



Camden Youth Literature Programs Receive Funding

(JULY 23, 2013) TRENTON, New Jersey – People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos is pleased to announce that it has received a \$6,500 grant from the Subaru of America Foundation. These funds will support two new literature programs with youth in Camden County.

With this grant, People & Stories will offer the new program this fall: one at the Camden County Youth Center and one at Camden Youth Library at Rutgers. These programs will provide thirty young adults the opportunity to read and experience literature in a new way. Each program is an eight-week literature reading and discussion experience. Led by a trained discussion leader, a group of fifteen teenagers will read a different short story each week and relate the story to their life experience. By working with college-level stories, these young men and women will gain experience and confidence in their ability to understand complicated literature.

While these two programs are the first People & Stories programs with youth in Camden, the program has been immensely successful in other locations. In the words of one former participant, “I got to read edgy and social stories, making me think more.” Another shared, “The thing that meant the most to me was talking with other teens and hearing their take on things.

Jenny Gubernick, a program coordinator at the Pima County Public Library, Arizona, enthused, “This [People & Stories] was really one of the best library programs I’ve been involved with... I learned so much from the stories and from the teens... I loved it when they ended up liking a story they never would have tried on their own, and when they shared stories they liked with the group, too.”

About People and Stories / Gente y Cuentos

People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos, a reading and discussion program offered in English or Spanish, creates unique access to literature. Participants draw upon their own experiences to examine and discuss the poetics, issues, and values present in complex short stories. We have a forty year history of offering high quality literature programs at community organizations in and around New Jersey. In 2012, we provided ninety-nine programs and reached over 1,800 individuals through a combination of our local programs and a nation-wide project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. *To learn more, please visit www.peopleandstories.org.*