

we are still waiting for the keys

TO OPEN CEDECO





CHANGING FEAR FOR DREAMS

by Sara López

Although many call us heroes, we are mere mortals doing what we understand must be done. When we gave ourselves the task of putting all our efforts into rescuing schools in disuse to give them back to the community, we were moved by a high sense of justice, of commitment with our people.

The process has been more than slow. We had to sign dozens of documents, find many more in different government agencies, provide evidence, sworn statements, receipts and manage insurance. And after months and hundreds of calls and emails, we finally get the news that we are going to receive in the next couple of days, the first key of many we are expecting to be granted.


Now, when we see everything so close, tangible, we feel the immense responsibility that all this entails. A school has many classrooms, sports areas and green areas to maintain and care for. It's not just opening a lock, a gate and a door. No! A school is equivalent to opening many doors and filling those spaces with educational, cultural and health programs that motivate and promote community development, the leader and the individual who will enjoy them. It also involves the recruitment of dozens of volunteers willing to give their time and energy so that everything we have proposed can be carried out.

Yes, we are committed to having closed schools to open again for the use and enjoyment of their communities and we work hard to achieve it. But today, just days prior of receiving our first key and crossing the first of those doors, we also feel the coldness of the challenge we are facing. And it is that although we as leaders of a community work and dedicate with determination and heart to provide support to our people in need, we also feel fear and doubts, and it is ok to feel them. The secret to overcome them is to focus on the future of hope that these centers will offer, feeling the embrace of the hundreds who will benefit from their services and offers.

In the end, we are mere mortals who, like everyone else handle fear by focusing on the dreams we want to achieve; where a healthy, empowered and resilient community will be the real heroes of Puerto Rico recovery.

aerial view of 2 CEDECO



The image features a close-up, high-angle view of several large rolls of white paper, likely architectural blueprints, resting on a surface. The rolls are partially unrolled, revealing detailed technical drawings underneath. These drawings include various geometric shapes, lines, and numerical annotations such as '18', '21', '23', '25', '28', '5.95', '50.3', '12.', and '9.86'. The lighting is soft and directional, creating subtle shadows and highlights on the paper's texture. A semi-transparent teal rectangular box is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing white text.

**in the meantime we are
researching, planning &
developing the services
to be offered**



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND SERVICES

Each CEDECO (Community Development Center) of Puerto Rico Rises, will provide services adapted to the location region. This way, specific needs are met and the particular characteristics of the area are promoted.

A. ADULT EDUCATION

Our educational program seeks to help families build strong skills and expand their vocational skills. It will provide the tools to develop their skills and talents on a personal, business or community level. It also focuses on the preparation and prevention of an emergency situation or natural disaster.

In addition to the courses offered permanently in the CEDECO, tours are made throughout the Island. With these, we reach the population that does not have the transportation resources to reach the centers. In these tours, we offer condensed versions of the courses.

Among the classes to be offered, we have:

Money management and checkbook How to make a family budget Planning to eat healthy and nutritious Classes of English Computer classes Preparation for the GED test Home gardens Steps to open your own business Family planning Up to	date with technology Defense Personal How to be the best version of you Recycling Art and Crafts Use and management of tools Do it yourself Home Kit How to create an effective business plan Develop the leader in you
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B. HEALTH PROGRAMS

Programs, To Your Health and Pepe & Lucia, will implement in each CEDECO, Community Prevention Clinics, with exams and evaluations such as depression, breast cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, mammography and vaccination that seek to mitigate the health problems of the surrounding communities.

In addition, three annual health fairs will be held. These fairs will be held in collaboration with volunteers and professionals from the Department of Health, SILAMP, CrearConSalud, Casa WEPA, and various Health Colleges.

C. SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CEDECO will provide education for young people in ceramics, dance, art programs, sports activities and summer jobs for young people. It will also be home to the youth leadership program that each community will create based on the needs of their region. We will offer a summer camp specialized in the peculiarities of each region.

This program will be worked in collaboration with community leaders and organizations in each region.

D. FOOD BANK

The Alacena program will establish in each CEDECO a food bank to attend referrals from social workers, organizations, community leaders, doctors, and churches. Clothing, toiletries and household items will also be offered.

Under this program, in conjunction with A Tu Salud, events, competitions and sports clinics will also be offered.

This program will work both as a warehouse and a first-line model. If a national emergency or disaster occurs, the Alacena inventory will be used if necessary, to meet the needs of our SACA and Mano a Mano programs during the response phase.

V. SELF-MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

The following programs, apart from providing and expanding the options of social organizations to provide their services and the micro-enterprises to develop their businesses, offer CEDECO the opportunity to generate income that contributes to cover operational expenses.

A. EL TERMINAL (*The Terminal*)



Given the growth of organizations, projects, and services due to the new social-economic reality facing Puerto Rico, communities lack spaces where projects can offer services in an accessible manner. Each CEDECO will offer this collaborative area in which companies and social entities share a workspace under a cooperative environment for the implementation of their programs and projects that serve each region.

It will be composed of work areas, conference rooms and rooms for events or training.

B. LA PLAZITA (*The Little Square*)



This area offers a space for self-management, entrepreneurship and business development from the business opportunities of each region. Each CEDECO will provide commercial space for the development of these initiatives of social entrepreneurship and the promotion of a local industry that suits the style and consumers of the region, focusing on fair trade.



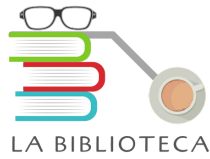
C. EL TEATRO (*The Theater*)

Space for cultural and artistic events. Exhibition space will be offered for artisans and artists. Programs and projects to encourage art expressions will be offered.

D. LA FINCA (*The Farm*)



Through a community cooperative system, farmers who lost their lands due to the hurricane will have access to an area of land for their crops, in exchange for attending the planting and harvesting of CEDECO. We will have a space for the creation of orchards and encourage agriculture. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in the process of growing and harvesting food.



E. LA BIBLIOTECA (*The Library*)

This area primarily relies on donations from bookstores and personal libraries. It will offer an area for individual and group reading, an exhibition of new books and literary talks among other events.



F. EI BOTIQUÍN (*The First Aid Kit*)

Space for preventive clinics, health fairs and educational workshops in family medicine and mental health. If an emergency arises, this area will have solar energy that will supply space for patients with codependent equipment. Among the workshops to be offered are Emergency delivery, CPR and First Aid.

* The use or reproduction of all or part of the logos and/or names of the programs belonging to Puerto Rico Rises is prohibited.

**If at any time you
doubt, give yourself
space to dream about
your goal, and you
will conquer it**

