

# El Refugio



Grantee:

el refugio 

**Focus:** Immigrant Communities, Health and Human Services

**Completed:** 8/01/19

**Location:** Lumpkin, GA

## The Challenge

When family and friends come to visit their loved ones who are detained at Stewart Detention Center, El Refugio provides them a welcoming space to rest or stay overnight. As part of a 2018 episode of "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee," TBS gifted the five-bedroom historic home to El Refugio to use as their hospitality house, tripling the nonprofit's space to serve ~800 people a year. Built in 1836, the house needed significant updates to keep it comfortable, healthy, and affordable.

## The Transformation

With facility improvements made through Southface Institute's GoodUse program, El Refugio is projected to save \$15,580 on their utility bills annually. That's equivalent to the cost needed to provide 779 more detained people with food, toiletries, and a phone card!

- Replaced upstairs and downstairs windows
- Fixed moisture issues in the crawlspace
- Installed 5 AC units and LED lights
- Insulated attic and exterior walls

## Community Impact

This GoodUse project enables El Refugio to:

- Support visiting loved ones and legal referrals
- Operate a bilingual helpline
- Send books and resources
- Provide legal referrals

 **\$15,580** Est. Annual Cost Savings

 **62%** Est. Annual Electricity Savings

 **62%** Est. Annual Pollution Reduction



Southface Institute leverages advocacy, education, and services to build a sustainable future for all. Our GoodUse program empowers nonprofits to improve the efficiency of their facilities and reinvest the cost savings into their programs and communities. [Learn more at www.southface.org/gooduse.](http://www.southface.org/gooduse)