



**Press Advisory:**

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## **Hartford Hurricane Relief Network Will Announce \$45,000 in Awards**

When: Thursday, December 14th

Time: 10:00 AM

Where: 95 Park St., Hartford, CT

Hartford, CT- The Hartford Hurricane Relief Network has chosen 6 grassroots organizations to receive the funds from its various fundraisers. These awards are funded through several community based fundraisers that occurred between Sept 15th and November 1st. The “Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief Network” is comprised of the [CT Puerto Rican Agenda](#), The [Center for Latino Progress](#), [CICD Hartford Puerto Rican Day Parade](#), and The [San Juan Center](#), working in tandem with the [Hispanic Federation](#).

The total amount that will be dispersed is \$45,000. The awardees are:

El Departamento De La Comida	\$10,000
Brigada Solidarios del Oeste	\$10,000
La Organización Boricua de Agricultura Ecológica	\$10,000
Coquí Solar	\$5000
Proyecto Matria	\$5000
Comedores Sociales de PR	\$5000

“This is just a small example of what the CT Puerto Rican community is capable of. In our time of great crises, we came together to lift each other up and we did it well. I’m proud to have been a part of the effort, and of all our awardees who are doing the real work of Rebuilding Puerto Rico. We do this a tribute to them and look forward to doing much more in the months ahead.” - Jason Ortiz, President of the CT Puerto Rican Agenda



“As a member of the Hispanic Federation we are proud to have played a role in empowering our local communities to get involved and support ongoing relief efforts on the island. This is just the beginning of our work and I look forward to working with the groups of the network and the federation to make sure Puerto Rico gets the funds and support it deserves.” Yanil Terón, Executive Director of the Center for Latino Progress - CPRF

“The San Juan Center Inc. is proud of this collaborative effort that was successful in galvanizing our community. Through a transparent process, we now report back to the community that so graciously contributed to our campaign and show that the institutions receiving these funds are involved in sustainable projects to benefit those in need in Puerto Rico.” Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the San Juan Center

#### Awardees Descriptions

##### El Departamento De La Comida

<https://www.localharvest.org/el-departamento-de-la-comida-M39203>

The goal is to rescue and support the restoration of local agriculture in Puerto Rico by directly supporting sustainable agricultural projects and local farmers. This project will go to procuring urgently needed seeds for local farmers and cooperatives. It helps with the acquire equipment and machinery for farms and cooperatives throughout Puerto Rico. This is essential to help farmers and agroecologists recover, but also all those consuming healthy, local food benefit from the recuperation of local produce. This project is supporting local agricultural production throughout Puerto Rico.

##### Brigada Solidarios del Oeste

<http://isrcr.be/bs0/14/>

A self-managed community initiative comprised of individuals from various organizations, creative spaces, and social struggles. Brigada aims to support the development of collective processes in communities and to promote grassroots community efforts. It focuses on the communities on the west coast of Puerto Rico to identify and meet their needs with the support from committed individuals and groups in Puerto Rico and the Diaspora (in the US, Europe, Latin America) and other countries.



La Organización Boricua de Agricultura Ecológica  
<https://www.facebook.com/organizacionboricua/>

Boricua de Agricultura Ecologica brings together people from all over the archipelago of Puerto Rico who are willing to work agriculture in harmony with the environment. Mission: Promote food sovereignty and environmental conservation, being a facilitator for the community through education and training in ecological and family agriculture, local and international alliances and the rescue and perpetuation of traditional practices, ancestral and integrally healthy

Coquí Solar; Junta Comunitaria del Poblado Coquí, Inc.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Junta-Comunitaria-Poblado-Coqu%C3%AD-1720924697923908/>

Coqui Solar is elaborating community-based socio productive development alternatives through training and empowerment of its residents, with special emphasis on its youth and children.

Coqui Solar is a strong, community-driven organization in the town of Salinas that can use this support to rebuild and transform the community center. The funding would help the process of expanding the center and installing a photovoltaic system in the community center to meet its energy demand with solar power. The community center serves the community of El Coqui with over 3,000 people. The center is utilized for community activities, study, and tutorials area for children, and for summer activities during the months of June and July.

Coqui Solar is a perfect example of a community-led initiative that is working to transform the energy grid to renewable, community-centered microgrids that utilize the island's potential for solar power while empowering its residents and being a model for other communities to follow. The hurricanes have left millions without power and have exposed the failure of an archaic electrical grid and I believe this project is one of the models for the solution to that problem.

Proyecto Matria \$5000  
<https://www.proyectomatria.org/>

Proyecto Matria is dedicated to aid to all the participants of the organization that are usually women who have experienced situations of gender violence, low-income



female heads of household and people from LGBT communities. Matria has participants in 15 towns in Puerto Rico including: Caguas, San Lorenzo, Aguas Buenas, Ponce, Villalba, Mayagüez, Isabela, Aguadilla, Cabo Rojo and San Juan. After the hurricane, Matria expanded its operations to serve other people groups and mainly families from rural areas. Matria is already supporting families from Comerío, Orocovis and Utuado. Also, families of the urban zone of Caguas. Currently, Matria is coordinating aid for Patillas, Bda. Morales de Caguas, Utuado (other neighborhoods) and Morovis. The list of villages will increase as we identify neighborhood leaders and receive additional donations.

Comedores Sociales de PR

<https://www.cdpecpr.org/comedores-sociales-de-puerto-rico>

This funding will go to directly feed the residents of Caguas, a community outside of San Juan that still needs a lot of help.

Comedores Sociales is a soup kitchen in Caguas Puerto Rico that has been making hundreds of meals every day since Maria hit. The funds will go to buy food and new cooking tools.

There will be serious problems with families being able to provide food over the coming months and this organization is helping hundreds of families stay fed and healthy. It is impossible to rebuild if basic needs aren't met, and this project will help feed the recovery efforts over the long term.