As we bid farewell to the 2022-23 school year here at PUENTE, I am filled with heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable impact we have achieved together.

Across PUENTE's spectrum of education programs, your support drove momentum to new heights. Our high-quality and meaningful resources and supports reached over 2,000 students and families.

PUENTE strengthened existing community partnerships and built new ones to help each student and their family not only remove barriers to learning but also thrive.

I am proud to share with you through this publication of PUENTE Today the impact your generous and gracious support has made possible. We ask you to join us in meeting the ongoing need for high-quality education programs in Boyle Heights and beyond by making a meaningful gift today.

While we are tremendously proud of the progress our students have made this school year, learning loss from the pandemic continues to inequitably affect low-income communities of color like ours.

Together, we can make sure that more students have access to the high-quality education they need—and deserve—to succeed and contribute their remarkable skills to our world.

Thank you for being invested in this essential work towards a brighter future for all!

Yours, for education,

Jerome Greening
CEO
In its first year as a full-fledged elementary school, PUENTE Charter School served 312 students in grades TK-5, following five years of phased roll-out grade-level expansion.

We are thrilled to share that in the 2022-2023 school year, PUENTE Charter student achievement outcomes in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics exceeded both state and local schools grade-level mastery proficiency—a testament to your invaluable support.

While celebrating this remarkable success, we must also acknowledge that our internal assessments have revealed the ongoing impact of the pandemic on student learning. Nevertheless, PUENTE Charter School has taken significant strides to mitigate learning loss including being awarded a planning grant from the California Community Schools Partnership Program.

This grant enables us to strengthen our focus on improving student outcomes through targeted interventions that address academic, health, mental health, and social-emotional needs, ensuring a supportive and holistic approach to student development.

New partners that allow us to make this possible include Vision to Learn and the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC.

PUENTE’s Preschool Program also celebrated four years as a state preschool site! We’re proud to serve 42 children with an excellent early childhood education for kindergarten readiness.
During the 2022-23 school year, the PUENTE College and Career Program empowered 508 students to gain acceptance to and persist through post-secondary education, obtain a college degree, and enter the workforce.

An impressive 97% of our high school senior participants in PUENTE’s College Access program enrolled in college this school year, marking a significant milestone in their educational journeys. Moreover, college students supported through our College Success program successfully persisted through the academic year.

This year, we’re also thrilled to report our first-ever College Success graduating class, with 7 students earning their bachelor’s degrees after completing four years of higher education.

Thanks to the generosity of our philanthropic partners, we awarded $30,000 in scholarships this school year to college-bound high school seniors and college students.
During the previous program year, PUENTE Adult students occupied a total of 1,398 seats in classrooms. They received assistance in subjects such as English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Diploma & High School Equivalency, Career Skills, and Citizenship Test Preparation.

The ESL program offers courses for students at different levels, ranging from beginners to advanced learners (levels one to six). In each ESL class, there is a computer lab where students can practice their listening, speaking, and reading skills.

Students who are working towards a High School Diploma receive instruction in an Individualized Instruction Lab. In this lab, students can learn at their own pace and receive personalized one-on-one instruction and support. In the past year, 17 PUENTE students obtained their high school diploma or equivalency.

The Career Skills program has seen success as well, with students earning 124 training certifications in various classes, including Google Suite, Microsoft Applications, and Health Information Technology. Additionally, thirteen students who participated in the citizenship test prep program became new U.S. citizens.

To further enhance the Adult Education experience, PUENTE collaborates with community partners to provide additional services. These include health fairs, community safety forums, and workshops on topics such as financial literacy and immigration rights.
PUENTE is proud to have been an Official Charity Partner of the Los Angeles Marathon weekend for the second year in a row.

On March 18-19, 2023, PUENTE offered students, families, staff, and supporters the unique opportunity to participate in one of four race options to join Team PUENTE: LA Big ½ k, LA Big 5k, Charity Half Marathon, and LA Marathon.

Remarkably, this inspired 45 individuals of all ages and abilities to join our race team and raise awareness and funds for our mission.

Collectively, with the support of their generous friends and family, Team PUENTE raised nearly $20,000 to build bridges to education and opportunity for Boyle Heights and beyond!

On September 29th, 2022, PUENTE gente gathered at our Boyle Heights campus to celebrate the over 2,000 students and families who walk through our doors each year seeking a brighter future. It was a magical evening featuring inspiring speeches, live music, exciting raffle prizes, and a special presentation honoring Andy Lippman with the 2022 PUENTE Volunteer of the Year Award.

And best of all the generosity from our supporters raised over $45,000 in critical funds to build brighter futures for the children, youth, and adults we serve.
We hope you enjoyed reading this publication of PUENTE Today, and that you take a moment to celebrate everything we achieved together.

With the new school year around the corner, we hope you'll stand up for our students by making a meaningful gift today.

Because everyone deserves access to the high-quality education they need to succeed. Thank you, again.

Visit puente.org/donate

Scan the QR code to make a one-time gift or to start your monthly investment today.

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

PUENTE is a 2023 top-rated charity by GreatNonprofits, the leading platform for community-sourced stories submitted by those who know us best — our donors, volunteers and recipients of aid.

“PUENTE Learning Center has made it possible for many students like me to continue our education to improve our lives. I am a 58-year-old woman with many aspirations and the programs and non profit support I have received at PUENTE has made me feel that it is never too late to accomplish your education goals.” — Amalia Hernandez