2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORT | REPORTE ANUAL

Community, Resilience and Action
Comunidad, Fortaleza y Acción

PUENTE
SINCE | DESDE 1998

Dear Friends of Puente,

Thank you for supporting us and the South Coast community during 2020! This has been the most challenging year in our 22 years of service.

The unprecedented pandemic and the CZU Wildfire affected individuals and families emotionally and economically, leaving no one unscathed. We live in a beautiful rural community that offers many opportunities, but also presents complex challenges—particularly for low-income families, first-generation college students, low-wage workers, senior citizens, farmers and farmworkers, and those limited by their immigration status. The requests for services and support from Puente doubled in the last eight months. Despite these challenges, the people we are privileged to support have enormous strengths. It is their collective engagement that makes Puente a vibrant organization.

What makes us the proudest:

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adapted our programs to keep our participants safe while innovating ways to provide as many services as possible. We have also created new programs to meet the needs of our community, including delivering groceries and medications for our 55-and-older community members and those with compromised immune systems. We distributed personal protective equipment to farms, ranches, and families. We provided groceries, meals, and financial assistance to those infected by the virus, and we partnered with San Mateo County to conduct COVID-19 testing.
- We launched a COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide support for undocumented immigrants and mixed-status families who were excluded from the Federal CARES Act and to support individuals who lost their jobs or had reduced work hours due to the pandemic. Since April, Puente has provided $252,857 in financial and rental assistance through its COVID-19 Relief Fund and has assisted a total of 277 households.
- During the CZU August Lightning Complex Fire, Puente assisted the San Mateo County Human Services Agency and the Red Cross to staff the evacuation centers. We registered evacuees for hotel vouchers, provided essential items for evacuees, and distributed gift cards for restaurants, clothing stores, and grocery stores. Puente´s Fire Relief Fund raised over one million dollars. Puente is still providing financial assistance to those who lost their homes and replacing lost wages for those who were unable to work during the evacuation.
- We led the South Coast Census campaign, surpassing the 2010 response rate of 33 percent, reaching 51 percent until the pandemic forced us to curtail our efforts.
- Our Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Team saw 35 percent more households and 17 percent more individuals than the previous year.

We invite you to volunteer your time and expertise and to invest in a better future for all the residents of Pescadero, La Honda, San Gregorio, and Loma Mar. Puente relies on you to continue building the bridge to a community with equitable access to education, health, and economic security.

On behalf of all of us at Puente, thank you!

Rita Mancera, Executive Director

Mark Velligan, President of the Board Directors

Estimados amigos de Puente,

¡Gracias por apoyarnos a nosotros y a la comunidad de la Costa Sur durante 2020! Este ha sido el año más desafiante en nuestros 22 años de servicio.

La pandemia llegó sin precedentes y los incendios de CZU afectaron a personas y familias emocional y económicamente, sin dejar a nadie ileso. Vivimos en una hermosa comunidad rural que ofrece muchas oportunidades, pero también presenta desafíos complejos, particularmente para familias de bajos ingresos, estudiantes universitarios de primera generación, trabajadores con bajos salarios, personas de la tercera edad, agricultores y trabajadores agrícolas, y aquellos limitados por su estatus migratorio. Las solicitudes de servicios y apoyo de Puente se duplicaron en los últimos ocho meses. A pesar de estos desafíos, las personas a las que tenemos el privilegio de apoyar tienen enormes fortalezas. Es su compromiso colectivo lo que hace de Puente una organización vibrante.

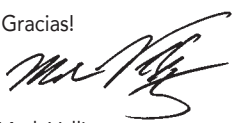
Lo que nos enorgullece más:

- Durante la pandemia de COVID-19, hemos adaptado nuestros programas para mantener seguros a nuestros participantes y al mismo tiempo innovar en formas de brindar tantos servicios como sea posible. También hemos creado nuevos programas para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestra comunidad, incluida la entrega de comestibles y medicamentos para los miembros de nuestra comunidad de 55 años o más y aquellos con sistemas inmunológicos comprometidos. Distribuimos equipo de protección personal a la granjas, ranchos y familias. Proporcionamos despensas, comidas y asistencia financiera a las personas infectadas por el virus, y nos asociamos con el condado de San Mateo para realizar las pruebas de COVID-19.
- Lanzamos un Fondo de Ayuda COVID-19 para brindar apoyo a inmigrantes indocumentados y familias de estatus mixto que fueron excluidos de la Ley Federal CARES y para apoyar a las personas que perdieron sus trabajos o tuvieron horas de trabajo reducidas debido a la pandemia. Desde abril, Puente ha proporcionado $252,857 en asistencia financiera y de alquiler a través de su Fondo de Ayuda COVID-19 y ha ayudado a un total de 277 hogares.
- Durante el incendio forestal de CZU, Puente ayudó a la Agencia de Servicios Humanos del Condado de San Mateo y a la Cruz Roja a dotar de personal al centro de evacuación. Registramos a los evacuados para recibir vales de hotel, proporcionamos artículos esenciales para los evacuados y distribuimos tarjetas de regalo para restaurantes, tiendas de ropa y supermercados. El Fondo de Ayuda de los Incendios de Puente recaudó más de un millón de dólares. Puente todavía está brindando asistencia financiera a quienes perdieron sus hogares y reemplazando los salarios perdidos a quienes no pudieron trabajar durante la evacuación.
- Lideramos la campaña del censo de la Costa Sur, superando la tasa de respuesta de 2010 del 33 por ciento, alcanzando el 51 por ciento hasta que la pandemia nos obligó a reducir nuestros esfuerzos.
- Nuestro Equipo de Servicios de Salud Mental vio un 35 por ciento más de hogares y un 17 por ciento más de individuos que el año anterior.

Lo invitamos a ofrecer su tiempo y experiencia como voluntario e invertir en un futuro mejor para todos los residentes de Pescadero, La Honda, San Gregorio y Loma Mar. Puente confía en usted para continuar construyendo el puente hacia una comunidad con acceso equitativo a la educación, salud y seguridad económica.

En nombre de todos nosotros en Puente, ¡Gracias!

Rita Mancera, Directora Ejecutiva



Mark Velligan, Presidente del Consejo Directivo

DREAMERS Overcome Adversities

Ana is a Dreamer. Her parents brought her to the U.S. from Mexico at the age of 14. In 2012, when she was 23 years old, Puente helped Ana apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and she has been renewing her permit every two years. Like most Dreamers, DACA has opened many doors for Ana. First, she completed her general degree in social science at Foothill College, and she is now studying to become a licensed radiology technician. Ana said, "By June 2021, I'll be graduating. And if all goes well, I'll be able to take the test for my license. If I didn't have DACA, I wouldn't be able to take that test because it requires a social security number."

Countless DACA recipients are members of mixed-status families who are counting on their love and support. There are over 254,000 U.S.-born children who have at least one parent who holds DACA. Ana's 11-year old son, Maximiliano, is stressed about losing his mom. "He does ask what DACA is and I have tried to explain it to him. He asked me, 'So if you have to go to Mexico, you can come back?' and I said no."

Ana Barron receiving her degree from Foothill College.
Ana Barron recibiendo su título de Foothill College.

Since 2012, Puente has assisted *28* local youth to apply for DACA and has filed *81* DACA renewal applications.

DACA is an Obama-era executive action that provides temporary work authorization and protection from deportation to undocumented young people who were brought to the U.S. as children. Over the past four years, the current administration has worked to rescind DACA. These constantly changing political and legal conditions create a stressful and uncertain environment for the 650,000 DACA recipients.

"Dreamers like Ana are people we are proud of in our community. They inspire us to continue fighting for an immigration reform that doesn't ignore them any longer," says Rita Mancera, Executive Director.

Since the DACA program began in 2012, Puente has assisted 28 local youth to get DACA and has filed 81 renewal applications. To maintain their DACA status, individuals must file their DACA renewal applications every two years. Puente plans to serve more youth who will benefit from DACA by helping them file their renewal applications with the support of a Puente staff member who is Accredited with the Board of Immigration Appeals. Puente paid the DACA renewal fee for all the local youth who applied this year.

Los SOÑADORES superan adversidades

Ana es una soñadora. Sus padres la trajeron a los EE. UU. Desde México a la edad de 14 años. En 2012, cuando tenía 23 años, Puente ayudó a Ana a solicitar la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA); ha estado renovando su permiso cada dos años. Como la mayoría de los Dreamers, DACA le ha abierto muchas puertas a Ana. Primero, completó su título general en ciencias sociales en Foothill College y ahora está estudiando para convertirse en técnica radióloga con licencia. Ana dijo: "para junio de 2021, me graduaré. Y si todo va bien, podré hacer el examen para obtener mi licencia. Si no tuviera DACA, no podría realizar esa prueba porque requiere un número de seguro social".

Desde 2012, Puente ha ayudado a *28* jóvenes locales a obtener DACA y ha preparado *81* solicitudes de renovación.

Innumerables beneficiarios de DACA son parte de familias de estatus mixto que cuentan con su amor y apoyo. Hay más de 254,000 niños nacidos en los EE. UU. que tienen al menos uno de los padres que tiene DACA. El hijo de Ana, Maximiliano, de 11 años, está estresado en pensar perder a su madre. "Él pregunta qué es DACA y yo he tratado de explicárselo. Me preguntó: "Entonces, si tienes que ir a México, ¿puedes volver?' Y yo dije que no".

DACA es una acción ejecutiva de la era de Obama que brinda protección temporal contra la deportación y autorización de trabajo a jóvenes indocumentados que fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos

Nayelli is another local DREAMER working and attending college.
Nayelli es otra SOÑADORA local que trabaja y asiste a la universidad.

cuando eran niños. Durante los últimos cuatro años, la administración actual ha trabajado para rescindir DACA. Estas condiciones políticas y legales en constante cambio crean un entorno estresante e incierto para los 650,000 beneficiarios de DACA.
"Los soñadores como Ana son personas de las que estamos orgullosos en nuestra comunidad. Nos inspiran a seguir luchando por una reforma migratoria que ya no los ignore", dice Rita Mancera, Directora Ejecutiva.

Desde que comenzó el programa DACA en 2012, Puente ha ayudado a 28 jóvenes locales a obtener DACA y ha presentado 81 solicitudes de renovación. Para mantener su estatus de DACA, las personas deben presentar sus solicitudes de renovación de DACA cada dos años. Puente planea servir a más jóvenes que se beneficiarán de DACA ayudándolos a presentar sus solicitudes de renovación con el apoyo de un miembro del personal de Puente que esté Acreditado con la Junta de Apelaciones de Inmigración. Puente pagó la tarifa de renovación de DACA para todos los jóvenes locales que solicitaron este año.

Corina Rodriguez distributing checks at the weekly food distribution.
Corina Rodríguez distribuyendo cheques en la distribución semanal de alimentos.

Response to the Inequities of COVID-19

Laura and her husband live in Pescadero with four of their children. They have both worked in the restaurant industry for over 20 years, but were unable to work during the Shelter-in-Place order. Laura's husband is an undocumented immigrant who pays taxes with an ITIN. This makes the entire family ineligible to receive CARES Act assistance, even though the rest of the family are U.S. citizens. Laura and her husband each received $1,000 through Puente's COVID-19 Relief Fund. Puente also provided $1,200 towards their rent. "This money has helped us to continue to pay other bills including gas, water, and electricity. This extra support has helped relieve some of the financial pressure our family had been feeling during this time. We are lucky to live on the South Coast. It is a place where people look out for each other," said Laura.

Although millions of families have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Blacks and Latinos have been disproportionately likely to experience negative consequences — particularly when one member of the household is an undocumented immigrant. Undocumented immigrants and their families were excluded from key relief provisions under the CARES Act. To address this inequity,

Since the beginning of April, Puente has provided *$252,857* in direct financial and rental assistance through its COVID-19 Relief Fund and has assisted a total of *277* households.

Puente created its own COVID-19 Relief Fund, made possible by individual donors and foundation grants. Individuals excluded from the CARES Act provisions were eligible for $1,000 per adult for a maximum of $2,000 per household. Puente has provided $252,857 in direct financial and rental assistance through its COVID-19 Relief Fund and has assisted a total of 277 households.

Corina Rodriguez, Puente's Director of Community Health and Development, has been distributing checks to eligible participants as they wait in line at Puente's food distribution which reaches over 250 families each week. "They turn down and look at the check, and some have this look of disbelief… and it was a privilege to be there in that moment, when they received something that they really needed."

Respuesta a las desigualdades de COVID-19

Community member attending Puente's weekly food distribution.
Residente de la Costa Sur asiste a la distribución semanal de alimentos de Puente.

Laura y su esposo viven en Pescadero con cuatro de sus hijos. Ambos han trabajado en la industria de restaurantes durante más de 20 años, pero no pudieron trabajar durante la orden de refugio en el lugar. El esposo de Laura paga impuestos usando un ITIN, lo que hizo que toda la familia no fuera elegible para recibir asistencia de la Ley CARES porque el esposo de Laura es un inmigrante indocumentado, aunque el resto de la familia son ciudadanos estadounidenses. Laura y su esposo recibieron cada uno $1,000 a través del Fondo de Ayuda COVID-19 de Puente. Puente también proporcionó $1,200 para un mes de alquiler. “Este dinero nos ha ayudado a seguir pagando otras facturas, como gas, agua y electricidad. Este apoyo adicional ha ayudado a aliviar parte de la presión financiera que nuestra familia había estado sintiendo durante este tiempo". Tenemos la suerte de vivir en la Costa Sur. Es un lugar donde las personas se cuidan unas a otras”, dijo Laura.

Puente ha proporcionado *$252,857* en asistencia financiera y de alquiler directa a través de su Fondo de Ayuda COVID-19 y ha ayudado a un total de *277* familias.

Aunque millones de familias se han visto afectadas por la pandemia de COVID-19, los afroamericanos y los latinos han tenido una probabilidad desproporcionada de experimentar consecuencias negativas, especialmente cuando un miembro del hogar es un inmigrante indocumentado. Los inmigrantes indocumentados y sus familias fueron excluidos de las disposiciones de ayuda bajo la Ley CARES. Para abordar esta inequidad, Puente creó su propio Fondo de Ayuda COVID-19, que fue posible gracias a donantes individuales y subvenciones de fundaciones. Las personas excluidas de las disposiciones de la Ley CARES eran elegibles para $1,000 por adulto por un máximo de $2,000 por hogar. Puente ha proporcionado $252,857 en asistencia financiera y de alquiler directa a través de su Fondo de Ayuda COVID-19 y ha ayudado a un total de 277 households.

Corina Rodríguez, Directora de Salud y Desarrollo Comunitario de Puente, ha estado distribuyendo cheques a los participantes elegibles mientras esperan en la fila de distribución de alimentos de Puente, que llega a más de 250 familias cada semana. "Se dan vuelta y miran el cheque, y algunos tienen esa mirada de incredulidad... y fue un privilegio estar allí en ese momento, cuando recibieron algo que realmente necesitaban".

Promoting Children's Development Remotely

Puente's Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs improve the cognitive and social development of young children and minimize gaps in school readiness. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down Puente's Sueños Unidos (United Dreams) childcare co-op in mid-March, the Early Childhood Education Team knew they needed to adapt and put into action a plan focused on supporting the co-op families and children.

Puente's Lead Teacher, Elvia Morales, contacted the eight co-op families to set up a time for weekly check-ins. Morales created a mini classroom in her apartment with story books, her guitar, and a dry-erase board. Every week, Morales spends more than an hour on the phone or on FaceTime with each co-op family: she talks, laughs, and reads to the children. "It's nice to see the children, even through the phone. They are happy to see me, and they wave. It's something they love, and I love it too, to continue with our relationship," says Morales. In addition, Morales posts a weekly video where she reads books alternating in English and Spanish and sings songs.

The Early Childhood Education Team also evaluated each child's developmental progression using the Ages & Stages Questionnaires, which assessed their social and emotional development and small and large motor skills, and showed very positive results. "We are surprised at how resilient they are under these challenging circumstances," said Morales. To further the children's development, Puente sent home kits that contained hands-on materials that support the development of fine motor skills, reading, and social emotional skills.

Teacher Elvia Morales does a weekly online story time for the children.
La maestra Elvia Morales hace una hora de cuentos en línea para los niños cada semana.

Since mid-March, Teacher Morales has provided *272* direct contact hours for our co-op families.

Closing the co-op was also a huge loss for the parents — many of whom are essential workers themselves. "The parents are the ones that need support because their children are the ones who are going to absorb the stress in their environments," said Morales. That's why her weekly check-ins with parents touch on their own personal struggles, how they are coping, and where Puente can provide support.

Promoviendo el desarrollo de los niños de forma remota

Los programas de Educación Infantil Temprana (ECE) de Puente mejoran el desarrollo cognitivo y social de los niños pequeños y minimizan las brechas en la preparación escolar. Cuando la pandemia de COVID-19 cerró la cooperativa de cuidado infantil Sueños Unidos de Puente (United Dreams) a mediados de marzo, el Equipo de Educación de la Primera Infancia sabía que debían adaptarse y poner en marcha un plan centrado en apoyar a las familias y los niños de la cooperativa.

La maestra principal de Puente, Elvia Morales, se comunicó con las ocho familias de la cooperativa para establecer un horario para hacer llamadas semanales. Morales creó un mini salón de clases en su apartamento con libros de cuentos, su guitarra y una pizarra para contar historias cada semana, Morales pasa más de una hora al teléfono o FaceTime con cada familia de la cooperativa: habla, se ríe, canta y lee a los niños. "Es bueno ver a los niños, incluso a través del teléfono. Están felices de verme y me saludan. Es algo que les encanta, y a mí también me gusta seguir con nuestra relación", dice Morales. Además, Morales publica un video semanal donde lee libros alternando en inglés y español y canta canciones.

Children using the Puente kits that contained hands-on materials that support the development of fine motor skills, reading, and social emotional skills.
Niños que utilizan los kits de Puente que contenían materiales prácticos que apoyan el desarrollo de la motricidad fina, la lectura y las habilidades socio-emocionales.

El Equipo de Educación Infantil también evaluó el progreso del desarrollo de cada niño usando los Cuestionarios de Edades y Etapas, que evaluaron su desarrollo social y emocional y sus habilidades motoras pequeñas y grandes. Los resultados sobre el progreso del desarrollo de los niños fue muy positivo. "Nos sorprende lo resistentes que son los niños en estas circunstancias desafiantes", dijo Morales. Para promover el desarrollo de los niños, Puente envió kits para el hogar que contenían materiales prácticos que apoyan el desarrollo de la motricidad fina, la lectura y las habilidades socio-emocionales.

Desde mediados de marzo, la maestra Morales ha proporcionado *272* horas de contacto directo para nuestras familias de la cooperativa.

Cerrar la cooperativa también fue una gran pérdida para los padres, muchos de los cuales son trabajadores esenciales. "Los padres son los que necesitan apoyo porque sus hijos son los que van a absorber el estrés de su entorno", dijo Morales. Es por eso que sus llamadas semanales con los padres abordan sus propias luchas personales, cómo las están enfrentando y en qué áreas Puente les puede brindar apoyo.

Community member and volunteer, Joaquin Vargas helps at the weekly Puente food distribution.
Miembro de la comunidad y voluntario, Joaquín Vargas ayuda en la distribución semanal de alimentos de Puente.

Resilience on a Homegrown Level

The COVID-19 pandemic only increased the number of households experiencing food insecurity; some for the first time and others that had already been struggling with it. Working together, the South Coast community came up with creative solutions to increase food security. The collaboration and action of dedicated volunteers, community members, farms, and nonprofits represent a new possibility for resilience on a homegrown level.

At the end of March, a dozen Puente staff members organized the first food distribution featuring staples from Second Harvest of Silicon Valley and produce from R&R Fresh Farms. Almost immediately, other local farms and ranches offered to provide food at cost or no charge. Soon Puente was distributing a huge variety of fresh produce from Pie Ranch, lettuce from Oku Farms, and meat from TomKat Ranch.

Pie Ranch created a new distribution system that kept farms solvent and provided food to 800 children and adults per week including the South Coast. In addition to donating 2,500 pounds of meat, TomKat Ranch helped solve another big local problem: egg scarcity. Through our partnership with TomKat Ranch, Root Down Farm, and R&R Fresh Farm, Puente launched a Chicken Coop Pilot Project that allows 15 South Coast families to care for five chickens and have fresh eggs every day.

An average of *250* households participated in Puente's weekly food distribution, a total of *582* unduplicated households.

The other key component has been the dedication of Puente's volunteers like Joaquin Vargas. Vargas says he has enjoyed the work of unloading the food from bags and boxes and dividing and repacking everything that gets loaded in people's cars. "But more than anything, I enjoy helping out and seeing other community members helping out, too." Vargas enjoys the camaraderie, too. Working with Puente is one of the only times he gets to connect with neighbors these days. The best part has been hearing other people react to the food and when they thank him for his help. "It's gratifying. I don't have the financial means to donate, so I can help by volunteering," he adds.

Acción a nivel local

La pandemia de COVID-19 solo aumentó el número de hogares que experimentan inseguridad alimentaria; algunos por primera vez y otros que ya habían estado luchando con él. Trabajando juntos, la comunidad de la costa sur ideó soluciones creativas para aumentar la seguridad alimentaria. La colaboración y acción de voluntarios dedicados, miembros de la comunidad, granjas y organizaciones sin fines de lucro representan una nueva posibilidad de fortaleza a nivel local.

A finales de marzo, una docena de miembros del personal de Puente organizaron la primera distribución de comida con alimentos básicos de Second Harvest of Silicon Valley y productos de R&R Fresh Farms. Casi de inmediato, otras granjas y ranchos locales se ofrecieron a proporcionar alimentos a un costo o sin cargo. Pronto Puente estaba distribuyendo una gran variedad de productos frescos de Pie Ranch, lechuga de Oku Farms y carne de TomKat Ranch.

Pie Ranch creó un nuevo sistema de distribución que mantuvo a las granjas solventes y proporcionó alimentos a 800 niños y adultos por semana, incluyendo a la costa sur. Además de donar 2,500 libras de carne, TomKat Ranch ayudó a resolver otro gran problema local: la escasez de huevos. A través de nuestra asociación con TomKat Ranch, Root Down Farm y R&R Fresh Farm, Puente lanzó un proyecto piloto de gallineros que permite a 15 familias de la costa sur cuidar cinco pollos y eventualmente tener huevos frescos todos los días. El otro componente clave ha sido la dedicación de los voluntarios de Puente como Joaquín Vargas. Vargas dice que ha disfrutado el trabajo de descargar la comida de bolsas y cajas y dividir y empacar todo lo que se carga en los autos de la gente. "Pero más que nada, disfruto ayudar y ver a otros miembros de la comunidad hacer lo mismo también". Vargas también disfruto de la camaradería.

Puente staff took on different roles to assist the community with new needs.
El personal de Puente asumió diferentes roles para ayudar a la comunidad con nuevas necesidades.

Un promedio de *250* hogares participaron en la distribucion de comida cada semana, un total de *582* hogares no duplicados.

Trabajar con Puente es una de las únicas ocasiones en que se conecta con los vecinos en estos días. La mejor parte ha sido escuchar a otras personas reaccionar ante el programa de la comida y cuando le agradecen su ayuda. “Es gratificante. No tengo los medios económicos para donar, así que puedo ayudar como voluntario”, agrega.

Youth Thrive: Turning Opportunities into Action

Puente Youth staff Daniel Castro graduates from Pescadero High School in June 2020.
El personal de Puente Youth, Daniel Castro, se graduó de Pescadero High School en junio de 2020.

Puente's Youth Leadership and Employment Program increases academic preparedness, provides employment opportunities, and access to knowledge regarding college and vocational opportunities for local high school students. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Puente's Education staff made the difficult decision to transition this summer's Youth Program into an online program. Normally, the 33 enrolled youth would start orientation week with a camping trip and participate in weekly enrichment activities such as visiting universities, kayaking, or going to San Francisco.

Puente's Education Team planned out a completely new student curriculum. Orientation week consisted of mini seminars taught by partner organizations: Planned Parenthood for sex education, the San Mateo Credit Union for financial literacy, and Youth United for Community Action for community organizing. A small cohort of older students also completed remote internships with companies and nonprofits around the Peninsula.

The Summer Youth Program had an *85* percent average attendance rate from start to

Puente's Education Director, Lizeth Hernandez, and Puente's Education Associate, Max Cohen, co-taught a four-week workshop series that introduced them to practical life skills such as Financial Literacy, Professional Development, Communications 101, and Adulting 101. "It's all stuff that's really important and useful, and it's almost never taught in high school or college. People don't teach you about balancing your budget," says Cohen. Youth participant Mariela said, "I liked that they showed us all the stuff we'd have to know when we are adults, like financial literacy — we do need to know stuff about how to save money."

'Adulting 101,' covered responsibilities that teens need to prepare for, such as choosing a health insurance plan and renting an apartment. Hernandez explained the concepts of a deductible and a copayment. They .visited the Covered California web site to "shop" for health insurance plans that fit with their lifestyle. They also explored how to rent an apartment.

Hernandez praised the Puente youth as motivated and resilient. She saw how much effort they put into their summer work. The program had an 85 percent average attendance rate from start to finish.

Los jóvenes prosperan: convertir las oportunidades en acciones

El Programa de Liderazgo y Empleo Juvenil de Puente aumenta la preparación académica, brinda oportunidades de empleo y acceso al conocimiento sobre oportunidades vocacionales y universitarias para los estudiantes de secundaria locales. Debido a la pandemia de COVID-19, el personal de Educación de Puente tomó la difícil decisión de hacer la transición del Programa Juvenil de este verano a un programa en línea. Normalmente, los 33 jóvenes inscritos comenzarían la semana de orientación con un viaje de campamento y participarían en actividades de enriquecimiento semanales como visitar universidades, participar en paseos de navegar en kayak o ir a San Francisco.

El Equipo de Educación de Puente planeó un plan estudiantil completamente nuevo. La semana de orientación consistió en mini seminarios impartidos por organizaciones asociadas: Planned Parenthood para la educación sexual, San Mateo Credit Union para la educación financiera y Youth United for Community Action para la organización comunitaria. Un pequeño grupo de estudiantes mayores también realizó pasantías a distancia con negocios y organizaciones sin fines de lucro en la Península.

La Directora de Educación de Puente, Lizeth Hernandez, y el Asociado de Educación de Puente, Max Cohen, co-enseñaron una serie de talleres de cuatro semanas que los introdujeron a habilidades prácticas para la vida tales como Educación Financiera, Desarrollo Profesional, Comunicaciones 101, y Como Ser Adultos 101. "Son todas las cosas que son realmente importantes y útiles, y casi nunca se enseñan en la escuela secundaria o la universidad. La gente no te enseña a equilibrar tu presupuesto", dice Cohen. La participante juvenil Mariela dijo: "Me gustó

Youth Staff Paola Vazquez from Puente's Youth Leadership and Employment Program, at her art internship in summer of 2020.
Paola Vazquez del Programa de Liderazgo y Empleo Juvenil en su practica professional de arte el pasado verano de 2020.

El Programa de Liderazgo Y Empleo Juvenil de Puente tuvo una tasa de asistencia promedio del *85* por ciento de principio a fin este verano.

que nos mostraran todo lo que tendríamos que saber cuando seamos adultos, como conocimientos financieros; tenemos que saber cosas sobre cómo ahorrar dinero".

"Como ser Adultos 101" cubría las responsabilidades que los adolescentes deben desarrollar, como elegir un plan de seguro médico y alquilar un apartamento. Hernández explicó los conceptos de deducible y copago. Fueron a Covered California para "comprar" planes de seguro médico que se ajustaran a su estilo de vida. También exploraron cómo alquilar un apartamento.

Hernández elogió a los jóvenes de Puente como motivados y resistentes. Vio cuánto esfuerzo ponían en su trabajo de verano. El programa tuvo una tasa de asistencia promedio del 85 por ciento de principio a fin.

Building Resiliency

Puente's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Team provides mental health care to the South Coast community. South Coast residents can participate in either group, individual, or family therapy at no cost. For many of our participants, this is the only point of access to mental health care. This year, our BHRS team provided services to 267 unduplicated clients and 46 unduplicated households.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen an increased need for mental health care and are averaging three new referrals each week. With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are experiencing depression, anger, fear, sleeplessness, irritability, and the desire to self-medicate.

During the pandemic, Puente's mental health team shifted gears to provide group and individual therapy sessions over virtual platforms or the phone. Remote telehealth has long been suggested as a strategy to provide greater access to mental health care. Although there are challenges to providing remote therapy, it has allowed us to continue to provide critical mental health care during this time while keeping our participants safe.

The groups use an interactive format, and the therapists offer insights, coping tips, and information. Our Madres groups focused on understanding the effect of trauma on our bodies and how it affects our everyday lives. We reinforce that we are now living in a real-life trauma — one with no beginning, middle, or end in sight. "This is a global trauma, and it impacts everyone. Our brains are working in survival mode most of the time, which causes many of us to experience negative effects such as depression, anger, fear, sleeplessness, irritability, and the desire to self-medicate.

Community activities such as Día de los Muertos were deeply missed.
Se extrañaron las actividades comunitarias como el Día de los Muertos.

This year, our BHRS Team provided services to *267* clients and *46* families.

Our brains are hard-wired for survival, and our fight, flight, and freeze responses are often dominant over our higher-level cognitive functioning", explains Puente therapist, Allison Bedford.

As we work together to mitigate the mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an opportunity to learn more about mental health including the importance of self-care, coping strategies, and support networks. Bedford emphasized, "Now, more than ever, is the time to normalize seeking mental health support and reduce the stigma associated with therapy. Our department is a safe space for members of the community to seek this kind of support."

Fortaleciendo adaptabilidad

El equipo de Salud Mental de Puente (BHRS) brinda atención de consejería a la comunidad de la costa sur. Los residentes de la costa sur pueden participar en terapia grupal, individual o familiar, todo sin costo alguno. Para muchos de nuestros participantes, este es el único punto de acceso a la atención de salud mental. Este año, nuestro equipo de BHRS brindó servicios a 267 clientes no duplicados y 46 hogares no duplicados.

Desde el comienzo de la pandemia de COVID-19, hemos visto una mayor necesidad de atención de salud mental y tenemos un promedio de tres nuevas referencias cada semana. Con la incertidumbre de la pandemia de COVID-19, las personas están experimentando depresión, ira, miedo, insomnio, irritabilidad y el deseo de automedicarse.

Families made Day of the Dead altars at home to remember their loved ones who have passed away.
Las familias hicieron altares del Día de Muertos en casa para recordar a sus seres queridos que fallecieron.

Durante la pandemia, el equipo de salud mental de Puente cambió de rumbo para brindar sesiones de terapia grupal e individual a través de plataformas virtuales o el teléfono. La telesalud remota se ha sugerido durante mucho tiempo como una estrategia para brindar un mayor acceso a la atención de salud mental. Si bien existen desafíos para brindar terapia remota, nos ha permitido continuar brindando atención de salud mental crítica durante este tiempo, manteniendo a nuestros participantes seguros.

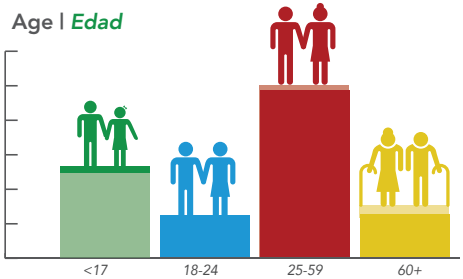
Este año, nuestro equipo de Salud Mental brindó servicios a *267* clientes y *46* familias.

Los grupos utilizan un formato interactivo y los terapeutas ofrecen incentivos, ideas y consejos para enfrentar los retos y les brindan información. Nuestros grupos de Madres se enfocan en comprender el efecto del trauma en nuestros cuerpos y cómo afecta nuestra vida diaria. Enfatizamos el hecho de que ahora estamos viviendo en una época adversa que no tiene solución inmediata "Este es un trauma global y afecta a todos. Nuestros cerebros funcionan en modo de supervivencia la mayor parte del tiempo, lo que hace que muchos de nosotros experimentemos efectos negativos como depresión, ira, miedo, insomnio, irritabilidad y el deseo de automedicarnos. Nuestros cerebros están programados para sobrevivir, y nuestras respuestas de lucha, huida y congelación a menudo dominan nuestro funcionamiento cognitivo de alto nivel", explica la terapeuta de Puente, Allison Bedford.

Mientras trabajamos juntos para mitigar los efectos en la salud mental de la pandemia COVID-19, esta es una oportunidad para aprender más sobre la salud mental, incluida la importancia del cuidado personal, las estrategias de afrontamiento y las redes de apoyo. Bedford enfatizó que "ahora, más que nunca, es el momento de normalizar la búsqueda de apoyo para la salud mental y reducir el estigma asociado con la terapia. Nuestro departamento es un espacio seguro para que los miembros de la comunidad busquen este tipo de apoyo".

Puente by the numbers | Puente en números

Age | *Edad*



	2019-2020	2018-2019
<17	28%	25%
18-24	11%	11%
25-59	49%	50%
60+	12%	14%

Individual | *Individuos*

2019-2020	2018-2019
1,827	1,534

Households | *Hogares*

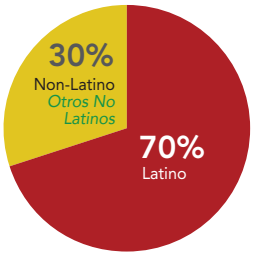
2019-2020	2018-2019
912	749

Occupation | *Ocupación*

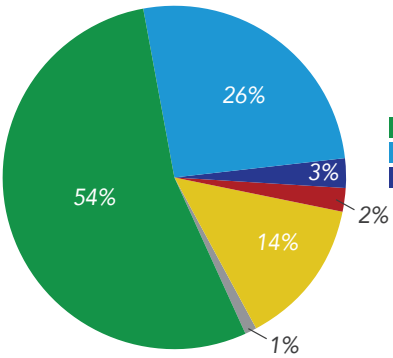
52% *Farmworkers* *Campesinos*

48% *Others* *Otras Ocupaciones*

Ethnicity | *Etnicidad*



Towns Served | *Pueblos Atendidos*



- Pescadero
- La Honda
- Loma Mar
- San Gregorio
- Coastside
- Other Towns *Otros Pueblos*

250+

Households receiving weekly food during the pandemic

Hogares que recibieron comida cada semana durante la pandemia

$252,857

Distributed COVID-19 financial assistance

Distribuidos en asistencia financiera por COVID-19

174

Households received assistance through Puente's Fire Relief Fund

Hogares recibieron asistencia a través del fondo de Incendios de Puente

768

COVID-19 tests conducted by Puente and partners

Pruebas de COVID-19 hechas por Puente y colaboradores

641

Units of legal services provided

Unidades de servicios legales

128

Federal and state taxes filed for refunds totaling to $180,689

Impuestos federales y estatales por un total de $180,689 en reembolsos

143

Individuals trained in trauma-informed approach

Individuos capacitados en el enfoque de servicios informados en trauma

2,458

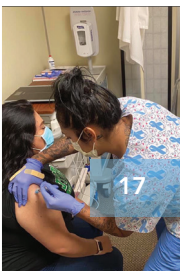
Number of touches made by Puente's Health promoters

Numero de alcances hechos por las pormotoras de salud para dar información y recursos

226

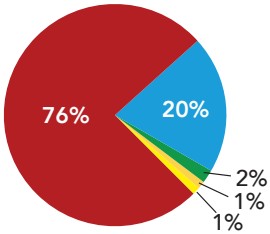
Individuals participated in health education and prevention services

Personas participaron en servicios de prevención y educación para la salud



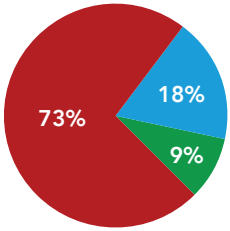
Financial Report | Reporte Financiero

REVENUE / INGRESO



Contributions / Contribuciones	$3,471,446
Government Grants and Contracts / Contratos y donativos gubernamentales	$890,579
Program Service Fees / Pago de servicios	$78,660
In-Kind Donations / Donativos en especie	$32,563
Net investment income / Ingreso por inversiones	$52,399
TOTAL	**$4,525,647**

EXPENSES / GASTOS



Programs / Programas	$2,322,543
General and Administrative / General y administrativo	$568,859
Fundraising and Development / Procuración de fondos	$281,181
TOTAL	**$3,172,583**

ASSETS/ ACTIVOS	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	Change
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	$3,563,787	$1,543,725	$2,020,062
Investments	1,279,513	1,513,209	-233,696
Accounts and grants receivable	401,545	446,793	-45,248
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	42,840	50,834	-7,994
Total Current Assets	**$5,287,686**	**$3,554,561**	**$1,733,125**
Property and equipment, at cost			
Construction in Progress	33,679	33,679	-
Furniture and equipment	84,668	84,668	-
Leasehold improvements	166,952	166,952	-
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	-217,995	-204,108	-13,887
Net property and equipment	**67,304**	**81,191**	**-13,887**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$5,354,990**	**$3,635,752**	**$1,719,238**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS / ACTIVOS Y PASIVOS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	$67,975	$39,530	$28,445
Accrued liabilities	502,857	159,278	343,579
Deferred revenue	119,808	125,616	-5,808
Total current liabilities	**690,640**	**324,424**	**366,216**
Long term liabilities			
Total long term liabilities			
Total Liabilities	**690,640**	**324,424**	**366,216**
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	2,787,651	2,149,404	638,247
Temporarily restricted	1,876,699	1,161,924	714,775
Total net assets	**4,664,350**	**3,311,328**	**1,353,022**
***TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS / TOTAL DE ACTIVOS Y PASIVOS**	**$5,354,990**	**$3,635,752**	**$1,719,238**

*Assets include funds restricted for use on a delayed capital construction project and funds received but designated for future program expenses for fiscal years 2020-21 through 2021-22.

Los activos fijos incluyen fondos restringidos para su uso en un proyecto the construcción demorado y fondos recibidos pero designados para futuros gastos de programas para los años fiscales del 2020-2021 al 2021-2022.

Thank you I Gracias

Many thanks to our generous donors and volunteers for their steadfast support.
Muchas gracias a nuestros generosos donadores y voluntarios por su dedicado apoyo.

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Patricia Watson
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Lenny and Geri Wolff
Carol Young-Holt and David Sandage

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Barbara Auerbach, in memory of Ruth Auerbach
Anonymous, in memory of Jim Brigham
Mary Ann Beaumont, in memory of Janet Murphy
Charlea Binford, in memory of Janet Murphy
Dr. Ben Boblett, in memory of Doris Boblett, on behalf of the Wood Family
Elizabeth Brancart, in memory of Janet Murphy
Genevieve Brigham, in memory of Scott and Cay
Karen Christian, in memory of Carol Black
William Cloward, in memory of Jim Brigham
David and Marianne Conner, in memory of Janet Murphy
Christopher Craft, in memory of Janet Murphy
Cynthia Crowe-Urgo, in memory of John Prine
Kerry Lobel and Marta Drury, in memory of Jim Brigham and, in honor of Gen Brigham
Kerry Lobel, in memory of Janet Murphy
Laura Hayes, in memory of Manuel Franco
Jim Holley, in memory of Shirley Holley
Jim Holley, in memory of Jim Brigham
Ruth Jaffe, in memory of Robert Martel
Robert Johnson, in memory of Jim Brigham
Robert Johnson, in memory of Janet Murphy
Lona Jupiter, in memory of her dear friend, Janet Murphy
Shoshanna Kaplinsky, in memory of Janet Murphy
Brian and Eliabeth Katcher, in memory of Jim Brigham
Jean Knight and Stephen Jacobson, in memory of Jim Brigham
Janice Keen, with Love and Gratitude for Janet Murphy
David Lustig and the Lustig Family Foundation, in memory of Janey Murphy
Mary McMillan, in memory of Janet Murphy and her inspiring work at La Sala
Nancy Michelsen, in memory of Jim Brigham
Kevin and Barbara O'Reilly, in memory of Jim Brigham
John Parsons, in memory of Jim Brigham
Ana Polacek, in memory of Janet Murphy
David Rhodes, in memory of Janet Murphy
David and Joanne Rokosky, in memory of Jim Brigham
Monica Rosoff, on behalf of Susan Torres, in memory of Joseph Guthrie
Stephen and Natalie Sellers, in memory of Jim Brigham
Joyce and Jerry Shefren, in memory of Jim Brigham, wonderful social worker and friend
Wendy Taylor, in memory of Janet Murphy
Barbara Turner, in memory of Janet Murphy
Karen and Paul Walker, in memory of Jim Brigham
Wendy Wardwell, in memory of Janet Murphy
Mary Weersing, in memory of Janet Murphy
Edward Williams, in memory of Lesli Sachs
Carol Young-Holt and David Sandage, in memory of Jim Brigham
Judy Yu-Hipon, on behalf of George Moscone Elementary School, in memory of Robert Martel & James H. Brigham
Ama Zenya, in memory of Jim Brigham
Ama Zenya, in memory of Janet Murphy

GIFTS IN HONOR OF / REGALOS EN HONOR A

Suzanne Abel, in honor of Jim and Gen Brigham
Suzanne Abel, in honor of Rita Mancera
Kathy and Clark Akatiff, in honor of California
Barbara and Ben Aksamit, in honor of John and Valerie Nelson and Melissa, Dede and Edy
Lou and Mark Ambinder-Heine, in honor of Mom & Dad
Lou and Mark Ambiner-Heine, in honor of Janette Osias
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Holly Brady, in honor of Wendy Taylor
Susan Brown, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Lazara
Ismael and Clara Bueno, in honor of Pal & Rose Palacios
Robin Burns, on behalf of Alpha Delta Kappa (Beta Rho Chapter)
Tom Barry and Brenda Christensen, in honor of Millie Dosh for her 80th birthday
Gordon Craig, in honor of Puente
Sara Cunningham, in honor of Finn Oakes
Kristi Denham, in honor of Wendy Taylor
Kerri Dorn, in honor of Kerry Lobel
Metka Dragos, in honor of all farmworkers on the coast
Nic and Renee Erridge, in honor of Mateo Erridge
Helen Fitzsimmons, in honor of Eleanor Palacios
Kendall Flint, in honor of Kerry Lobel and all that she does
Doug and Jane Ford, in honor of Zoe Ford-Adelsheim
Ann Foster, in thanks to Patricia Watson for all she does for her community
Fern Friest and Michael Williams, in honor of Ophelie Vico
Lynn Frost, in honor of Kerry Lobel
Darcie Galle, in honor of the children of Pescadero
Sara Gandy, in honor of Bonnie Small
Barbara Blinick, in honor of all the hard working students of Puente
Gabriel Garcia, in honor of Kerry Lobel's Birthday
William and Doris Gilliespie, in honor of Jean Atkinson
Wilma Gold, in honor of Elvia Morales

Thank you I Gracias

Jon Goldman, in honor of Our Friend Beverly Fields
Linda Goldstein, in honor of Kerry Lobel's birthday
Beverly Hartman, in honor of Carol Young-Holt
Ann Hayes, in honor of Laura Franco-Hayes' Birthday
Erica Hays, in honor of Louise Lawson
Diana and Phil Hegwood, in honor of Kerry Lobel's birthday
Bette Henley, in honor of Wendy Taylor
Deborah Hirst, in honor of Kerry Lobel
Elayne Holder, in honor of the class of 1989
Sean Hoyer and Bonnie Faigeles, in honor of Kerry Lobel
Katie Johnson, in honor of her granddaughter Eddy Boies
Graceann Johnson, in honor of Nellie Perna Bartello
Hector Gonzales and Samantha Johnston, in honor of Teri Ann Johnston for scholarship
Jennifer Kane, in honor of Rita Mancera and the dedicated staff at Puente
Shoshanna Kaplinsky, in honor of Nancy Raulston
Achim Klaus, in honor of Orrill Fluharty
Guy Laidig, in honor of Keith Laidig and Lynn Cameron
Morgyne LeCount, in honor of David LeCount for his birthday
The Lesbian Equity Fund, in honor of Kerry Lobel and her tireless work for justice and equality
Jane Lewenthal, in honor of Kerry Lobel
Michael and Susan Lydon, in honor of Wendy Wardwell
Rita Mancera, in honor of Puente staff
Jacque Maxon, in honor of Kerry Lobel's birthday
Sandra McKay, in honor of Gerald McKay
Mary Millard, in honor of Megan and Liam
Naftali Moed, in honor of Cleo Tudaymy
Paula Morris, in honor of Melissa Morris
Mary Lu Murphy and Dennis Dillon Baker, in honor of Rita Mancera and her family
John and Valerie Nelson, in honor of Melissa Morris
Mary Newcombe, in honor of Kerry Lobel
Dan Newitt, in honor of Kitten E. Witten, Esq., Cat-torney at Law
Betty Nogues, in honor of Maile Springer
Rachel Oldham, In honor of Mary Oldham, happy Mother's Day!
Kevin and Barbara O'Reilly, in honor of K. C. O'Reilly's 50th birthday
Alejandra Ortega, in honor of her mom, Dinorah Gudino
Tania Ortez, in honor of Ana Sofia Amieva Wang
Beverly Pachner, in honor of Eleanor Palacios
Cheri Parr, in honor of Carol McKeithan
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David Sandage in honor of Carol Young-Holt
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Liz and Harlan Chapman

Thank you I Gracias

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Holly Cheever and Dean Sommer
Charlotte Cheng
Diann and Frank Chethik
Wyman Chin
Mildred Cho and Mark Shattuck
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Mayela Perez, Public Health Nurse, Street and Field Medicine Team
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Norma Zavala, Childcare Provider

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Annual Report Credits I Creditos del Reporte Anual

Photography/Fotografía
Lars Howlett
Jovany Rios
Elvia Morales
Sueños Unidos/United Dreams
Co-op parents
Puente Staff

Text/Texto
Julia Scott
Beth Easter

Design/Diseño
Glen So

Puente staff and board members in October of 2019.
Personal de Puente y miembros del Consejo Directivo en octubre del 2019.

Our Vision | Nuestra Vision

Puente is an integral and active member of our rural San Mateo County South Coast community—a community that is healthy, inclusive, and sustainable, with diverse populations that accomplish their highest individual and community dreams.

Puente es un miembro esencial y activo de nuestra pequeña comunidad rural de la costa sur del condado de San Mateo – una comunidad que es saludable, inclusiva, y sostenible, con una población diversa que alcanza sus más altos sueños individuales y comunitarios.

Our Mission | Nuestra Mision

As the region's only Community Resource Center, Puente serves the San Mateo County South Coast communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio. Puente both advocates for our communities and leverages resources that foster economic prosperity and security, and that promote individual and community health and wellness. We support local leaders and work together with our neighbors creating solutions for our diverse communities.

Puente siendo el único centro de recursos comunitarios de la región, sirve a las comunidades de la costa sur del condado de San Mateo: Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar y San Gregorio. Puente no sólo aboga por nuestras comunidades sino que maximiza los recursos que fomentan la prosperidad y la seguridad económica, y que promuevan la salud y el bienestar del individuo y la comunidad. Apoyamos a los líderes locales y trabajamos junto con nuestros vecinos creando soluciones para nuestras comunidades diversas.

PUENTE
SINCE | DESDE 1998

mypuente.org

620 North Street • PO Box 554 • Pescadero, 94060 • 650.879.1691
8865 La Honda Road, Suite 4 • La Honda, CA 94020