



Free the
child's
potential,
and you will
transform
him into the
world.

-Maria Montessori

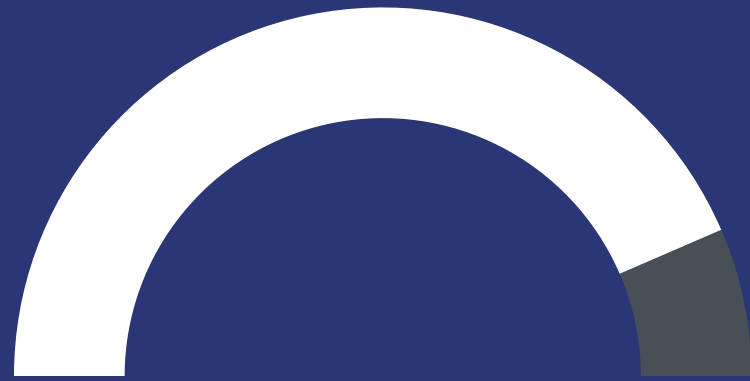




THE EMPOWERMENT OF DREAMS

Allow children to have an equal opportunity to grow in a healthy environment that meets all their developmental and emotional needs while creating thriving communities that work towards a greener and more sustainable earth.





A MILLION →

children out of school and nearly a million left behind due to the migration crisis, we cannot afford to wait.

Turkewitz, J. and Kohut, M. (2020) Nearly a million children left behind in Venezuela as parents migrate, The New York Times. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/world/americas/venezuela-migration-children.html> (Accessed: 01 August 2023).

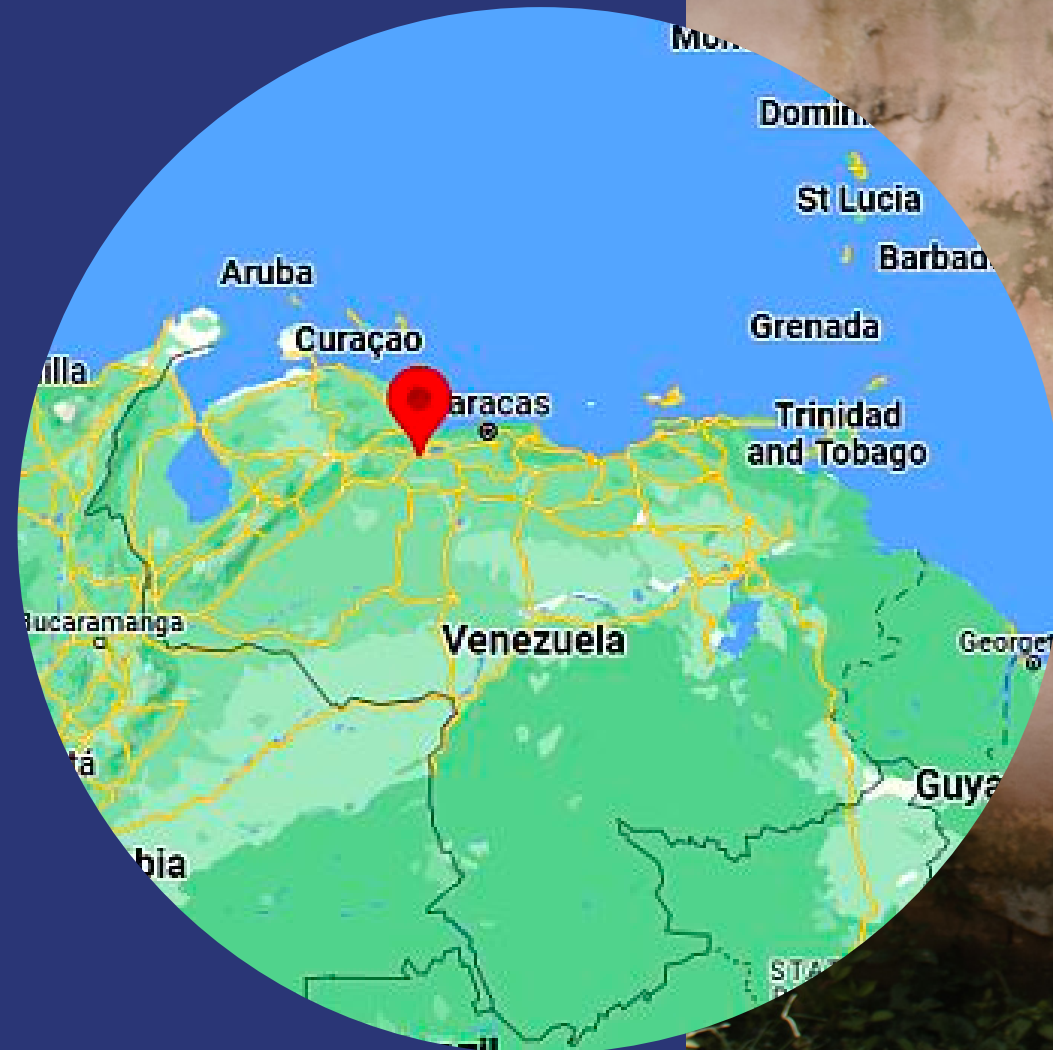




THE WHY BEHIND OUR PROJECT

- Electricity shortages
- Unsanitary water
- Economic crisis
- Escalating starvation
- Health Crisis
- Violence
- Corruption
- Organized crime

with the economic crisis being especially difficult given that professionals like doctors and engineers make as little as \$10/month.





THE POWER OF LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

Temporary donations, like food and clothing, hinder local economies and foster dependence.

The true solution lies in empowering communities to take control of their own destinies.





LITTLE PASSENGERS

A student-led neuroscience and environmental research non-profit focused on supporting youth in Latin America

MEET THE TEAM



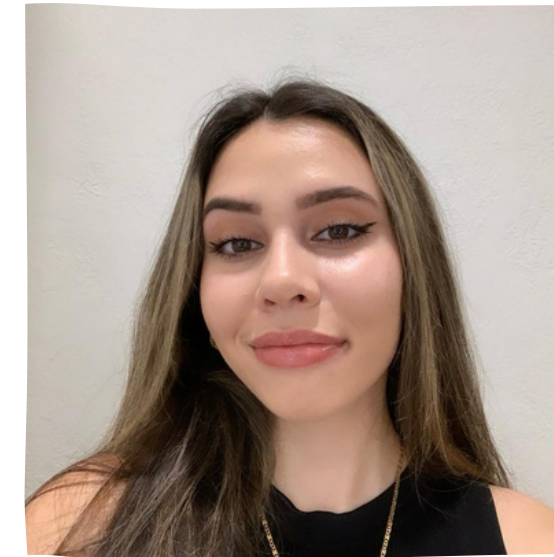
Albany Merinsky
President, Research Chair
Neuroscience & Philosophy



Mailyynn Lam
President
Political Science B.S



Nya Martin
Engineering Chair
Biomedical engineering



Juliana Santiago
Membership Chair
Neuroscience, Natural &
Applied Sciences



Pamela Carrillo
Finance Chair
Economics B.S



Nicole Orellana
Legal Chair
Political Science and
Communications



Grace Tallon
Legal Chair
International Business



Sofia Duque
Campus Outreach
Neuroscience



Emily Bejerano
Research Chair
Neuroscience



Rodrigo Ribeiro
Research Chair
Neuroscience

MEET THE TEAM



MENTOR TEAM



Dr. Juan de Rivero Vaccari,
Ph.D., M.S.B.A.



Maura Alvarez Baumgartner,
MD, MPH



Dr. Jennifer Muñoz Pareja,
M.D

Dr. De Rivero Vaccari,

- Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis,
- Cellular Physiology & Molecular Biophysics Graduate Programs
- The Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and Aging at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.
- Expertise: Neuroinflammation, Biomarker Science, and Drug Discovery & Development.

Dr. Alvarez Baumgartner

- Master's in public health from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Completing her medical residency at the University of Miami Hospital
- Founded CUMIS, a Venezuelan medical organization dedicated to aiding underserved communities.

Dr. Muñoz Pareja

- Associate Professor of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
- Associate Program Director of the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program
- Pediatric Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard Medical School
- An active member of organizations bringing healthcare to underprivileged children



ADVERSE EXPERIENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Can have a cumulative toll on
an individual's physical and
mental health.**

- Poverty
- Abuse or neglect
- Parental substance abuse or mental illness
- Exposure to violence
- Malnutrition

Inbrief: The impact of early adversity on children's development (2020) Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Available at: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-impact-of-early-adversity-on-childrens-development/> (Accessed: 10 July 2023).



THERE IS HOPE

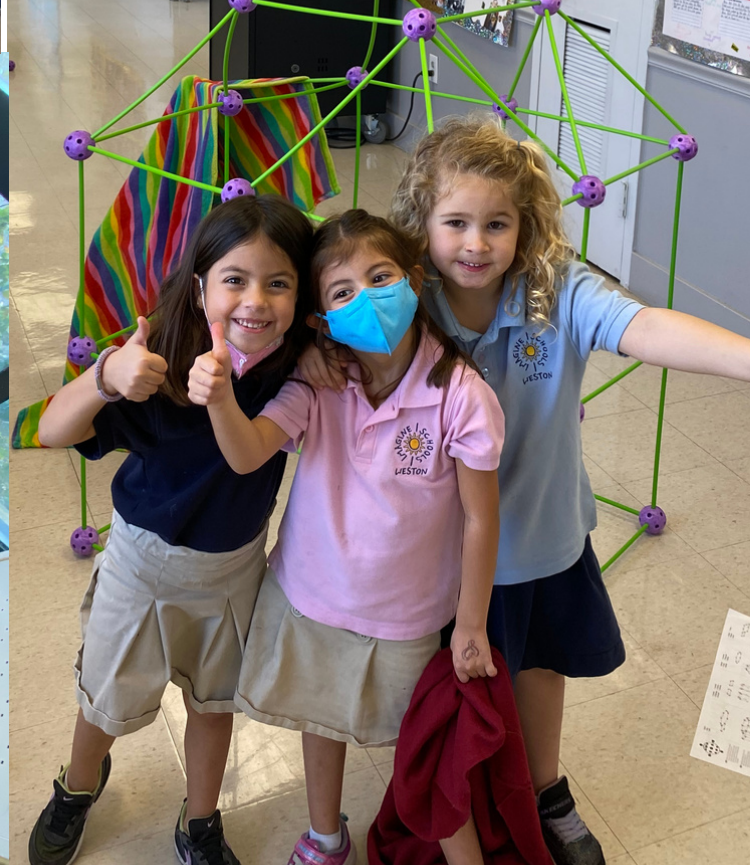
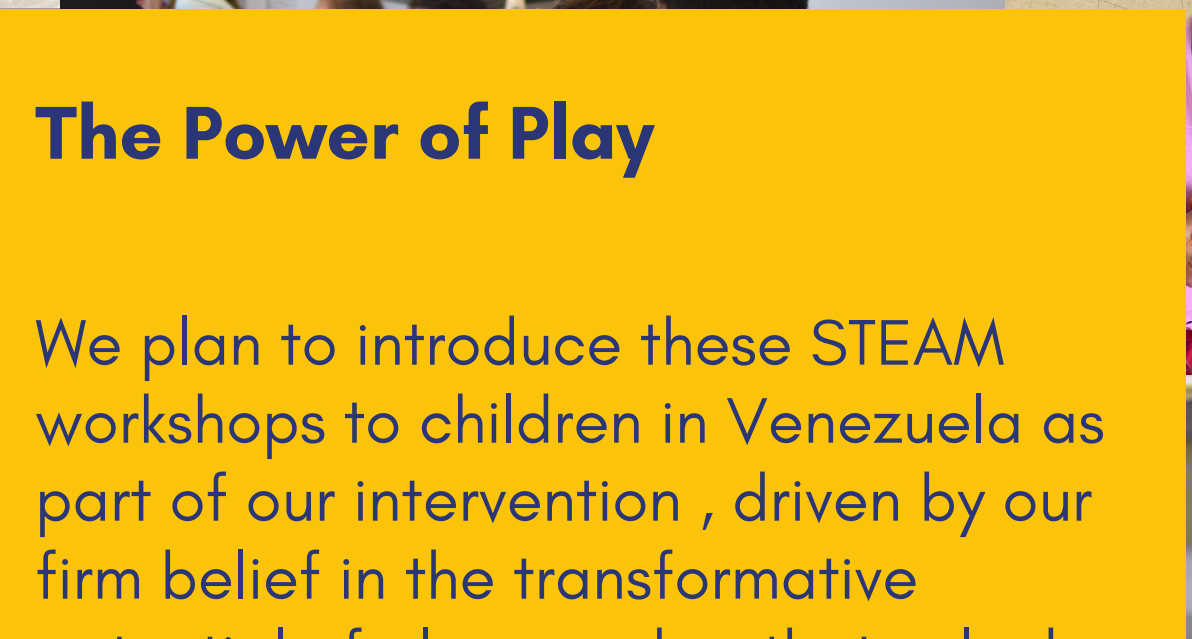
While early life adversities may increase children's susceptibility to developmental challenges, they do not determine their fate. Research has shown that by introducing evidence-based early interventions, we can pave a path toward promoting the healthy development of these children.

Lisa J. Berlin, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Cecelia McCarton, Marie C. McCormick,
The Effectiveness of Early Intervention: Examining Risk Factors and Pathways to Enhanced Development, Preventive
Medicine, Volume 27, Issue 2, 1998, Pages 238-245, ISSN 0091-7435,



The Power of Play

We plan to introduce these STEAM workshops to children in Venezuela as part of our intervention, driven by our firm belief in the transformative potential of play as a key that unlocks a realm of boundless opportunities for each child's future.





ULTIMATE GOAL

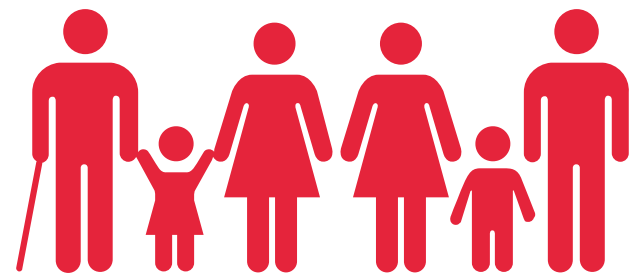


This study aims to examine two low income communities to evaluate their exposure to adverse life experience and neurodevelopment

We will use this data to develop a science-based locally-led humanitarian intervention in these communities that will lead to their sustainable development.



STAGES



Population

Collect population data to create an intervention plan tailored to this community's specific needs.



Exam

Yearly neuropsychological, social-emotional, physical, and EEG tests to monitor and understand how the children's brain development is influenced by our intervention.



Intervention

Psychological and medical services, enhancing education through STEM and art, offering parents professional sessions for economic growth, and collaborating for clean energy and water solutions



THE PHILOSOPHY THAT GUIDES US

**"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."**



STANDARD OF ETHICS

It's essential to highlight that both children and adults from these two communities will undergo a comprehensive physical assessment, prioritizing ethical considerations at the forefront of our efforts to enhance overall community health.





STAGE 1- POPULATION



The research will cover approximately 300 children from two low-income coastal communities in Venezuela, specifically Caroa and La Sabana in the Vargas state

STAGE 2- EXAMS



Each participant will be given an early life adversity questionnaire and then we will divide the children into three groups of increasing quantity of ELA.

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) test adapted by Dr. Anna Christine Grellert - Childhood Development Advisor at World Vision Latin America and the Caribbean.

Following the ELA survey, each participant will be given the following evaluations.

- Neurological evaluation for LATAM populations (NIH Toolbox)
- Social-emotional evaluation (NIH Toolbox)
- General physical evaluation.

Paolillo, Emily W et al. "NIH Toolbox® Emotion Batteries for Children: Factor-Based Composites and Norms." *Assessment* vol. 27,3 (2020): 607-620. doi:10.1177/107319118766396

Ostrosky-Solís, F et al. "NEUROPSI: a brief neuropsychological test battery in Spanish with norms by age and educational level." *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society* : JINS vol. 5,5 (1999): 413-33. doi:10.1017/s1355617799555045



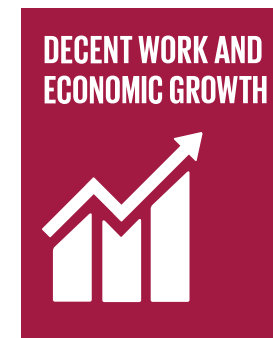
STAGE 3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - LONG TERM

Our comprehensive intervention aims to optimize their cognitive growth, **focusing on four goals**, all aimed at promoting their neurological development. In all our goals, we will support the local economy by partnering with doctors, engineers, and local businesses.



Access to Healthcare: Humanitarian Health Camps twice a year to provide medical and psychological aid and promote disease prevention.



Increase Household Income: Monthly Workshops for parents to develop professional skills and knowledge that would guide them to self-sustainability.



Quality education: Monthly art and science and engineering workshops for kids and bi-annual training for teachers to improve the school's curriculum.

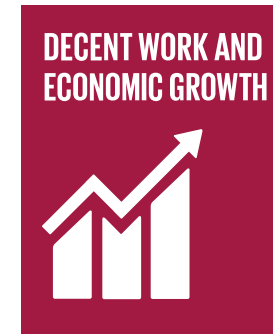


STAGE 3

WHY DID WE CHOOSE THOSE 4 GOALS?



Healthcare Access: Children who have access to healthcare are not only more inclined towards healthy development, but also benefit from early illness detection and prevention, receive vital mental health support, achieve important cognitive development milestones, and enjoy a range of additional advantages.



Increase Household Income: Parental financial stability crucially shapes children's neurological development, particularly in poverty contexts. A stable home environment, devoid of financial strain, fosters optimal brain growth. Minimized exposure to poverty-related stressors positively impacts emotional well-being and cognitive maturation, leading to improved neurological outcomes.



Quality Education: Quality education significantly impacts children's neurological development. It enhances cognitive abilities, memory, and executive functions. Language and social skills flourish, while stress regulation and resilience improve. A strong foundation for lifelong learning is built, promoting brain connectivity and preventing cognitive decline.



Membership Opportunities



research opportunities

Work alongside neuroscientists and doctors to develop this to-be-published transformative research that you will get to plan by joining the research committee



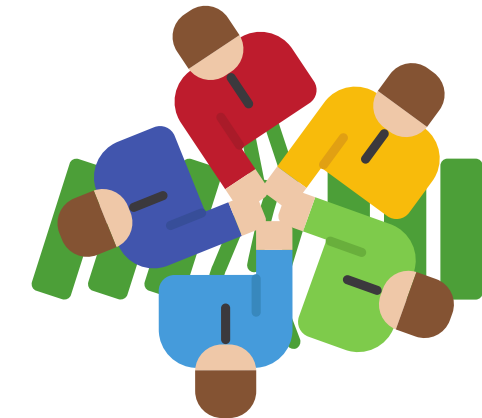
Help Underprivileged Children

Help underprivileged children improve their neurological development while contributing to form sustainable communities



Real-world experience

Start your science career being a part of a transformative project that you will see through!



Networking opportunities

Connect with corporations, neuroscientists, medical doctors, public figures, lawyers, and students from all backgrounds helping us in making this project come to life.



Leadership Experience

There are opportunities for many different majors, as we offer the experience of working in a nonprofit, a community service club, and research opportunity with different focuses on environmental engineering, neuroscience, and biology - and you can choose a specific committee you'd like to participate in





“If you treat an individual as he is, he will remain how he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be.”

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Follow us on Insta!





THANK YOU!

Contact us if there are any questions.

WEBSITE

www.littlepassengers.org

PHONE NUMBER

305-744-4917

EMAIL ADDRESS

contact@littlepassengers.org