New Solutions for Challenging Times



2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

PUENTE DE LA COSTA SUR

The Community Resource Center for the South Coast

WHO WE ARE

Puente is a catalyst for inclusive new solutions and opportunities in our own rural community and beyond.

Puente:

- 1. Cultivates a vibrant and dynamic community that reflects and promotes the values of self-determination, self-sufficiency, social justice, and commitment to our natural environment, collective history, heritage, and community.
- 2. Provides comprehensive education and leadership development programs designed to transform lives and support residents to advocate for themselves and their communities.
- 3. Advocates for fair, equitable, prevention-oriented policies and practices in the areas of education, youth employment, housing, medical care, transportation, and food security.
- 4. Listens to you, our stakeholders. We take your trust seriously, and actively work to maintain effective programming, governance, and internal operations to ensure Puente's lasting presence for generations to come.

CREDITS

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NEW SOLUTIONS FOR CHALLENGING TIMES

Thank you, our beloved community, dear friends, and supporters.

Small agricultural communities like Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar and San Gregorio have been the lifeblood of America's towns and cities, and yet complex rural and economic conditions, isolation, and the globalization of food and flower production have made Puente's work more critical than at any time in our more than 10-year history.

Because of you, Puente has been able to seize opportunities and create partnerships to bring youth jobs, small business opportunities, and parenting support to our isolated community. We have expanded our drug and alcohol prevention programs for youth and increased counseling services for adults and youth struggling with depression, domestic violence, and other debilitating conditions and circumstances.

Sadly, currently many South Coast youth are not on track to graduate from high school with the confidence and academic skills needed to pursue a college or vocational career. Because of you, Puente's Youth Employment and Leadership Program is changing the lives of youth who face many risks inherent in rural life that are only compounded by their geographic isolation and language barriers. I know you'll be inspired by some of their stories in this report.

Puente's Learning Center opens doors to jobs, continuing education, and self-sufficiency. Because of you, more than 100 men and women attend classes on English, Spanish, citizenship, literacy, and one-on-one tutoring. Volunteers are at the heart of these learning programs.

Health education and physical exercise programs such as Pilates and Zumba challenge the growing epidemic of obesity and diabetes in the Latino community. And our commitment to preserving the beauty of the South Coast has led us to support environmental field studies at Pescadero High School and provide green jobs training to youth.

Please, come and visit. Send an email or give us a call. Together, we've created a special place that many of our supporters call home and where we can find new solutions for challenging times.

Warmest regards,

Kerry Lobel, Executive Director

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LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

Transforming Ideas into Action

Our communities have shown remarkable strength in the midst of persistent challenges. We have seen the closure of family farms, an economy that continues to be frail, the ongoing globalization of agriculture, and more. Families throughout the South Coast have faced these challenges with dignity and ingenuity, but the struggle remains.

Through local and regional connections and partnerships, we have strengthened our capacity as an organization to tackle critical issues such as access to direct healthcare and affordable housing—two of the highest priority needs on the South Coast today.

We know that real, sustainable change does not happen without passion, collaboration, and a plan. In 2010, Puente completed an extensive 5-year strategic plan, positioning us to move forward on key issues that will leverage services and dollars for long-term solutions.



Puente helped drive participation in the 2010 Census, ensuring that our region receives our fair share of federal dollars and political representation—thanks to our partnership with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Advancing Rural Healthcare

In 2010, Puente partnered with the Stanford Alumni Consulting Team to explore the feasibility of providing healthcare delivery on the South Coast. We worked together with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to include a green mobile health care van in House Appropriations language in 2010, and with the San Mateo County Departments of Health and Human Services to explore other avenues for healthcare.

Farmworker Housing Advocacy



Heartbreaking housing violations threatened the health of nearly 100 farmworker families at Marchi Farms.

Nearly 100 residents were nearly evicted from Marchi Farms in May 2010 due to high nitrates found in drinking water and numerous housing violations. This prompted Puente to work with California Rural Legal Assistance and the County Departments of Health, Human Services, Housing and Planning to keep residents in their homes while at the same time exploring venues for clarifying farm worker housing policies, creating new housing, and improving existing housing stock.

Supporting New Community Initiatives

When Federal recovery and stimulus funds became available to the County of San Mateo, Puente acted quickly to secure funding for youth employment and green jobs training. The funds underwrote an environmental field studies course at Pescadero High School, two series of trainings at Camp Glenwood, and emergency and other green jobs training for South Coast youth.

When the Pescadero Foundation needed a fiscal sponsor to apply for two County grants, Puente stepped in to help, and both applications were successful:

- The historic Native Sons Hall is a gathering place for weddings, baptisms, and community meetings. The County grants will enable the community to replace the building's roof and foundation.
- The Warheit site may be the South Coast's best hope for much needed affordable housing. The County grant provided the funding to conduct site drilling, a prerequisite to moving forward.

The Bottom Line

From healthcare to education, from substance abuse prevention to food security and transportation, from school supplies to bicycles, families have accessed support from Puente for every aspect of their lives. Ours is a collective future, one filled with opportunites and hope for our children—a future based on justice and equality.

OUR COMMUNITY STANDS TOGETHER

We are truly grateful for the dedication and talent of our volunteers, donors, neighbors, and friends. From individual long-term volunteers, to one-time group projects, the community has been gracious with their time and their support.

We honor all of those who came together in 2009-2010 to find new solutions to the challenges that we face as a community. We believe that by working together, anything is possible.

BIG PROJECTS/BIG RESULTS

A Puente Makeover

Rebuilding Together Peninsula and more than 150 volunteers led by Mediterraneo Design Build painted Puente building exteriors and made improvements to reduce flooding.

Back to School Confidence

On the first day of school, 200 children and youth proudly walked into their classrooms with backpacks full of school supplies thanks to many generous donors and volunteers. A very special thank you to Peery & Associates, Laura and Courtney Cunneen, Congregational Community Church of Benicia, Peninsula Metropolitan Community Church, Sonrisas Dental Clinic, and Genentech.

New Life for Children's Center

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto volunteers painted the Puente Children's Center.

Eagle Scout Blanket Drive

Austin Hall, 14, led a church and school drive in Utah to make 20 blankets for Puente children as his Eagle Scout Project.

A Warm Winter

KNITZVAH, a group of Peninsula knitters and crocheters, provided Puente with 242 scarves, sweaters, blankets, quilts, hats, and toys in 2010 alone.

First Annual Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Party



Alicia Solorio and her family along with Puente's Kerry Lobel and Rita Mancera

Jeff and Kate Haas hosted more than 100 donors and volunteers from throughout the Bay Area to celebrate the accomplishments of the many, many donors and volunteers who make Puente's work possible.

Alicia Solorio, Laura and Courtney Cunneen, and Mediterraneo Design Build were honored for exemplary service and commitment to their community.

Ray A. Nelson Award

David Sandage was honored with the first annual Ray A. Nelson Award for his unwavering commitment to building bridges between the Latino and Anglo communities, including his work as an ESL teacher and citizenship tutor. Ray Nelson was one of Puente's founders. Ray learned Spanish in his later years and was devoted to La Sala, Puente's twice-weekly meal program for farm and nursery workers.

After being lured "over the hill" to Pescadero to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner in 2008, I was lucky enough to be invited to tutor. It's been a wonderful journey ever since, working on GED prep in Spanish and English with several tutee/mentees every Saturday. I can't imagine the South Coast without Puente: it's the soul of the community.

-Suzanne Abel, Associate Director for External Relations, Haas Center for Public Service, Stanford University

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wide on the coast-and I enjoy crossing paths with them as friends on the road through our bike connection. -Liz Chapman

Another Great Year for Puente's Bike Program



Puente's bike program dates from our earliest days, putting nearly 500 donated bikes in the hands of those who work Pescadero's fields and nurseries. Having their own bicycle frees them from having to cadge or pay for rides or for the very limited bus service in our area. More than that, a bicycle provides independence.

Board members Gabriel Echeverria and Liz Chapman, along with La Sala participants.

Culture at Work



These angels were among 250 participants who enacted Las Posadas-the journey of Joseph and Mary. Their journey reminds us of countless other pilgrims who have sought safety over the generations.

Premiere of La Mission in Pescadero



Talisa and Benjamin Bratt, along with Puente's Jorge Guzman, attended the Pescadero premiere of the film La Mission. The film was produced by TomKat Productions and 5 Stick Films and brought to Pescadero in cooperation with Puente.

Kerry Lobel and Rita Mancera Honored

Executive Director Kerry Lobel was inducted into the 2010 San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in March 2010. For nearly three decades, the Women's Hall of Fame has paid tribute to extraordinary women who have left an indelible imprint on the history of San Mateo County.

Community Builder Rita Mancera was awarded a Mayor's Diversity Celebration Award in May, 2010 from the San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes individuals making an impact in the community from a range of sectors including business, academic, government, and nonprofit.

OUR RESULTS

- 59 children and families were provided with one-on-one or family mental health counseling.
- 99 elementary-school-aged children and adolescents attended Puente-led support and leadership groups.
- 798 unduplicated individuals and 316 households received safety net services.
- 35 women and men attended twice-weekly Zumba classes, a new fitness program.
- 45 individuals and families received tax refunds totaling \$54,785 thanks to Puente's tax preparation program.
- 103 English and Spanish speakers participated in Puente Learning Center programs, including citizenship, ESL, Spanish, and adult literacy.
- 380 adults and children were transported to medical and dental appointments via SamCoast thanks to coordination by Puente.
- 60 children and their parents attended programs each week at the Puente Children's Center, including Story Time, childcare, and Homework Club.
- Puente was named as San Mateo County's 8th Core Service Provider, taking responsibility for regional safety net services.
- 1728 hot meals were served to farm workers at La Sala.

www.mypuente.org **PUENTE**

YOUTH BUILDIN

YOUTH PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN BUILDING COMMUNITY

Who will become our future farmers and ranchers? And create innovative business models for contemporary agriculture? Who will become our entrepreneurs? And chefs, tradespeople, teachers and elected officials?

Our youth have the community history, cultural understanding, and social connections to be our teachers and leaders. They are strong, resilient, and able.

Thanks to you, we now mentor more than 40 high school students, up from six when the program began in 2008. You are changing the lives of youth and their families every day.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM EXPANDS

This past summer, Puente ramped up its year-round Youth Leadership and Employment Project. Employment at Puente is just the first step to preparing youth for vocational and academic careers. Increasing math skills and building English fluency, are the cornerstones of a program that provides training and mentoring. Walking with each student through the process of preparing for college or a vocational career takes time, care, and money. We are committed to providing a safe environment where youth and their families have the resources and support that they need to make informed decisions about their future.

GABRIELA'S STORY



Gabriela Flores is a graduate of Puente's Youth Leadership and Employment Program. Gaby moved to Pescadero from Mexico with her sisters and mother in 2005 to join her father, who had worked for years in area farms and nurseries. She entered Pescadero High School as a freshman without speaking a word of English. As one of the first scholarship recipients of Puente's Youth Bridges Award, Gaby is now in her second year of college. Receiving a scholarship was only a small example of Gaby's relationship with Puente. While

The people at Puente who make the youth leadership programs possible are changing my life. They're also changing the lives of other students, and the lives of their families.

-Gabriela Flores, Puente Youth Staff

participating in the Youth Leadership and Employment Project, Gaby received financial advice, academic support, and priceless guidance from Puente staff and volunteers.

As a paid employee, Gaby currently coordinates two of Puente's Community Building programs and supports many program participants, co-workers, and peers.

Her major? Human Services. Just last year, she received a poetry award at a regional competition sponsored by the Half Moon Bay Library.

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Youth Employees Staffed 2010 Summer Camps

- Puente to Pie, a three-week, farm-based pilot program with Pie Ranch helped Spanish-speaking children expand their vocabulary and learn farm basics in their native language while English speakers learned some essential Spanish.
- Day camps throughout the summer offered at YMCA Camp Jones Gulch and at Puente.
- Kick-Off to Kinder, a month-long kindergartenreadiness program sponsored in conjunction with the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District.



Campers harvest lettuce for their lunch at Puente to Pie Summer Camp.

Puente Children's Center Expands

Throughout the week, toddlers and other small children play, explore, and enjoy story time while mom is taking her ESL class, or family members are participating in other programs. Puente partners with the San Mateo County Library each week for Homework Club and Story Time for young children. Thanks to the Institute for Human and Social Development (IHSD), there is a brand new playground adjacent to the center; IHSD also partners with Puente to provide home visits to children ages 0-3.

2010 College-Bound Youth Receive Youth Bridges Award

The Puente Youth Bridges Awards recognize graduating seniors that have worked at Puente during their high school years for their outstanding contributions to our diverse communities.



2010 Youth Bridges Scholarship Award Recipients



I grew up at Puente. It's where I learned that I love to cook. I now have the confidence and the opportunities to prepare food for large groups of people at Puente events, and I get lots of compliments. At Puente, they work hard to find jobs that are a good match for your interests and skills. I love to keep learning. Kerry gave me a chef's knife as a gift after a big event. My mom won't touch it, but I love it.

-Jose Castro Chavez, Puente Youth Staff

PUENTE YOUTH STAFF

Carina Amezcua

Monica Amezcua Fabiola Arellano* Marcos Arellano Elias Beckett Ricardo Cabrera Daniel Castro Chavez Jose Antonio Castro Chavez Tim Cook Nicholas S. Curran Kelsey Downing Bernardo Flores **Edith Flores** Elizabeth Flores Gabriela Flores Aldo Flores Vera Catalina Gonzalez* Barbara Guzman Isabel Guzman Anna-Lesa Horve-Sukkestad* Angel Lopez* Brenda Lopez **Hector Lopez** Jose Lopez Luis Lopez Mariela Lopez Valentin Lopez Maria Macias **Nestor Marin** Patricia Marin Luis Mendez Mayra Mendez* Rachel Moody* **Javier Morales** Alberto Nabor Omar Ortega Juan Pedro Ponce* Alejandra Resendiz Jose Resendiz Monica Resendiz Jovany Rios Laura Rodriguez Raul Rodriguez Cristina Salgado Rachael Schneider Maxwell P. Talbot Israel Vargas Miguel Vasquez

Salvador Vasquez Marcela Vasquez

THANK YOU

TO OUR 2009-2010 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

It is thanks to you that Puente continues to thrive and to improve the lives of working families throughout the San Mateo County South Coast. You make this work possible and we are truly grateful.

PUENTE PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

With your gift each and every month, you make Puente stronger and more sustainable. Your consistent support ensures the continued effectiveness of our programs and saves paper. We are most grateful.

Suzanne Abel Avis Boutell and Alice Miller James and Genevieve Brigham Brenda Christensen and Tom Barry Tricia Dell and Dan Bernstein Darla J. Donovan Duarte's Tavern Darcie and Greg Galle Jeff and Kate Haas Bruce Hamilton Gunilla Hayward Gillian Herbert Rob Johnson and Lary Lawson Faye Lobel Rita Mancera and Jim Gust Peery & Associates Pescadero Community Church Nancy Raulston Lesli Sachs Rev. Joanne Sanders Ann and Greg Timm Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos Janet Trusso Leonie Walker and Dr. Kate O'Hanlan Lenny and Geri Wolff Carol Young-Holt and David Sandage

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Youth staff are the cornerstone of an innovative partnership with the Half Moon Bay Library that provides a twice-weekly Homework Club for children and their parents.

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Linda Garber and Barbara Blinick

After reading "The Grapes of Wrath" and coming to understand the difficulties that migrant workers and their families endure, my son Austin felt that he should do something to help. Completing this project has given him a source of pride and has helped him earn his Eagle Scout Award. -Robert Hall, father of Austin Hall

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My experience with Puente has been one of finding deep meaning in the building of relationships with people in my own community. It has been the forging of friendships without borders. The work of Puente is the enrichment of many lives at many levels. -Jim Brigham, volunteer, Half Moon Bay

for Marjorie J. Telfer

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Sporting a new backpack for the first day of school.

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YMCA Camp Jones Gulch Youth Leadership Institute

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Payless Shoe Source
Peery and Associates

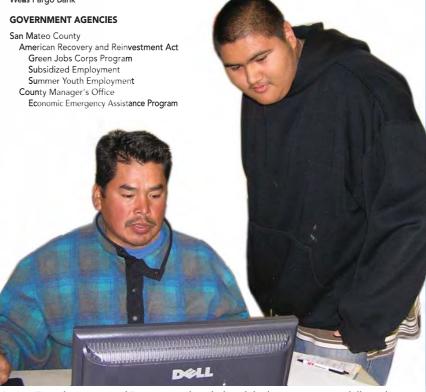
Department of Health
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services,
Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention
Children's Health Initiative
Get Healthy San Mateo
H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Clinics
Department of Housing
Community Development Block
Grants: Safety Net Services,
Puente Facilities Improvement
Homelessness Prevention and
Rapid Re-housing Program

Working at Puente in high school gave me confidence and skills, but most importantly it helped me see the value of a college education. I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Puente Youth Bridge Scholarships this past June. I am the first in my family to attend college. My family is proud and I am glad to show them that in life there are obstacles but nothing is impossible. I am also happy to be a role model for my sister and cousins. -Cristina Salgado, Puente Youth Staff

Peninsula Beauty Supply Pescadero Country Store Pescadero Creek Inn Pure Beauty RayTana and Associates Rosenthal and Company Safeway, Half Moon Bay SageCoach Studio 4 Pilates Sullivan's Restaurant and Bar Taqueria de Amigos Twice as Nice The San Gregorio Company Union Bank Verizon Matching Gifts Program Weller O'Brien Insurance Services Wells Fargo Bank

Human Services Agency Children's Collaborative Action Team Core Services Network Workforce Investment Board Year-Round Youth Employment Project

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, United Way of Bay Area Half Moon Bay Library, English Language Literacy Intensive Program Institute for Mexicans Abroad, Becas Fellowship, University of California La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District Migrant Education Program, Santa Clara Office of Education San Mateo County Transit District: SamCoast



The Chicana Latina Foundation trained Puente youth to help adults learn computer skills and close the digital divide.

BOARD MEM

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Brigham^a

Robert Johnson Chair

Liz Chapman

Nancy Raulston Secretary

Gabriel Echeverria **Gabriel Gutierrez**

Wendy Wardwell

Kate Haas

Carol Young-Holt Vice Chair and Treasurer

Δ 2009 member

PUENTE STAFF

Josh Crockett Migrant Student Coordinator

Pia Borden Crosby MFT Intern**

Tricia Dell **Development Director**

Amyen Evert MFT Intern

Edwin Flores Community Outreach Worker[∆]

> Luz M Gallardo Benefits Analyst[∆]

Sandra Gomez Benefits Analyst∆**

Dinorah Gudino Childcare Provider

Jorge Guzman MFT Intern, Community Prevention Specialist

Julie Hosfeldt Women, Infants, and Children Program[∆]

Suzanne Hughes, MFT Mental Health Counselor

> Kerry Lobel **Executive Director**

Maricela Lopez Childcare Provider

Rita Mancera Community Builder

Rachel Moody Learning Center Coordinator

Veronica Ortega Office Manager

Alejandra Resendiz **Program Associate**

Denise Sandoval Benefits Analyst[∆]

July Ugas Family Resource Counselor△**

Lorena Vargas de Mendez Safety Net Services Coordinator

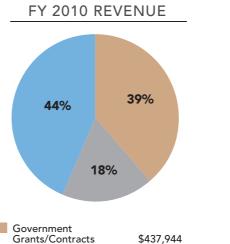
Alicia Vega Community Outreach Coordinator

Joann Watkins, MFT Clinical Director

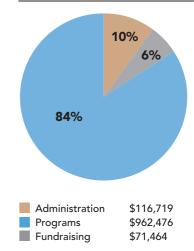
> Shannon Webb Childcare Provider

Norma Zavala Early Head Start Home-Based Specialist***

Puente de la Costa S Statements of Financial P at June 30, 2010				
Assets	2010		2009	
Current assets Cash and cash equivalents Accounts and grants receivable Prepaid expenses and other current assets Total current assets	\$	96,760 47,761 7,797	\$	130,424 64,751 11,370 206,545
Property and equipment, at cost Furniture and equipment Leasehold improvements Accumulated depreciation and amortization		19,239 39,137 (14,188)	_	19,239 26,837 (6,822)
Total Total assets	\$	44,188 196,506	\$	39,254 245,799
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Current liabilities Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Deferred income	\$	19,748 18,518	\$	34,709 10,432 27,000
Total current liabilities		38,266		72,141







FY 2010 EXPENSES

39,699

118,541

158,240

\$ 196,506

53,955

119,703

173,658

245,799

Δ posted by County of San Mateo, ** 2009 staff, *** Institute for Human and Social Development

www.mypuente.org **PUENTE** 11

Contributions

Net assets

Unrestricted

Total net assets

Total liabilities and net assets

Temporarily restricted









OUR 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.

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Puente answers, first, to our South Coast residents of La Honda, Loma Mar, San Gregorio, and Pescadero. Puente respects and honors our collective history, heritage, and community. We believe in our community's capacity to turn dreams into action, and we believe that every member of our community deserves opportunities to learn and grow.

Our values and guiding principles apply to our work at all levels, inside our organization with staff, volunteers, and program participants as well as in all our relationships with our broader community.



Puente Resource Center
620 North Street, PO Box 554
Pescadero, CA 94060
650-879-1691
info@mypuente.org
www.mypuente.org