**STRATEGIC PHIANTHROPIC APPROACH TO STRENGTHEN LOÍZA’S COMMUNITY CAPITAL**

Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico (FCPR) strives to promote equitable access to basic community resources to empower and strengthen community capital. We believe that by strengthening community capital, we promote equity and social justice. Community capital is comprised of human, social, ecological, financial, physical and cultural capitals.

**Why Loíza?**

Loíza is a municipality in the northern shore of Puerto Rico with a population of 30,000. One of the oldest settlements in the island, where 35% of the population identify themselves as Black; 39% as Mixed race and 2% as other (US Census 2010). Loíza’s indicators of marginalization and disadvantage include: high average family size (3.9), low educational attainment rates (27% of residents over 25 years old have not completed high school), lower median age (34) when compared to the island (38.7), and a high percentage of women heads of households (31%).

Loíza was founded when formerly enslaved men and women escaped plantations and settled across the rivers and mangroves to seek safety and freedom. Isolation became a part of local culture and survival. The town’s residents have developed an enclave of Afro Puerto Rican heritage, unique in its cultural traditions. Because of its social and economic context, it also became one of Puerto Rico’s poorest and most discriminated communities. These historical elements foster distrust of outsiders and residents’ hesitation to leave town.

**FCPR’s Strategic Philanthropic Approach to Strengthen Loíza’s Community Capital**

**Alliance for Peace: For a New Loíza** is a program focusing on reducing violent incidents in Loíza and providing educational and employment alternatives that help guide youth human development.
- 14 participants completed their High School degrees
- 33 young people enrolled in studies conducting to a High School Degree, through Nuestra Escuela
- 14 trained mediators

**Community and Economic Development** is a program that focuses on providing kids and families the tools for self-development - civic, emotional and financial - and economic development skills to empower economic independence.
- Group of Parents Guardians are active in three schools
- 136 students acquired emotional skills
- 20 creative reading-writing workshops/ 35 students have participated
- 19 women participate in the Women’s Seamstress Group / 5 women hired to sew masks.
- 17 teacher’s from Loíza’s schools received Teacher’s Mini-grants
- 125 students in Nuestra Escuela receive Financial Education - Student Money Solution
- 10 scholarships from the Benito Massó Fund

**Housing Initiative** focused on rehabilitating houses in Loíza, while also advising on house entitlement issues. Houses were provided with solar energy infrastructure.
- 28 houses rehabilitated
- 30 houses with solar energy infrastructure
- 9 houses received furniture and appliances
- 6 homes identified and evaluated to be rehabilitated through Youth in Construction program, which includes training 15 youth people in construction and help them with their High School Certificates.

**Energy and Water Initiatives** focused on providing solar energy infrastructure to the community health center and the Julia de Burgos recreational park. There is work in progress in a community aqueduct in barrio Las Cuevas.
ALLIES AND COLLABORATORS OF FCPR PROJECTS IN LOÍZA

Jóvenes de Puerto Rico en Riesgo, Municipality of Loíza, Nuestra Escuela, Taller Salud, Law School-University of Puerto Rico; Oficina de Administración de Tribunales, Connecting Paths, Student Money Solution-UPR, Fundación Casa Cortés, Instituto Tercera Misión, Salón Literario, ASPIRA de PR, Centro para Puerto Rico, Vitrina Solidaria, Colaborativo PR, Ricky Martin Foundation, One Stop Career Center, INDESOVI, PathStone Corporation, Hispanic Federation, Oxfam, Mentor NY, and small businesses and community organizations.

DONORS

Alliance for Peace: For a New Loíza
Obama Foundation, Prospect Hill Foundation, NBPA Foundation, Amgen Foundation, Peter Alfond Foundation, and Enterprise Holdings Foundation.

Community and Economic Development Program
W.K. Kellogg Foundation and FCPR.

Housing Initiative

Energy and Water Initiative
Hispanic Federation, OXFAM and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

COMMUNITY CAPITAL IN LOÍZA

Human Capital
As we work with youth in the Peace Alliance, we are strengthening tools for self-development - emotional, educational, cultural, among others. Families are provided with a safe and secure homes to live in through the Housing Initiative, and individuals can continue to receive health services in the emergency room of the community health center. Ten college students from Loíza received a scholarship to continue their education through the Benito Massó Scholarship Fund.

Social Capital
All programs and initiatives promote and strengthen the social capital in Loíza, as we seek collaboration among organizations and donors. Also, the way the participants interact with themselves forges new relationships or strengthen old ones, that can lead to future entrepreneurial collaboration.

Ecological Capital
The water and energy initiatives promote a better use of our natural resources. Organizations are being stimulated to pursue environmental guiding principles within their organizations and projects.

Financial Capital
Empowering individuals to pursue educational goals and access to employment opportunities, strengthens the financial capital in the community. The wide array of donors and social investors in Loíza strengthens Loíza’s financial capital.

Physical Capital
New, accessible and more resilient housing, water and energy infrastructure is perhaps the most visible contribution to Loíza’s community capital landscape.

Cultural Capital
This capital is utmost important in Loíza which is one of the epicenter of afro-descendant culture in Puerto Rico. All programs and initiatives take into consideration the local and island-wide significance of Loíza’s heritage, history and traditions.