FALL 2020

VIEWS FROM THE BRIDGE

Puentes de Cristo Newsletter

Who We Are

Puentes de Cristo acknowledges the call of Jesus Christ to proclaim the good news of His Gospel in a holisitc manner. To work as partners with our brothers and sisters in Christ along the US-Mexico border, and other international communities.
In response, our mission is to attend to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of people with emphasis on the poorest populations in a constantly changing and dynamic world.

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Mission

PUENTES DE CRISTO IS BASED IN HIDALGO, TX. IT'S MISSION IS TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO BRIDGE COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION BETWEEN PEOPLES ALONG THE US-MEXICO BORDER AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES. PUENTES DE CRISTO HOPES TO PROMOTE MUTUALITY IN MISSION AND ENGAGE IN MINISTRIES OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE.

Background

1981

Puentes de Cristo started to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and respond to the needs of people experiencing poverty and oppression along the US-Mexico border.

80's-90's

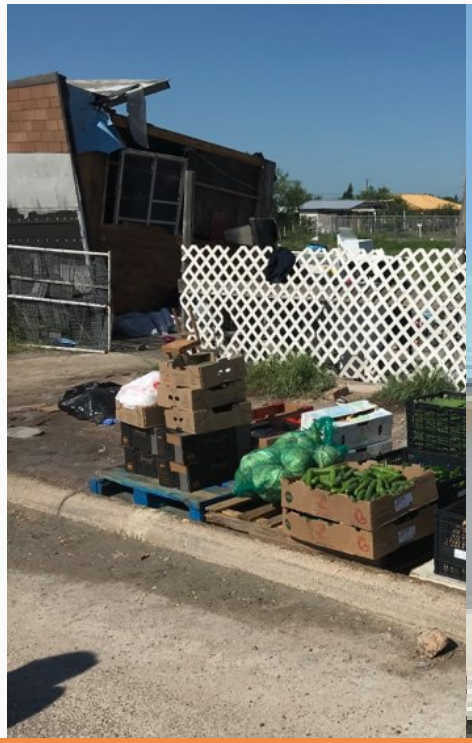
Numerous U.S. church groups traveled to Hidalgo, TX to participate in mission projects along the border, and most took place in Mexico.

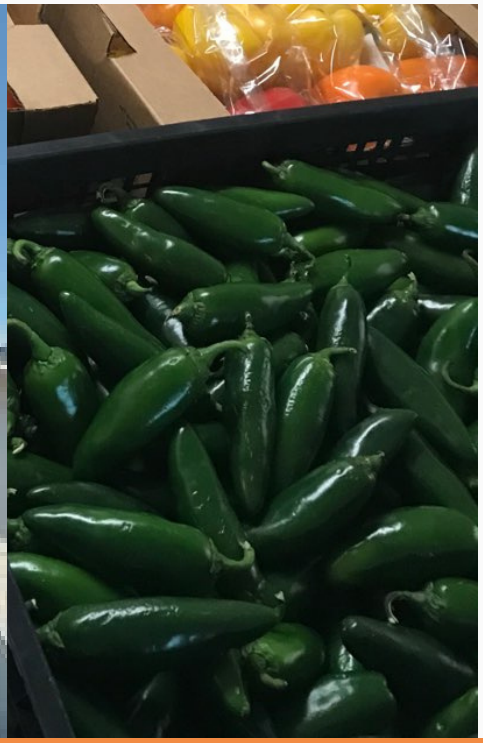
2014

A new relationship between Puentes de Cristo and the Presbytery of Tamulipas was established to continue collaboration with churches in Tamulipas, Mexico.

2017

Puentes de Cristo sponsored a six-month dental assistant course in Mexico. Classes were held at the dormitory facility in the Las Cumbres neighborhood of Reynosa. FPC McAllen members, Dr. Francisco Reyes and Dr. Thomas Turk, along with Dr. Olga Santana from Reynosa taught the dental assistant classes. Students completed their practicum and service hours at the university dental clinics in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Financial contributions from FPC McAllen helped to purchase supplies and equipment for this course.





Challenges Along the US-Mexico Border

- Covid-19 in Mexico and Rio Grande Valley
- Environmental disaster of hurricanes and flooding affecting the colonias
- Ongoing immigration and deportation issues on both sides of the border
- Challenges regarding health & lack of economic opportunities

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE AND HEALING FOR THIS REGION, AND WE SEEK GOD'S WISDOM IN PREPARING OURSELVES TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED.

IN 2018

4,928,025 IMMIGRANTS MADE UP 17.2% OF TEXAS' POPULATION

3,276,400 (66%) OF THOSE IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, AND THE CARRIBEAN

1 IN 6 TEXAS RESIDENTS WAS AN IMMIGRANT

State immigration data profiles (2018). *Texas demographics and social.* MIgration policy institute. https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/TX

Goals

- TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.
- TO ESTABLISH PROGRAMS DIRECTED BY LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHICH BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND ENABLE THE POOR TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND HOPE.
- TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND SERVE AS A BRIDGE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.

Our Programs

THE CORE COMPONENT OF PUENTES' MISSION IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE EVANGELISM AS IT TAKES PLACE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH PUENTES DE CRISTO'S PARTNERS IN MISSION.

Healthy Lifestyles

The US-Mexico border regions have some of the highest rates of diabetes and other medical conditions due to poor diet and lack of exercise. The Diabetes & Healthy Lifestyles Program provides nutritional education and classes for healthy eating and an active lifestyle.

Colonias Program

Puentes de Cristo is working with the Texas A&M University Colonias Program Promotoras/Community Health Workers to provide food, and essential items weekly to support those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building a Healthy Temple

In partnership with the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas, this program is a collaboration to provide faith-based health education at 20 congregations in the Rio Grande Valley.

Presbyterian Border Region Outreach

PBRO is a binational organization with five ministry partners along the US-Mexico border, from Arizona to Texas. Puentes de Cristo is one of the five ministry sites. Ministry partners from PC(USA) and the Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico focus on establishing and cultivating relationships between people.

Calendar & Upcoming Events

Summer Review

- Colonias Program Every Wednesday
- Joined RGV Long Term Recovery Group
- Building a Healthy Temple Program
- Texas Border Collaboration Network monthly informational webinars
- Cuba Partners Virtual Encuentro

Upcoming

Kitchen Expansion

- In conjunction with working towards a new roof, our kitchen expansion will allow for cooking classes to support our Healthy Lifestyles program.

Herbs & Vegetable Garden Program

- Partnering with our surrounding community we will be able to grow herbs and vegetables in the backyard at Puentes de Cristo. We will establish a monthly garden club.

October

Oct. 20th

- Texas Border Collaboration Webinar - Advocacy Panel
- Register at Eventbrite.com

Every Wednesday

- Colonias Program

November

Nov 6th-8th

- Presbyterian Border Religion Outreach Virtual Conference - Gospel Hospitality and the Kingdom of God
- Register at Presbyterianborder.org

Nov 17th

- Texas Border Collaboration Network Webinar - Plactica

Every Wednesday

- Colonias Program

Get Involved!

Current Needs:

Rice

Pinto Beans

Fideo

Maseca

Cooking Oil

Canned Vegetables

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Canned Meats

Pasta

Cereal

Non-Perishable

Diapers

Baby Wipes

Hand Sanitizer

Masks

Cleaning Supplies

Hygiene Products

Toilet Paper

Volunteer

Join us! We are in a time of transition as we adapt to our worldwide pandemic, and to the changing needs of our community. You'd be a perfect fit for our team!

Currently seeking marketing & social media volunteers
Food distribution assistance
Roof & lawn maintenance

Donate

Any and all financial contributions help us fulfill our mission for the US-Mexico border region.

Items listed on this page can help our Colonias Program and community.

Contact us below for more specific ways to donate.

Contact Us

Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Seeking all skills and talents to join our team!

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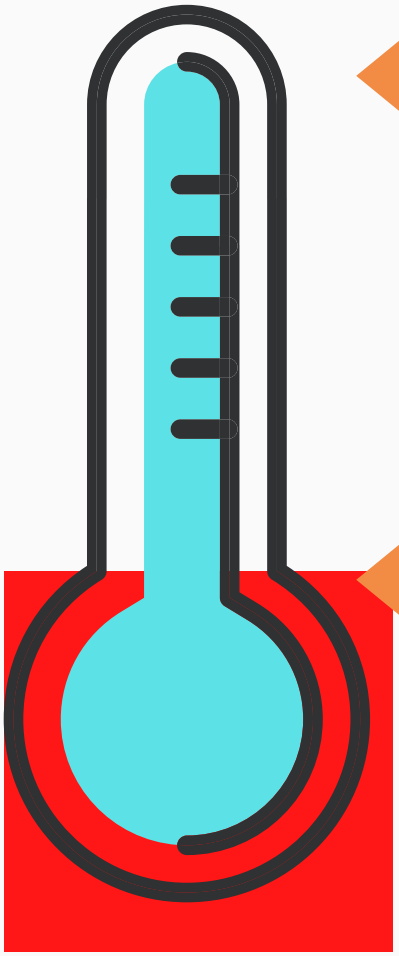

We Need A New Roof!

Roof replacement needed. Current leaking and wood rot. Thankful for the support of our donors that helped us get a third of the way!

Any contribution will help us reach our $15,000 goal!

Thank You Donors!

Individuals

Dayton & LaVerne Baublit
Edwin Blanton
Gretchen Chapa
Rita Debellis
Donald Drummond
Kathy Garfield
Jack & Carol Harriff
Kathryn Henry
Jen Owens-Jofré
Margie Karst
Gail Keyes
Sarah & Stephen Mateo
Kathleen McCloskey
David & Ann Rowland
Jan Seale
Rev. Isabel Rivera-Velez
Ann Williams

Organizations

Border Missions - Hidalgo
New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
Treasure Hills Presbyterian Church
New Hope Presbyterian Church
South Texas Human Rights Center
First Presbyterian Church McAllen
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church - Portland, OR
Canyon Lake Presbyterian Church

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." -Matthew 25:40

Puentes de Cristo

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MISSION PRESBYTERY
BETTER TOGETHER

PBRO Presbyterian Border Region Outreach