

# Regional Work: Puerto Rico

Working with our Partners to Address Challenges in the Island







## **Our Scope**

Acacia Network's history and that of its earliest affiliates is deeply rooted in the transformative work of Bronx-based Puerto Rican pioneers, who made important contributions to the fields of behavioral health and addiction services, particularly in underserved Latinx populations.

Throughout our 50+ year trajectory, we have remained close to our Puerto Rican roots, both through initiatives involving the diaspora in New York City and throughout the mainland, as well as targeted efforts aimed at helping underserved communities across the island, particularly those most impacted by natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Impact:** Between 2020-2021, we have reached over 23,000 individuals through initiatives such as: the delivery of 17,000+ food boxes to low-income families (\$750,000+ value), distribution of 1,000+ emergency supplies, 500+ individuals vaccinated against COVID-19, 100+ families housed, and more.



**Geographic Scope:** Our relief efforts and ongoing work take place in diverse underserved communities across the island.



**Demographics:** 100% of the clients served through our Puerto Rico-based initiatives are low-income Latinx individuals.

## Our Programs and Services

In 2012, Acacia Network expanded our footprint to the island of Puerto Rico through the development of an affordable housing project for seniors, which enabled us to become further rooted in the community. We expanded our presence to include emergency relief following Hurricane Maria, the subsequent earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic.



#### Affordable Housing

We provide 100+ units of affordable, green housing for vulnerable individuals through two primary developments: Palacio Dorado, an Energy Star-certified, affordable housing complex in Toa Alta that serves 100+ seniors; and our Resilient Prototype Home, a project in Caguas that will provide long-term sustainable, green, and resilient housing for two (2) low-moderate income families.



#### **Workforce Development**

Acacia Network is part of a multisector effort to develop the Puerto Rico Centro de Artes y Tecnología Corp. (PRCAT), established in 2018 to address deteriorating education and employment trends on the island, including a visual arts training program for at-risk youth and a career training program for adults-in-transition. PRCAT is working with the National Center of Arts and Technology to open a CAT in San Juan by 2022.



### **Relief Efforts**

In 2020, we continued to solidify our presence in Puerto Rico through our earthquake relief efforts, which included visits to underserved communities to carry out wellness initiatives and provide essential supplies & equipment. Our efforts then pivoted to COVID-19 relief, as the pandemic further exacerbated health and economic disparities across the Island. Our COVID-19 efforts have included collaborative initiatives to conduct meal deliveries to 20,000+ households, as well as COVID-19 vaccination efforts. In addition, between 2020-2021, our FERIARTE Health Fairs have reached over 5,000 individuals across 17 municipalities.



### Strategic Partnerships and "Agendas Comunes"

Our nonprofit, community-based, private, and government partners include Banco Popular; Fundación Banco Popular; ERS Consulting; Executive Home Search; Enlace Técnico; Young and de la Sota Architects; R4 Capital; EcoBuilders; Municipality of Toa Alta; Municipality of Caguas; Marvel Marchand Architects; Manchester Bidwell Corporation; Mezcolanza; Sistema de Salud Menonita; Meson del Amor; Ministerio Marc; Esperanza para ja Vejez; Puerto Rico Salud; Connecting Paths; Plataforma EJE; Proyecto Salud y Acupuntura para el Pueblo; el Colegio de Profesionales de la Enfermería de PR; Salud Integral en la Montaña (SIM); Corporación SANOS, among others.

