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**Hidden River Film Initiative and Greater Reading Immigration Project bring
“Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth” to local film audience**

Reading, PA—“Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth” follows the personal stories of five undocumented students and the challenges they face as they become adults in the United States without legal status. Filmmakers Anne Galisky and Rebecca Shine interviewed dozens of undocumented youth across the country before identifying the five students featured in the film. Monica, Yo Sub, Juan Carlos, Simone, and Jorge share accounts of their countries of origin and how they came to live in the U.S., their aspirations for the future, and the challenges they face as a result of their immigration status.

“Papers” will be shown locally on Wednesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. at Reading Movies 11 & IMAX (30 N. Second Street; Reading, PA 19601). The screening is being sponsored jointly by the Hidden River Film Initiative and the Greater Reading Immigration Project (GRIP). A panel discussion will follow the screening.

“Greater Reading Immigration Project explores how the educational, business, and social service communities can deal with the issue of immigration,” said GRIP representative Tom McMahon. “Berks County has a large Latino youth population, some of whom face the same challenges as the students featured in ‘Papers’. We believe it is important to screen the film so people have a better understanding of the impact current immigration laws have on our community.”

Filmmakers Galisky and Shine developed an interest in the issues facing undocumented youth while tutoring and mentoring immigrant high school students in Portland, Oregon. Through the relationships they came to develop with these students, they became more attuned to the particular challenges faced by undocumented youth and wanted to find a way to help. From there, the idea of film as a vehicle for these youth to tell their stories began to take shape. Throughout the process, the number of youth who wanted to be involved in the project began to grow. Eventually named El Grupo Juvenil, these students from across the United States were involved in every aspect of the film’s production and distribution. For more information about the film’s background and creative process, visit www.PapersTheMovie.com.

“One of the goals of the Hidden River Film Initiative is to showcase the work of emerging filmmakers,” said Dr. Harry L. Serio, co-chair of the Initiative. “With hundreds of members nationwide, El Grupo Juvenil was undoubtedly an exciting introduction to the film industry and may ultimately prove to be a launching pad for future film professionals.”

According to the filmmakers, there are approximately two million undocumented children who were born outside the United States and raised in this country. Sixty-five thousand graduate every year from high school in the U.S. These are young people who were educated in American schools, hold American values, know only the U.S. as home and who, upon high school graduation, find their opportunities for the future are bleak. For them, it is against the law to work or drive. It is difficult, if not impossible in some states, to attend college. They live at risk of arrest, detention and deportation to countries they may not even remember.

Tickets for the screening of "Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth" are \$8. Five dollar student tickets are available at the door. Admission vouchers are also available from Reading High School Honor Society members.

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