



Title: *Por La Comunidad*

Student Interns: *Elyse Cinquino, University of Pennsylvania, Masters of Social Work*
Academic Preceptors *Zvi D. Gellis, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice*
Community Preceptors: *Mariana Argüelles, MSW, Health and Wellness Director*

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Community Partner: Puentes de Salud
Puentes de Salud (Bridges of Health) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that promotes the health and wellness of Philadelphia's rapidly growing Latinx immigrant population through high-quality health care, innovative educational programs, and community building.
<https://www.puentesdesalud.org/>



BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

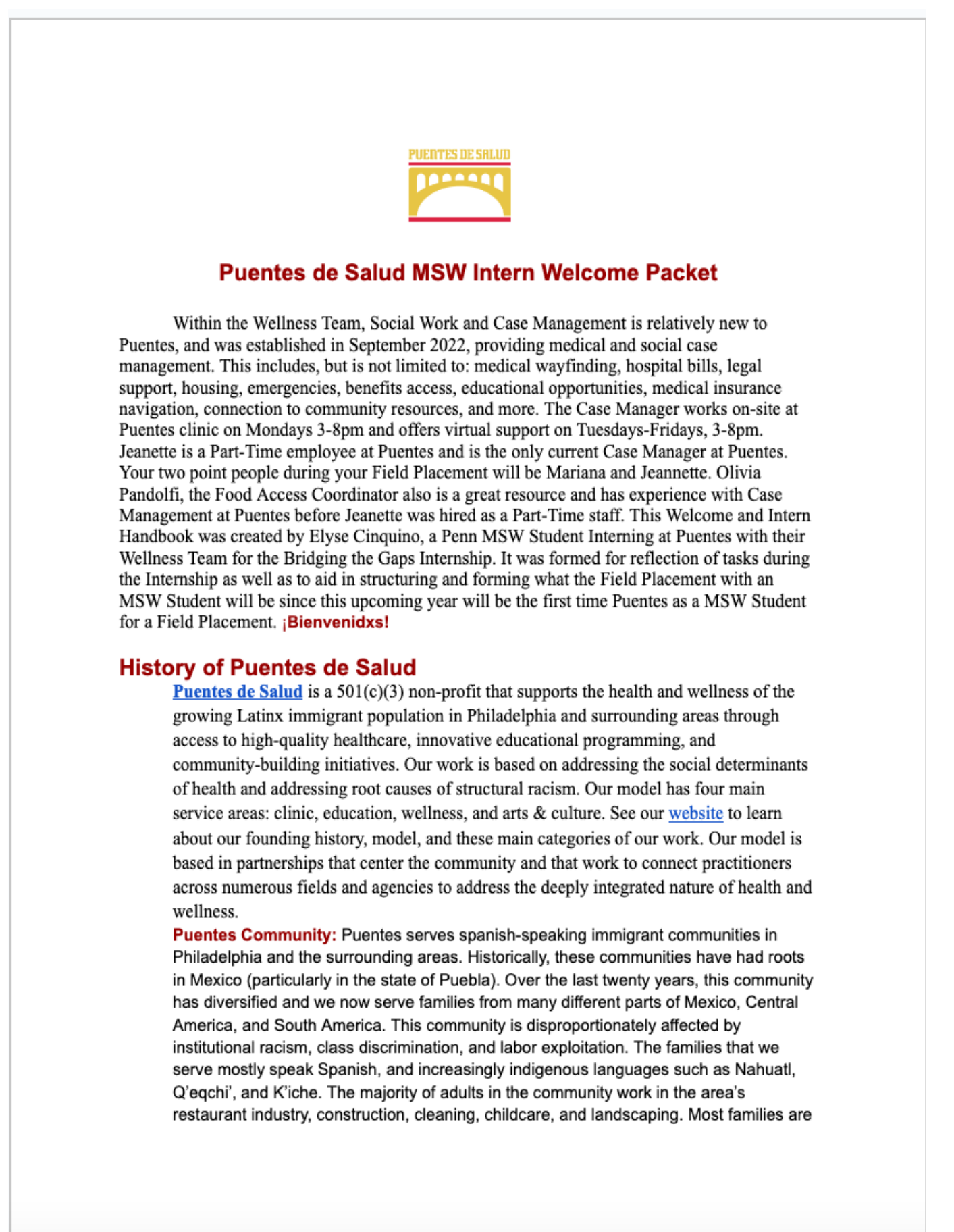
Puentes' work is based on addressing the social determinants of health and addressing root causes of structural racism. Within the Wellness Team, Social Work and Case Management is relatively new to Puentes, was established in September 2022, and provides medical and social case management. This includes, *but is not limited to: medical wayfinding, hospital bills, legal support, housing, emergencies, benefits access, educational opportunities, medical insurance navigation, connection to community resources, etc.*

INTERN EXPERIENCE

Elyse worked within the Wellness Access Team at Puentes. She worked together with Puentes' Part-Time Social Worker for Medical Case Management and within Puentes' Food Access Program and Food Pharmacy. One of Elyse's main projects during the internship was to create and begin a Training Manual for the incoming Masters of Social Work Student and for any volunteer that will be interacting with Puentes developing Social Services. As Puentes' Case Management develops, this Training Manual can be a living document of information, resources and knowledge passed down to anyone at Puentes working with Social Services. Elyse also did work researching other Philly food pantries with low barriers to access for community members for more localized food access.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

Final Draft of Masters of Social Work Intern Handbook



REFLECTION

With my previous work with refugee and parolee immigrants who have documentation and status after immigrating to the United States, being at Puentes has introduced me to the specific challenges faced by undocumented immigrants. Community resources and mutual aid are something emphasized within all the work at Puentes. Word of mouth, community assistance and sharing of resources are common methods of community led assistance within the Latinx South Philly community. Furthermore, the care and access Puentes can provide to clients in their native language of Spanish, is necessary, imperative and crucial to equitable to health care and community empowered health. After my BTG internship and work at Puentes de Salud, I feel more empowered to use my language skills to help a wider range of clients. I also was able to work within a Social Services Program earlier on in its development at an organization, which I found particularly novel and rewarding.