New Solutions for Challenging Times

2011 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.

Dear Puente Supporter,

Over the past year Puente has worked with passion and purpose to

• Strengthen the South Coast as a safe, vibrant and caring community
• Create greater economic opportunity for farm workers, farmers and ranchers
• Provide safety-net services for low-income residents
• Improve the lives and educational prospects of local youth
• Foster bonds of friendship and trust among diverse residents of our rural home.

Your commitment to our work made this year’s accomplishments possible. Thank you!

Just “over the hill” from the urban engine of innovation that is Silicon Valley, Puente primarily serves an isolated, rural population. Together with the farmers, ranchers, townsfolk, and retreat seekers – farm workers and their families help sustain the entire region physically through their agricultural production and spiritually through their stewardship of Place.

Puente champions solutions that build a better life for all.

We catalyze change by recognizing problems then working with a diverse group of stakeholders to find, hone and implement solutions that improve lives, model efficacy, and inspire hope.

With your help, Puente is working toward a community where people who live here can prosper and, alongside those who visit, can enjoy, protect, and sustain our beautiful, bountiful, inspiring coastal home.

We hope that you’ll plan a visit to see us soon to see our work first-hand.

With great appreciation,

Kerry Lobel
Executive Director
La Honda Satellite Office Opens Its Doors

Last year Puente opened its first-ever branch office in La Honda. With a new base in the mountain town, Puente has begun offering Spanish and ESL classes free of charge, as well as mental health counseling, safety net services, and tutoring. The office is also home to La Honda’s “Over-55 Club,” and provides support for the town newspaper, The La Honda Voice. That’s not all. In 2012 La Hondans won’t have to go far to find a homework club, tax preparation assistance, a knitting circle, free Wi-Fi and a bank of computers.

“There are a lot of people here who barely get by on food stamps, MediCal, Medicare,” says Joann Watkins, Puente’s Clinical Services Director (and longtime La Honda resident) who staffs the new office.

New Initiatives at Puente

Fighting Youth Substance Abuse

Valentin Lopez is 16. Some of his friends drink or use drugs, but he doesn’t. He has seen what happens to people when they get hooked. Lopez, a student at Pescadero High School, joined an alcohol and drug prevention youth group this year, principally to fight what he sees as a growing trend toward troubling behavior among kids his age and younger. He’s been where they gather to drink and do drugs, the space under a bridge in town that’s covered in swear words and gang graffiti. “Kids feel alone so they try to distract themselves,” he explained.

In 2011, Puente launched Project Success in South Coast schools with a grant from San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS). Puente counselors lead facilitated discussion groups to help students as young as

See p. 5

A Path to Citizenship

Rosario Marin lived and worked in Pescadero for 26 years under a green card. She met her husband and raised two children here. On December 14, 2011, Marin, 40, stood under a brightly lit atrium with hundreds of other new U.S. citizens and pledged her allegiance to the American flag at a swearing-in ceremony.

“It’s just the satisfaction of knowing that I am a citizen. I belong here. I dream about voting,” said Marin, who worked at Pescadero flower nurseries before taking a job as a cook at Duarte’s Tavern.

See p. 5
**ECONOMY**

### In a Recession, Puente Is There

The situation for Puente’s poorest program participants continues to deteriorate as the agricultural economy worsens and benefits run out. Puente’s safety net services **filled in the gaps for nearly 1/3 of the residents in the region**, by providing emergency food, rental assistance, diapers and funds to underwrite **cold weather costs such as propane, electricity, blankets and sleeping bags**. “A lot of people lost their jobs and they need to come to Puente for financial assistance,” explains Lorena Vargas, Safety Net Services Manager. Thanks to generous individuals, faith institutions, San Mateo County and grants from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, people **made their rent and had gas to get to work**. Puente enrolled a record 243 participants in state and federal health care programs and **connected them with dental care** through Sonrisas, a partner nonprofit.

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**EDUCATION**

### Being Green, and Seeing Green

Puente created its **Green Jobs Corps** to better position the South Coast for long-term sustainability, and bring young people together to learn about careers in farming, food and the environment. We underwrote the costs of a semester-long Environmental Field Studies course and a **Green Career Fair** at Pescadero High School. A collaborative grant from the California Green Jobs Corps, San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board, and TomKat Foundation helped Puente stage the entire Green Jobs Corps Program. A unique partnership with **Camp Glenwood** allowed Puente to serve **high-risk young men** who are facing detention in Juvenile Hall. The young men learned to identify coastal species, collect soil samples and monitor water quality in Pescadero Creek. Experts also provided Puente youth employees with hard skills like GIS mapping and outdoor survival training.

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**SAFETY**

### Tsunami Warning Leads to Emergency Training

Japan’s earthquake and tsunami produced no crisis in California, but a pre-dawn evacuation order from San Mateo County for homes in the coastal zone sowed **dangerous confusion and panic** that morning. Puente made dozens of personal phone calls and helped staff the Red Cross shelter, but families had already fled to higher ground with improvised emergency kits. “We realized there was no systematic way to answer to an emergency,” says Rita Mancera, Puente’s Program Director. Puente obtained a grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to train 60 key community members including business and school leaders, ranch and nursery foreman, and others in **CPR and First Aid**. (Another 40 Puente youth and staff members also have First Aid and CERT training). Trainings were held in Pescadero, La Honda and at Moon Ridge/Main Street Apartments in Half Moon Bay.
A Year of Growth and Change

Puente Staff — or Superheroes?

Puente personified Pescadero’s “can-do” spirit this year. Adult staff, youth staff and volunteers spent the year getting trained in so many new areas that they are practically superheroes, consistent with Puente’s goal to create an organizational culture that promotes shared leadership and ongoing learning for participants and staff.

• Four staff members became licensed Red Cross Instructors
• Three staff members became certified Zumba fitness instructors
• Two staff members became notaries public
• Two staff members became ham radio operators for emergencies
• One staff member became a paralegal
• One staff member and three volunteers became IRS-certified tax preparers

By the Numbers

• Puente provides childcare and transportation for every group program. Staff members care for 100 children each week.
• Puente adult learning and ESL programs reach 194 people each year.
• Puente awarded $2,950 worth of college scholarships to 7 Pescadero and La Honda youth.
• Puente’s Green Jobs Corps put 24 high-risk young men at Camp Glenwood to work for the environment, doing soil and water testing.
• Puente kept 18 families from homelessness by providing more than $17,000 in emergency rental assistance.
• Puente provided nearly 1,700 homecooked meals to farm and nursery workers.

Puente Youth Staff

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Puente Staff – or Superheroes?

Fighting Substance Abuse from page 3

10 to develop skills for managing social and peer pressure to use substances. Clinicians also do one-on-one counseling.

With support from a BHRS community partnership grant, a group of youth, including Lopez, recently started designing a town mural that depicts hope and resilience with the image of two palms cupped together releasing a flock of doves. The mural will read: “We dream with strength and courage and together we succeed.” The teens hope it will send a message to everyone about new beginnings.

A Path to Citizenship from page 3

Marin first sought citizenship in 1997, but gave up when she realized how expensive and onerous the process would be. Then last year she found out that Puente had expanded its immigration and legal services and could help.

Thanks to a grant from the Grove Foundation and numerous volunteers, including Marin, Puente has extended immigration services to 36 participants since the program’s inception, including citizenship and visa/green card renewals. Another 16 participants were assigned Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs), an IRS program that allows people without Social Security Numbers to file federal tax returns.
Eating Fresh, Staying Fit
Puente founded new Certified Community Farmers’ Markets in Pescadero and La Honda in 2011, accomplishing a long-held goal to make healthy, locally grown food available to residents of the South Coast and devise new ways to help build the local economy. More than 15 local farms and ranches provided everything from dry-farmed tomatoes to goat cheese and grass-fed beef. The bounty drew as many as 200 shoppers per week.

Best of all, it was affordable. Pescadero Grown! was the first market of any kind on the South Coast to accept vouchers from the Women Infant Children Nutrition Program (WIC) and CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps and federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the only Farmers’ Market on the Coastside to accept food stamps. Thanks to contributions from generous neighbors, Puente’s Pescadero Grown! Program matched up to $10 a week at the market –$10 became $20, doubling purchases for low-income neighbors. Puente also developed a South Coast Foodshed Map in an effort to highlight the vast number of agricultural producers in the region.

“What a great way to spend your food stamps – on fresh food instead of a bunch of junk,” says Karen Walker, who lives (and shops) in Pescadero.

The food-fitness nexus
Eating well is only half the battle. Student obesity rates are high: a recent statewide fitness test found that 46 percent of 9th graders at “high risk” for adult obesity.

Puente’s expanded fitness program features Zumba, a popular Latin-inspired dance class that draws more than 30 teens, parents and retirees. Grant funding from the Bella Vista Foundation and Kaiser Permanente supported the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board and TomKat Foundation. The paid summer internships opened doors at some of the region’s most fascinating (and fast-paced) work environments – including Symantec, the San Mateo County Bar Association, Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce, and core service agencies in Pacifica, Davenport and El Granada.

“Knowing the community we live in, I was so excited about the idea of learning more about the area, and finding out what’s being done in the area of heliophysics.”

José Rosendiz
(Senior at Pescadero High School)
Stanford University Sun Research Center
“Being at one of the best colleges in America and seeing what research was being done in the area of heliophysics.”

Cristina Salgado
(Student at Cabrillo College)
Cristalita Hope
“Seeing the client, and how they gave us their trust to talk to us.”

Barbara Guzman
(First year student at Cal State Monterey Bay)
Half Moon Bay Costal Chamber of Commerce
“My two interests, business and government policy, were combined together in a work environment.”

Puente’s Tokens program gives produce discounts to qualifying shoppers
Puente’s Tokens program gives produce discounts to qualifying shoppers. Puente’s Tokens program gives produce discounts to qualifying shoppers

“In every time they made a mistake, we would tell them,” says Monica. “Either [the hotels] owed City Hall money or they had given them more money than they had to.”

Architect Jacki Yahn
(Student at Cal State Monterey Bay)
Architect Jacki Yahn
“Hearing the clients, and how they gave us their trust to talk to us.”

“Kids were so adorable all the time. If I had another chance to do it, I would.”

Gabriela Flores
(Student at Cabrillo College)
Rotacare Clinic Half Moon Bay
“What I liked as a translator was to be the voice of those who didn’t know English.”

Rotacare Clinic Half Moon Bay
(Student at Cañada College)
Izzy Guzman
“I enjoyed translating for the patients even though they were nervous having someone knowing their condition or reason for coming.”

“Seeing the clients, and how they gave us their trust to talk to us.”

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“Knowing the community we live in, I was so excited about the idea of learning more about the area, and finding out what’s being done in the area of heliophysics.”

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Half Moon Bay Costal Chamber of Commerce
“My two interests, business and government policy, were combined together in a work environment.”

“What was your favorite part of your internship?”

Elizabeth Flores
(Student at Cabrillo College)
Kick Off To Kinder, Pescadero Elementary School
“Kids were so adorable all the time. If I had another chance to do it, I would.”

Gabriela Flores
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Rotacare Clinic Half Moon Bay
“What I liked as a translator was to be the voice of those who didn’t know English.”

Monica Amezcua
(Student at Cabrillo College)
Half Moon Bay City Hall
“If felt important because Symantec is a very big company.”

Cristina Salgado
(Student at Cabrillo College)
Cristalita Hope
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Barbara Guzman
(First year student at Cal State Monterey Bay)
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“What a great way to spend your food stamps – on fresh food instead of a bunch of junk!”

- Karen Walker

Internships Give Puente Youth Real-World Work Experience
Before they graduate, high school students are often asked, “What do you want to do with your life?” That can be a tough question to answer. In 2011, Puente gave 8 local graduates the chance to try out a career with its new youth internship program, supported by the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board and TomKat Foundation. The paid summer internships opened doors at some of the region’s most fascinating (and fast-paced) work environments – including Symantec, the San Mateo County Bar Association, Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce, and core service agencies in Pacifica, Davenport and El Granada. Monica Amezcua’s considerable knack for numbers came in handy in the Finance Department at Half Moon Bay City Hall, where she calculated dues to the city’s Hotel Tax.

“Every time they made a mistake, we would tell them,” says Monica. “Either [the hotels] owed City Hall money or they had given them more money than they had to.”

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- Karen Walker
Thank You

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.

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Marnye Strand for Suzanne Hughes
Olga Talamante for her farmerworker family
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Mary Newcombe for Jodi Curlee
Billie Norman and Beverly Thames for Robert Neil McMillan
Lesli Sachs-Williams and Eddie Williams for Carlos Patina
Wendy Wardwell for Ray Nelson

CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
AgriAbility, Assisting farmers and ranchers with disabilities
Alpha Delta Kappa
American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter
Archbishop Riordan High School
Broadmoor Presbyterian Church
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
Camp Butana Creek
Camp Glenwood
Catholic Worker of Half Moon Bay
Chicana Latina Foundation
Coastside Angels
Coastside Farmers Market
Coastside Hope
Coastside Hospitality
Coastside Jewish Community
Coastside Mother’s Club
Coastside Women’s Club
College Heights Church
Community Congregational Church of Benicia
Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto
Congregational Church of Belmont
Congregational Church of San Mateo
Congregants of Stanford Memorial Church
CORA
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Earth Links
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Ecology Center
El Concilio de San Mateo
Fair Oaks Community Resource Center
First Congregational Church of Berkeley
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Friends of Half Moon Bay Library
Friends of Woodside Library
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Half Moon Bay City Hall
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Half Moon Bay Rotary
Institute for Human and Social Development
International Institute of the Bay Area
KPDO
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Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
La Honda Fire Brigade
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo
Mexican Consulate in San Francisco
Mira Vista United Church of Christ
Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA)
New Spirit Community Church
North Peninsula Neighborhood Service Center
Organizations and Transactions Clinic, Stanford Law School
Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church, Half Moon Bay
Overview Board for Justice and Witness Ministries, Neighbors in Need
Pacific School of Religion
Pacifica Community Television
Pacifica Resource Center
Peninsula Humane Society
Peninsula Metropolitan Community Church
Pescadero Community Church
Pie Ranch
Piecemakers by the Sea
Project Outlet
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
St. Anthony’s Church of Pescadero
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory
Samitran House
San Mateo County Bar Association
San Mateo County Food System Alliance
San Mateo County Library System
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
South Coast Citizens Corps Council (SCC)
SC4 Amateur Radio Club
Stanford Sun Research Center
Season of Sharing, San Francisco Chronicle
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
Senior Coasiders
Sonrisas Community Dental Clinic
South Coast Prevention Partnership THRIVE
Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos
UC Berkeley School of Public Health, MPH Program
UTI Sacramento
Wilderness Torah
YMCA Camp Jones Gulch
Youth Leadership Institute

FOUNDATIONS
Atkinson Foundation
Avanti Foundation
Blue Oak Foundation
Cal Humanities Council
Council on Foundations
David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Organizational Effectiveness and After School Program
Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, United Way of Bay Area
Flora Family Foundation
The Grove Foundation
Healthy Earthworks
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
Kaufman Foundation, Matching Gift Program
Kaiser Permanente
Mills Peninsula Health Services
Orchard House Foundation
Pescadero Foundation
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Faiths Program and Safety Net Services
Schwab Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Disaster Preparedness Services
Safety Net Services
South Coast Rural Literacy Program
Sobrato Foundation
TomKat Foundation
Touchpoint Foundation
Union Bank Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
United Way of the Bay Area
Earn It! Keep It! Save It!
Impact Learning Circle
Verizon Foundation
Matching Gifts Program

BUSINESS AND CORPORATE DONORS
Abbott Laboratories
Matching Gift Program
Adobe Matching Gifts Program
Addwater Farm
Alice’s Restaurant
At Your Non Profit’s Service
Argo Group Matching Gift Program
Blue House Farm
Blue Ocean Smokehouse
Brand Via Alliance
Costa Vida
Cross the Divide
Damasco & Associates
David’s Farm
Donal McDermott Trucking
Duarte’s Tavern
Early Bird Ranch
Echo Valley Farm
Farm House Frothing
Farmageddon
Fifth Crow Farm
Flir Systems Matching Gifts Program
Fly Girl Farm
Fogline Nursery
Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Bureau
Half Moon Bay Patch, Kristine Wong
Harley Farms Dairy
Haynes, Beffel and Wolffield, LLP
Kidding Around With Chocolate
Left Coast Grass Fed
Lenscrafters
Markedegg Family Grass-Fed
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
New Leaf Community Market
Peery and Associates
Pescadero Creek Inn Bed and Breakfast
Pescadero Country Store
Pescadero Foods, Inc.
Recommind
SageCoach
Savvy Skirts
Sexton Arts LLC
Starbucks Coffee
Studio 4 Pilates
Symantec
Taqueria de Amigos
Tunitas Creek Ranch
UPS Store 1604, Half Moon Bay
Weller/O’Brien Insurance Services
Wells Fargo Bank

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
California Farmers’ Market Consortium, California Department of Agriculture/Roots of Change
California Fire Station #59, Pescadero
La Honda Elementary School
La Honda Pescadero Unified School District
Migrant Education Program
Santa Clara Office of Education
Pescadero Elementary School
Pescadero Middle and High School
Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council
Sacramento State University
San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women
San Mateo County Court
San Mateo County, Office of the County Manager
Department of Health, Housing and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention (Project Success and South Coast Prevention Partnership)
Children’s Collaborative Action Team
Children’s Health Initiative
Community Development Block Grants (Safety Net Services)
Core Services Network (Safety Net Services)
Get Healthy San Mateo
San Mateo Medical Center
Seasonal Flu Clinics
Workforce Investment Act
San Mateo County Transit District: SamCoast
**BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**Board Members**
- Liz Chapman
- Gabriel Echeverria
- Gabriel Gutierrez
- Kate Haas, Secretary
- Robert Johnson, Chair
- Nancy Raulston
- Wendy Wardwell
- Carol Young-Holt, Vice Chair and Treasurer

**Staff**
- Suzanne Abel, Academic Director
- Carol Black, Office Assistant
- Josh Crockett, Migrant Student Coordinator
- Tricia Dell, Development Director
- Amyen Evert, MFT Intern
- Edwin Fernandez, Community Outreach Worker*
- Iris Fernandez, MFT Intern
- Dinorah Gudino, Childcare Provider
- Jorge Guzman, MFT Intern, Prevention Services Director
- Julie Hosfeldt, Women, Infants and Children Program*
- Suzanne Hughes, MFT, Mental Health Counselor
- Susan Lagow, Youth Outreach Worker
- Kerry Lobel, Executive Director
- Maricela Lopez, Childcare Provider
- Rita Mancera, Program Director
- Rachel Moody, Learning Center Coordinator
- Alejandra Resendiz Ortega, Youth Program Associate
- Veronica Ortega, Office Manager
- Denise Sandoval, Benefits Analyst*
- Margaret Sedillo, Parent Outreach Worker
- Kassandra Talbot, Learning Center Assistant
- Lorena Vargas de Mendez, Safety Net Services Coordinator
- Alicia Vega, Community Outreach Worker
- Joann Watkins, MFT, Clinical Director
- Norma Zavala, Early Head Start Home Visit Specialist**

**Financial Highlights**

**FY 2011 AUDIT AND EXPENSE REPORT**

**FY 2011 REVENUE**
- Government Grants/Contracts: $820,172
- Contributions: $582,931
- In-kind Contributions: $232,622
- TOTAL: $1,635,725

**FY 2011 EXPENSES**
- Programs: $1,316,140
- Administration: $138,003
- Fundraising: $90,975
- TOTAL: $1,545,118

**Puente de la Costa Sur**
Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2011

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$159,589</td>
<td>$96,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts and grants receivable</td>
<td>$107,133</td>
<td>$47,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other current assets</td>
<td>$9,944</td>
<td>$7,797</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>$256,666</td>
<td>152,318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, at cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>$19,239</td>
<td>$19,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>$78,762</td>
<td>$35,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>(27,016)</td>
<td>(14,188)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$70,885</td>
<td>44,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$327,050</td>
<td>196,509</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$28,824</td>
<td>$19,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$43,030</td>
<td>$18,818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$9,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>$78,830</td>
<td>38,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$93,168</td>
<td>$39,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$154,643</td>
<td>118,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$248,847</td>
<td>158,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$327,050</td>
<td>196,509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Posted by the County of San Mateo*

**Posted by the Institute for Human and Social Development**
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.