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible. Please visit our website at
www.turimiquire.org
and help us to continue our work. Thank you!!!



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