



PUENTES

Bridging Sustainable Communities

Promotores Unidas para la Educación Nacional de Tecnologías Sostenible

The Boggs Tract Community Farm



2014 Annual Appeal Campaign

Executive Director:

Jeremy Terhune, Founder

Director of Development:

Rob Shanahan, MBA

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1.0. WHO WE ARE

PUENTES is an acronym for Promoters United for the National Education of Sustainable Technologies. Modeled as an American version of similar work that founder Jeremy Terhune completed with the Peace Corps in Panama, PUENTES was incorporated in 2009 in Stockton, CA and achieved 501(c)(3) status in 2011. We do not give hand-outs to needy people, we empower people in the community to feed themselves nutritiously, to engage in ecologically sound urban agriculture for consumption and profit, to incorporate healthy outdoor activities into their daily lives, and to partner with us for the benefit of our families and neighborhoods.



PUENTES has begun the battle by establishing an urban farm in the Boggs Tract neighborhood of Stockton, CA. Our flourishing 2.5 acre farm brings together our stakeholder families, a full-time Farm Manager, a free range egg production facility, and an educational garden for use in partnership with Stockton Unified School District. The Farm has been built with the assistance of well over 1000 community volunteers, our dedicated but still largely unpaid

organizational staff and our stakeholder families.

PUENTES has initiated partnerships with or received direct support from many community organizations, educational institutions and corporations including the following:

- University of the Pacific
- Port of Stockton
- University of California, Davis: Master Gardeners Program
- Kaiser Permanente
- San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
- George Washington Elementary School
- Allied Waste
- Stockton Unified School District
- Dignity Health
- A.G. Spanos Companies
- Health Plan of San Joaquin
- California Water Service
- Boggs Tract Community Center
- Goggio Family Foundation
- J. R. Simplot Company
- Pelton-Shepard Industries
- Growing Power, Inc.

2.0. COMMUNITY NEED

PUENTES is based in an area largely composed of Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and African-American residents who are characterized by high unemployment rates and poverty. There are no accessible full-service grocery stores in the area and many residents do not have a car. Access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food is a challenge for many low-income families, and for a disproportionately high 31% of Stocktonians. Fresh produce is typically more costly than boxed,



high-calorie goods with low nutritional value - the staples of impoverished families. Most of the “convenience” stores located in the south side of Stockton primarily sell liquor, processed foods, and sugar-laced sweets. The lack of access to nutritious food sources leads to perpetual hunger, obesity, and lower levels of productivity at school and work.



Stocktonians face serious food security issues:

- Fewer than 15 percent of school children in our community eat the recommended servings of fruit, and less than 20 percent eat the recommended servings of vegetables.²
- About 25 percent of what adolescents eat is considered junk food, such as deep-fried foods, desserts, regular soft drinks, candy, cookies, pies and cakes.¹
- 22 percent can’t afford to feed their child a balanced meal, and 16 percent report that their child is not eating enough because the family can’t afford food.²

There is a great need in the Stockton community to build opportunities for the young and old alike to promote entrepreneurship and cultivate organizational skills, as well as fostering the creation of entry points into the local economy. Beginning this year our Natural Urban Farming Practitioner Program will provide intensive training on crop production, waste management, merchandising/sales, marketing, and customer relations. Graduates from the program can take these skills to start new community farms, apply for jobs, or even start their own business.

3.0. WHAT WE’VE DONE SO FAR

PUNTES started by providing public access to community farming and the teaching of sustainable agriculture practices on land provided on the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds in 2009. In 2010, the Port of Stockton provided PUNTES with a 2.5 acre plot of barren wasteland in the Boggs Tract Neighborhood adjacent to the Port just as we achieved non-profit 501(c)(3) status.

In the Fall of 2011 our First Annual Seeds and Spirits Celebration marked the completion of the initial build-out of the farm. Our merger with Stockton Harvest in Spring 2012 finally provided a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for marketing of our farm



¹ CA Project LEAN, 2009

² San Joaquin Community Data Co-op Surveyed over 875 people in 2009:



produce by subscription to help us begin to recover some of the operational costs of the farm.

The Spring of 2013 marked the introduction of our cage-free chicken project, which supplies organic eggs to our CSA program, local businesses, and farm stand customers. Entering now our fourth year of farm production we remain on track to follow our prize-winning five-year business plan for sustainability and expansion.

4.0. WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

Despite the commercial appeal of the Stockton Harvest CSA program and our free range eggs, we have not yet reached the point of full sustainability for our operations. The produce area of the Farm needs to be expanded greatly in order to achieve the needed increase in our revenue stream.

Many community organizations and businesses provide corporate sponsorship or other large donations for special events, such as our Annual Seeds and Spirits Harvest Celebration. We are currently in discussions with a number of businesses and community organizations interested in supplying materials and/or financial contributions. Advanced talks are also ongoing (pending the availability of funds) for expansion across the community including these projects:

- (a) City of Stockton would like us to build a pocket park downtown
- (b) Private parties have offered a no-cost lease for a new farm downtown
- (c) Central Methodist Church would like a garden for joint programs with the Cleveland School
- (d) Stockton Unified School District wants us to offer Farm-to-Fork programs district-wide

Below are a few of the most crucial projects we are developing to properly support the educational and development programming fundamental to fulfilling our mission:

Family Farming Fund

Funds Needed: \$ 500

Help a family in need cultivate their garden plot for an entire year! These funds will cover the material costs of compost, seeds and water as well as the friendly and knowledgeable expertise of our Farm Manager, Family Coordinator, and the entire PUNTES staff.



Vocational Farm Training Fund

Funds Needed: \$ 2,000

Sponsor community individuals, including graduates (former inmates) of the Sheriff's Honor Farm to complete our Natural Urban Farming Practitioner Program, which will enable them to build practical work skills in five core functional areas on the farm: Compost & Waste Management, Crop Production, CSA Program, Marketing & Customer Relations, Free Range Chicken Production.

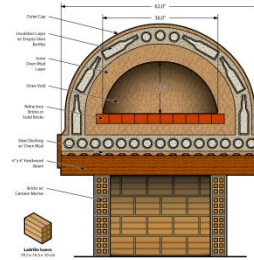




Educational Area & Earth Oven

Funds Needed: \$ 8,625

Central to our mission is education about growing and eating food, but we have been unable to do demonstrations regarding cooking at the farm because of the lack of proper facilities. This project will fortify the temporary educational area already in place and allow us to build an earthen oven for on-site cooking instruction and demonstrations.



Delivery Van

Funds Needed: \$ 10,500

As our CSA program expands, the need for a larger delivery vehicle grows deeper. Properly protecting the produce in transit inside a commercial panel van will not only improve the product quality upon delivery, but allow us to show a more professional and polished presence in the community. This cost would be split between a vehicle and graphics signage for the sides.



Prepare Expansion Site (across the street)

Funds Needed: \$ 18,445

Our current site is approximately 2.5 acres, but there is as much additional acreage available across the street that could be utilized to increase our production. It is crucial to increase capacity in order to raise the number of CSA subscribers and supply the additional produce needed for farm stand sales, an important step to making our operations self-sustaining.



Living Room

Funds Needed: \$ 22,580

This is central to the educational programming of the farm, from the after-school program with Washington Elementary School, to hosting community-wide educational programs and events. Currently we have to brave the direct sunshine and heat, or rent temporary tents and structures to host such events, and the space is not conducive to learning



Compact Farm Tractor w/ Implements

Funds Needed: \$ 23,410

All of the work currently being done at Boggs Tract Urban Farm is done by hand. While the labor of love is an important component of a truly organic farm, there are other tasks which could be more readily, safely and much more efficiently completed, especially with the expansion of acreage, with the help of a compact farm tractor and the appropriate set of attachments. Without mechanization we cannot achieve our sustainability goals efficiently.





Greenhouse/Aquaculture

Funds Needed: \$ 39,550

Our capacity to add additional products as well as continue the production of certain products into the winter months depends upon having climate-controlled indoor facilities to do so. Creating a fish hatchery on-site is another important dynamic to the learning environment that we hope to create, and a capacity which the current facilities do not allow for.



Farm Development Capital Fund

Funds Needed: \$ 50,000

This would provide a rotating fund that would enable PUENTES to take advantage of new and evolving development opportunities, especially staff development and training or for starting up a new farm site, without being restrained by cash flow limitations and grant award cycles.



Cold and Dry Storage Sheds (Completion)

Funds Needed: \$ 3,300

The logistics of the CSA program have been very difficult without on-site cold storage, meaning that the produce has had to be picked the day of delivery, as opposed to harvested throughout the week and stored. This project would allow better quality product to be delivered to our CSA and Farm Stand Customers, and reduce wastage of product. The structures have already been built, but we need to add refrigeration units and shelving to both structures.



Vegetable and Fruit Stand

Funds Needed: \$ 5,135

The stand is crucial to be able to start selling produce at the farm, much like a Farmer's Market would. Selling our produce on location at the farm is an important part of increasing the availability of fresh, healthy food to the greater Boggs Tract neighborhood, and we want to be able to offer our products to everyone, not just those who work the farm. A local Boy Scout has taken this on as his Eagle Scout Project, and it is very nearly complete at this time.

