



*Celebrating over 150 years of service to New Jersey families*

**Karen Andrade-Mims**  
**Executive Director**

August 25, 2017

Patricia Andres, Executive Director  
People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos  
295 Eggerts Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Dear Ms. Andres:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of commitment to host People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos' literature reading and discussion programs with clients of Operation Fatherhood at UIH Family Partners (UIH).

We know, based on past experience, that our men would greatly benefit as participants in the program "Parents Reading the Family Forward." The method of reading and critical discussion of literature is not the typical "teacher lead – student follows" type of program. Rather, it is especially suited to adult learners as it draws on the extensive well of experiences each participant has had throughout their lives. Inspired by the shared reading of literature and guided by questions from the coordinator, participants begin to share their unique insights into the text, able to tackle literature they may once have found intimidating.

In addition to helping participants improve reading, vocabulary, critical thinking, and problem solving skills, the conversations about the stories prompt powerful and courageous sharing of life experiences, increase self-esteem, and create a genuine sense of bonding and trust within the group. For our Operation Fatherhood clients, building such skills develops confidence and encourages them to overcome obstacles they may face. According to Mr. Marc Warren, UIH Program Manager when People & Stories series was presented: "Many of our men learned how to communicate more effectively and were challenged to become stronger readers. They were interested in and engaged in the sessions which were often therapeutic for them."

We look forward to a renewed partnership with People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Andrade-Mims".

Karen Andrade-Mims  
Executive Director  
UIH Family Partners

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EMPOWERING MEN, FATHERS AND FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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