



PUENTE

Casa de las Flores

Transforming Housing, Transforming Lives

Renovating Substandard Housing into Safe, Healthy Homes for Farmworkers

A Long-Standing Problem

Everyone deserves access to safe and healthy housing, but many farmworkers in our region live in housing that fails to meet basic living standards. This housing is often tied to employment, with farmworkers living in quarters provided by the farms where they work. That leaves many tenants reluctant to ask landlords for basic improvements or repairs for fear of losing both homes and jobs.

Meanwhile, rental housing is scarce and prohibitively expensive. A 2014 report showed the need in San Mateo County for more than a thousand new units affordable to farmworkers; a 2024 report showed the situation was not much improved. To afford the median rent on a two-bedroom apartment in San Mateo County, a worker would need to earn \$63.81 an hour — that's more than two and a half times the median wage for agricultural workers in California.

Casa de las Flores (House of Flowers) is Puente's first step toward addressing this issue by renovating an existing apartment building that needs urgent repairs. You can help make a difference in people's lives by supporting Puente and Casa de las Flores.



The renovation is important because a lot needs to be fixed. There are already many things that aren't working, like the roof, windows, and bathrooms. This renovation will make our home more suitable for living.

— Casa de las Flores tenant



Affordable housing for farmworkers is one of the most pressing problems on the South Coast of San Mateo County. Puente plans to renovate an aging apartment building it purchased in 2024 and transform it into an attractive and modern place for farmworkers.

Casa de las Flores is an affordable housing development for farmworkers in the heart of Pescadero that had fallen badly into disrepair by the time of Puente's purchase. We plan a \$5 million renovation that will transform the former high-school building into a place its tenants are proud to call home.

The Vision

- Housing for farmworkers and their families
- Six family units for up to 28 tenants
- Five dorm-style units for up to 14 tenants
- Dignified and affordable housing
- Tenant-informed improvements



The Property

- 8,471 square foot former high school, built in 1925
- Converted to farmworker housing in the 1980s
- Acquired by Puente in July 2024
- 13.5 acres across two parcels
- Five-minute walk from Puente main campus, 15-minute walk from "downtown" Pescadero
- Additional 114,000 square feet of greenhouse space



The Renovation

- Rectify health and safety hazards
- Address structural deficiencies
- Replace roof and windows
- Improve HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems
- Upgrade all units and common areas
- Add laundry room
- Transform the former auditorium into an attractive community space



Take Action for Housing

Imagine feeling that your very home itself is a danger to you. You can help relieve that feeling for the residents of Casa de las Flores.

Puente is raising \$5 million to complete a full renovation of the building by the end of 2026.

Casa de las Flores is our first giant step into affordable housing, but our ambitions go beyond a single building. The current project will become a model for what we can do on the Coastsides. We can't get there without your help. Puente needs the support of foundations, corporations, community members, and donors to make this critical renovation possible.

Thank you for your support of Puente and Casa de las Flores.

Total Cost

Architectural Design	\$357,370
Total Construction	\$2,257,221
Conditions, Bonds, Overhead, and Contingencies	\$1,015,749
Taxes, Relocation, Fixtures, Management, and Administration	\$1,064,660
Urgent Health & Safety Upgrades	\$305,000
TOTAL	\$5,000,000

Timeline



About Puente de la Costa Sur

Puente fosters wellness and prosperity in the San Mateo County South Coast communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio by promoting and advocating for equitable access to education, health, and economic security.

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