

We need a variety of skills to get everything done. We are always on the lookout for folks who have skills with people, business, computers, art, writing, photography, special events, social work, public speaking or public relations, and food service. Mostly we are looking for folks who come with an open mind and flexibility to do what needs to be done. We frequently craft special job descriptions for those who have unique gifts to contribute to our mission.

La Puente's Current Programs:

1) Emergency Shelter Program: La Puente annually provides over 9,500 nights of emergency shelter to over 1000 people, including over 75 families. The case manager establishes plans with guests and uses La Puente and community resources to facilitate guests reaching their goals. La Puente is the only agency within 120 miles that meets this critical need for families, migrant farm workers, singles, and others we serve.

2) Meal Program: La Puente anticipates serving more than 35,000 meals in 2005. Meals are served to sheltered families, single guests, low-income members of the community and victims of domestic violence sheltered elsewhere through Tu Casa, the local domestic violence support program.

3) Adelante and PALS: Adelante is La Puente's long-term transitional housing program serving homeless families. Using ten donated homes and 6 rent vouchers, the program provides a supportive network that endeavors to build family self-reliance and stability. Families have five requirements: 1) education and skill development, 2) developing family budget and finance skills, 3) completion of parenting curriculum, 4) completion of life-skills curriculum, and 5) full family participation in counseling. This transitional housing program targets Valley families who are homeless and motivated to increase their self-sufficiency. The PALS program, which is after-school during the school year and all day during the summer, is for the children of the families in the Adelante program.

4) SLV Food Pantries: La Puente provides the management and support for twelve food pantries throughout the San Luis Valley. "Action Against Hunger and Malnutrition" distributes a three-day supply of nutritionally sound food to needy families and individuals. In 2005, we anticipate providing over 15,000 emergency food packages. Distribution sites are located in Alamosa, Monte Vista, Fort Garland, San Luis, La Jara, Antonito, Center, Saguache, Moffat, Crestone, Del Norte and Creede.

5) Community Outreach Program: La Puente outreach workers journey to communities throughout the San Luis Valley, working with high-risk families and individuals. The goal of Outreach is to stabilize people in crisis to prevent homelessness. La Puente anticipates serving over 2500 community members in 2005. Services include: Situation assessment, utility assistance, rent assistance, landlord and employer mediation, enrolling people into the appropriate service network, assistance with applications, aid with translations and material provisions including clothing and furniture. Migrant farm

workers are a special target group. The Community Outreach Program also sponsors special Christmas outreach activities.

6) The Gleaning Project: The Gleaning Project uses volunteers from schools, churches, and the community to recover produce left behind in the fields after harvest. Food is distributed to low-income families. In 2005, we anticipate recovering and distributing over 30,000 pounds of fresh produce.

7) Rainbow's End: Rainbow's End is La Puente's Community Thrift Store and center for the distribution of material goods. The Alamosa and Monte Vista stores work to raise funds for La Puente and serve local agencies that refer clients in need of clothing, bedding, and other material goods. Rainbow's End anticipates giving over \$15,000 worth of donated goods through its annual voucher program.

We have a special placement this year at Rainbow's End in Monte Vista. We need a few individuals to help us completely renovate the store...this includes everything from construction to set-up. This will be a split placement with one of our direct service placements in Alamosa. Ask the volunteer coordinator to learn more about this possibility.

8) Over the Rainbow Apartments: These 17 low-income housing apartments are located above Rainbow's End and provide simple, affordable housing to the low-income community and people transitioning out of shelter.

9) Milagros Coffee Shop is a full menu cafe, coffee specialty shop and used bookstore. Milagros works to raise funds for La Puente while providing a valuable Job Readiness Training Program for people with little or no job experience, including Adelante parents.

10) Community Volunteer Program: La Puente's Community Volunteer Program provides opportunities for individuals and groups to participate and assist our services to the people of the San Luis Valley. Opportunities are available to prepare meals, perform shift work, assist at food pantries, provide repair and maintenance work at facilities, thrift store work, special entertainment and much, much more.

11) Community Garden: The La Puente Food Bank, in partnership with community members a local primary school run a community garden during the summer months. Produce goes to community members who come help out, as well as to the food bank and shelter.

12) Community Education: La Puente works hard to educate our community and Colorado on the issues of homelessness and hunger, particularly rural homelessness. Community Education does presentations at local schools and churches to raise awareness, and also travels across Colorado to share our story.