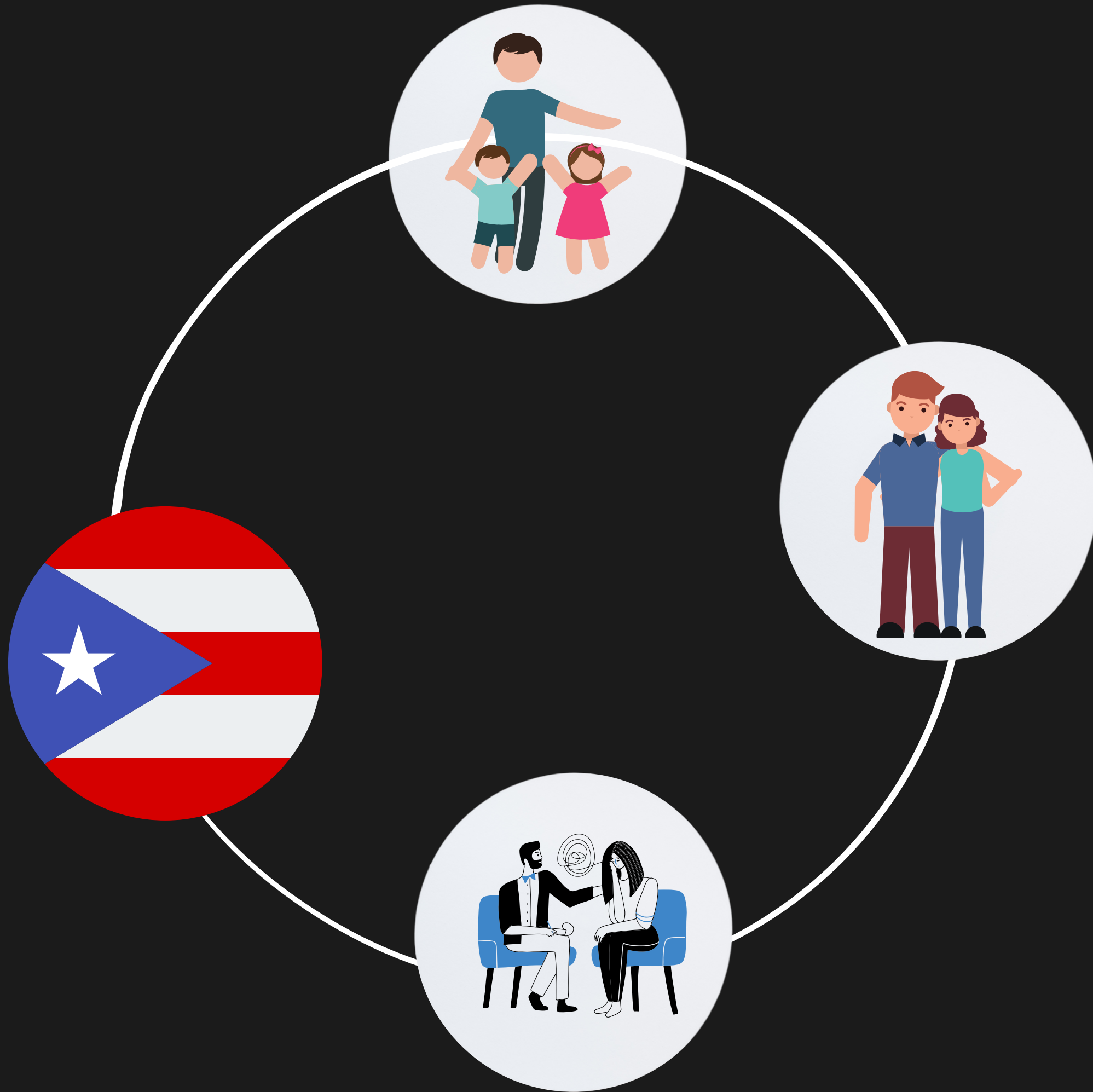


Food & Dignity

INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO FEEDING A DIVERSE WORLD



About Me

The work of diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) begins with our personal story. Who do you say you are? What makes you, you?

Pause & Reflect

Who are we conversing with?

Many of the ideas and concepts as it relates specifically to Food Pantries comes from Rebecca T. De Souza's work, *Feeding the Other: Whiteness Privilege and Neoliberal Stigma*.



DEI As a Way of Life

We are called to be:

- Intellectually Curious & Emotionally Connected
- Story based & Action Oriented
- Compassionate yet Accountable
- Immediate & Long Lasting

Food Insecurity vs. Food Security

food insecurity is used to capture the *nutritional, emotional, and mental trauma* associated with this broader phenomenon (Coleman-Jensen, Gregory, and Singh 2014).

“access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life (World Bank, 1986).”

Political Challenges to our Food Supply

- According to the FAO, world agriculture produces enough food to provide everyone in the world with at least 2,720 kilocalories per person per day (Carolan 2011).
- "The United States not only has an abundance of food, but also has the cheapest food in the world: people spend less of their annual income on food here than in any other country (De Souza, 2019)."
- Hunger is not caused by the lack of food in the world but by the inability of people to gain access to the plentiful food that exists—and this is a systemic issue (De Souza, 2019)."

What do we do?

- Establish DEI oriented metrics for your organization.
 - Is our volunteer force reflective the core population we are serving?
 - Do we have leadership in place at various levels of our organization that hold us accountable in terms of representation, life experience, under represented groups?
- In what ways are we engaging or supporting organizations in our community that are politically engaged with issues related to food justice?
- How are we tracking and reflecting on our interpersonal and organizational goals as it relates to DEI?

In a Nutshell:

- Incorporating DEI principles and culture does not happen overnight. Have compassion for yourself and your team. Be patient yet diligent.
- Small daily commitments, alongside a larger vision, will ensure you are steadfast in your approach to cultivating a more food secure community.
- While food can be political and nuanced, continue to have hope and to do two central things well:
 - Do no harm
 - Love others with dignity and non judgment.

THANK YOU!

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