



George Puentes, Don Pancho Authentic Mexican Foods

Don Pancho Foods has grown from a small company into a state-of-the-art processing plant with distribution throughout the Northwest. George Puentes' vision for Don Pancho is that "it will continue being a force in the industry. We also want to expand our business to the Midwest and the east coast. Very soon we are going to be servicing Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota."

Founded in 1980 in Salem Oregon by George Puentes, Phillip Puentes and Ricardo Baez, Don Pancho Foods is one of the largest Latino owned companies in the Pacific Northwest. The reason behind the success has been the "dedication we have to provide the best service and quality at a competitive and fair price to our customers," said Puentes.

Puentes is also one of the founders of the George Puentes Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship pays for two years of attendance at Chemeketa Community College and enables low-income successful Latino students to pursue higher education. There is an average of ten scholarships awarded each year. "We want young Latinos to be successful and to be role models for younger kids. They are the future of our community," said Puentes.

Puentes currently serves as a Trustee for the Meyer Memorial Trust. He also has served on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Portland branch. Mr. Puentes earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from San Jose State University.