

Interviewee: Lance Cheslock

Location: Neilson Library, Alamosa, Colorado

Time: 2:30pm

Date: 02/18/2015

Interview protocol:

Thanks for having us down, Lance. It's certainly wonderful to have the opportunity to spend the afternoon with you. The basic idea of this interview is to have a casual conversation about the San Luis Valley and specifically about your experiences working with issues of poverty here in the SLV.

With that being said, let's go ahead and get started. Sound good?

To start off, can you please tell us your full name and your current occupation?

Are you from the Valley? If so (not), what has motivated you to stay?

In your work at La Puente, can you give us a general idea of how many people the organization serves each year?

Of these individuals, how many are simply migrating through and how many are Valley residents? For example, how common is it for La Puente to see the same individuals come back?

Related to the last question, can you talk more about the different sub-cultures of poverty in the Valley? For example, perhaps you can comment on groups including: migrant farmworkers, generational poverty affecting families, Guatemalans, urban refugees, self-isolating veterans living in the flats, etc.

What are some of the distinctive characteristics about rural poverty?

We noticed that La Puente's infrastructure is designed to accommodate more men than women. Do you have a sense of how many are men and how many are women in an average year? Is it common to see more men? What do you attribute this to?

Aside from the shelter, what are some of the other services that La Puente provides?

It's clear that volunteers and donors play an important role in the organization. What do you think motivates these individuals to dedicate so much time to this effort?

At this point we'd like to transition to a more general conversation about poverty in the Valley.

In your experience, what are the factors that seem to drive poverty here in the Valley?

In your opinion, what are some of the systemic solutions that would be worth testing to alleviate the root causes of local poverty?

How successful do you think La Puente, and its partners, are in addressing these factors?

In your work with organizations outside the Valley—such as government agencies, donors, NGOs, etc.—have you noticed any stereotypes that these groups have about poverty and the Valley?

On similar note, here within the Valley, have you noticed any stereotypes that local groups or agencies have about poverty and the Valley?

How have the dynamics of poverty in the SLV changed in the thirty years you've spent working here?