



La Puente Shelter

March 29, 2022

To whom it may concern:

During these challenging years of the Covid-19 pandemic, La Puente Shelter has had the excellent fortune of being able to rely on generous in-kind donations provided on a regular basis by local bakery Tumbleweed Bread. I write today to express my whole-hearted endorsement of Tumbleweed's nonprofit venture, Tomorrow's Bread, which seeks to place nutritious, locally-sourced bread in the hands (and stomachs) of the most vulnerable residents of the San Luis Valley and beyond.

Just during the period spanning from August 4, 2021 through February 28, 2022, La Puente Shelter served 5,875 lunches and 5,958 dinners to shelter guests and other community members in need. As La Puente has continued providing meal services, the whole grain bread provided by Tumbleweed has figured substantially into our menu and has greatly bolstered our capacity to continue providing wholesome and nutritious meals. With no regular food budget, our soup kitchen depends on donations from the community; at times, this can mean a surfeit of sweets and of starches in general, and a relative deficit of greens and grains. The challenge, then, resides not only in preparing enough food to meet the needs of the community, but in providing balanced dishes that meet our clients' nutritional needs. Many of our clients navigate serious health concerns with specific nutritional requirements, and several have commented on how important it is for them to have access to whole grains. Likewise, since the integration of Tumbleweed Bread into our offering, clients have frequently commented on the excellent quality of the bread and on the "gourmet" touch it adds to meals. I particularly recall one lunch served, early in the pandemic, when a number of clients commented on how special it was to receive sandwiches catered by a restaurant, only to learn that the food had been prepared in-house by our staff. As mundane as it may sound, this sense of quality has an outsize effect on the sense of dignity vulnerable community members feel when accessing our services.

I believe in the impact quality bread has had on the wellbeing of the clients served by La Puente Home, and I am excited to see this wellbeing grow as Tomorrow's Bread is made available to more people in need in our community.

Sincerely,

Graham Hunt
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