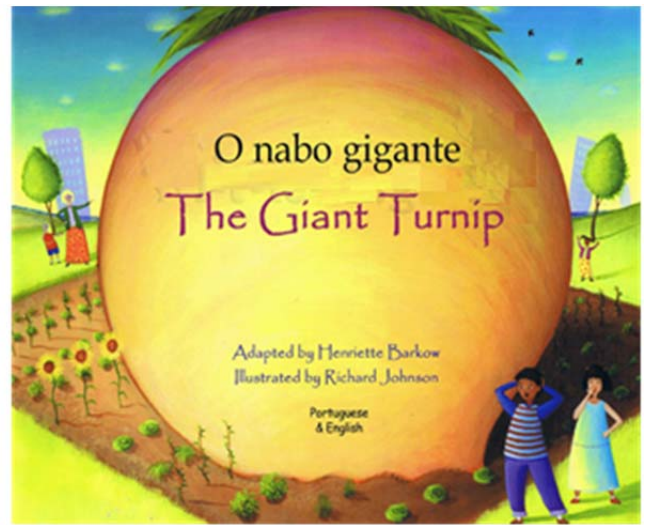
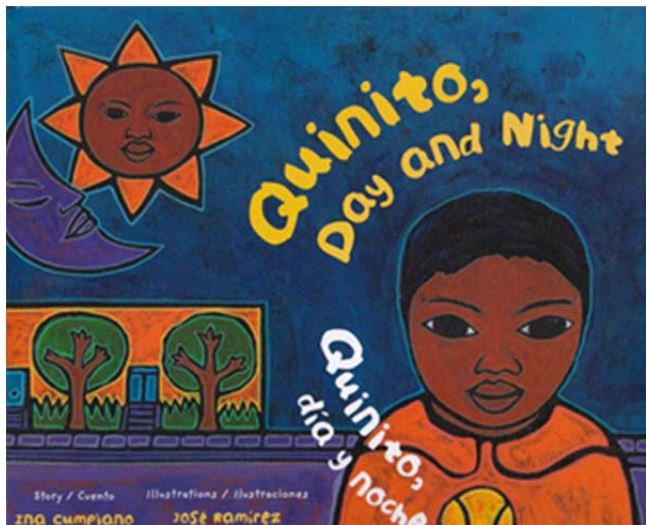




CONTACT:
Rachel Gary
Communications Manager
860-695-6352
rgary@hplct.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford Families Invited to Participate in StoryWalk™ Kick-Off Event



Two-week program promotes reading, community engagement, and outdoor activity

HARTFORD, Connecticut (March 20, 2014) – Hartford children, parents, families, and caregivers will **join a kickoff celebration for two “StoryWalks™” in the Frog Hollow and Parkville neighborhoods on Saturday, April 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pope Park Recreation Center.** The StoryWalks™ will be displayed from April 5 through April 18.

StoryWalks™ are fun, engaging, community projects that promote reading and outdoor physical activity for kids and families. **Activities will lead kids and families on a trip through the Frog Hollow and Parkville neighborhoods and local business storefronts where pages from two selected books will be reprinted on large, weather-resistant boards and placed in participating store windows.**

After the opening ceremony, families will be invited to walk around the neighborhoods and visit the businesses in search of all the pages of Ina Cumpiano’s book *Quinito, Day and Night* which will be displayed in both English and Spanish in the Frog Hollow neighborhood. Ina Cumpiano will make an appearance at the event to discuss her book. In Parkville, families will walk through the neighborhood to read Henriette Barkow’s book *The Giant Turnip* which will be displayed in Portuguese and

English. Families will be given a map with the location of each StoryWalk™ page and a passport. Each business will stamp their passport leading the families through the stories ending at their local library branch to receive a free copy of the book.

Families can participate at any time during the two-week period that the StoryWalks™ take place. The Park and Dwight Branches of Hartford Public Library will have maps and passports available for families wishing to start the StoryWalk™ after the day of the kickoff celebration. In addition, the two branches will offer early literacy workshops and story times with local merchants and seniors.

This program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of Hartford Public Library, the Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA), Parkville Business Association, the City of Hartford Department of Families, Children Youth and Recreation, Hartford Public Schools, Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Parkville Senior Center, Center Without Walls, El Pequeñín Children's Multicultural Readiness Academy, Mitchell House, and the Institute for Hispanic Families Catholic Charities Paraíso Infantil, with support from Mantra Lingua Publishing and Lee & Low Publishing.

StoryWalks™ are a component of an early literacy approach called *Let's Talk... It Makes A Difference!*©. The StoryWalk™ was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. For more information on the Hartford StoryWalk™, call 860-695-7500.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.

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