PUENTES: Giving people means to grow healthy food

History: After a four-year stint in the Peace Corps in Panama, Stockton native Jeremy Terhune was inspired to create PUENTES (Spanish for bridges), an urban farm in the middle of Stockton. His dream was to help locals not only understand the importance of eating healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables but to learn how they could connect with the land and their food by growing their own nutritious produce.

In 2011, PUENTES broke ground for the Boggs Tract Community Farm on 3½-acres leased to the nonprofit organization by the Port of Stockton, undoubtedly the most generous of the farm’s supporters. The working farm provides fresh all-natural produce through weekly home deliveries (known as Community Supported Ag or CSA) and in the summer months at the farm’s produce stand located at 466 S. Ventura Ave.

Delicious organic eggs from our all-natural chickens and urban honey provided by Boggs Bees are also available.

Washington School students visit the farm weekly to tend their veggies in the farm’s Classroom Garden. The North Stockton 4H chapter has also begun a gardening project on the farm with future activities planned.

Through the Community Dividend Program, church organizations, civic groups or individuals can sponsor free weekly deliveries of fresh produce to disadvantaged families, and help us encourage both the benefited families and the sponsors to come out and help us with the farm work.

Mission: PUENTES’ mission is to spread the knowledge and the development of sustainable technology and to stimulate a critical cooperative and positive attitude in at-risk communities throughout the Americas. PUENTES is a human services and development organization based in Stockton.

PUENTES does not give people food; we give people the opportunity to grow food for their families and community. We are working to empower men and women to feed their families healthy food by working in their own community gardens. Our approach to development is unique because of the special emphasis we place on motivating people to improve their situation and to promote the technologies they have successfully applied in their own homes and communities.

Agency name: PUENTES-Boggs Tract Community Farm
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http://www.recordnet.com/article/20151213/NEWS/151219900