



# COMMUNITY

## Community Listening Project

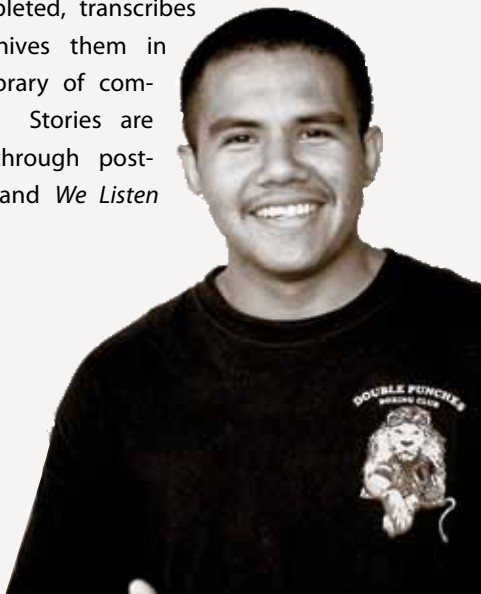
A *community building program* that brings people together from diverse cultural backgrounds to come to know one another as neighbors.

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

The *Community Listening Project* is a program that trains volunteer community members in the art of oral history and engages them in interviewing their neighbors. The process of interviewing people of different backgrounds helps to heal fractures and misunderstandings caused by socio-economic, racial, ethnic diversity, etc., and to forge a cohesive community identity.

Each volunteer interviewer conducts interviews with community members of his/her choosing and is encouraged to select neighbors, colleagues, or even strangers from backgrounds different from her/his own.

*Listening for a Change* provides recorders and, after interviews are completed, transcribes them and archives them in our growing library of community voices. Stories are often shared through posters, television, and *We Listen* reports.



Workshops are held every few months for community members to get involved.



# SCHOOL

## Essence of Acceptance

A curriculum for secondary schools that brings community members from diverse cultural and ethnic groups to the schools to share their personal stories of discrimination and loss of human rights.

### THE CURRICULUM—Academic and Real Life Experiences

*Essence of Acceptance* provides students with a unique combination of academic and real life experiences that enable them to develop empathy and understanding of people who are different from themselves.

The curriculum consists of four sections: *Human Rights*, *Oral History*, *Interview*, and *Community*. Through participation in the program students:

- Study about human rights in the context of their current curriculum
- Learn to take proper oral histories
- Conduct an oral history with a local community member who has lost human and/or civil rights
- Respond to their interview experience through a service-learning community project

Through this process, students confront their own personal prejudices, and stories are heard, honored and shared with others.

# WORKPLACE

## Diversity and Engagement

A program that offers businesses, non-profits, and government organizations a component that helps employees use *active listening skills* to enhance the appreciation of and ability to work effectively with others in a culturally diverse environment.

### ACTIVE LISTENING SKILLS FOR A MORE COOPERATIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

*Listening for a Change* teaches attentive listening skills and cultural awareness through a wide variety of interactive activities:

- Self examination and acknowledgement of cultural assumptions
- Active listening that includes body language, tone of voice, open-ended questions, follow-up questions, and much more

Becoming an active respectful listener is a valuable tool in the workplace as well as in the personal community life of employees.

### CROSSING BOUNDARIES

As participants spend time interacting with each other and discovering similarities and differences, they gain valuable insight into how others see and approach work situations. In the process, participants become aware of their own assumptions, thereby helping them communicate more consciously and effectively.

*Listening for a Change* provides two-hour, four-hour or eight-hour workplace workshops.

