

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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### **FREE SCREENING OF “THE CARTEL” , A Film Exploring NJ Education**

North Jersey: Bergen LEADS, the premier leadership program for adults in Bergen County, is presenting a free screening of “The Cartel”, a documentary directed by Bob Bowdon, on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 8:15 am at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, in Classroom TEC 128.

Pre-registration for this free event is mandatory; attendees must e-mail [amissey@bergenvolunteers.org](mailto:amissey@bergenvolunteers.org) or call 201-489-9454 Ext. 119 providing name and contact information, before November 14<sup>th</sup>, to reserve a seat.

“The Cartel” provides a controversial and thought-provoking look at public education in New Jersey, focusing on funding, politics, educational effectiveness and the need for reform. Balancing local NJ storylines against interviews with national education experts such as Clint Bolick (former president of Alliance for School Choice), Gerard Robinson (president of Black Alliance for Educational Options), and Chester Finn (president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute), “The Cartel” explores what dedicated parents, committed teachers, clear-eyed officials, and tireless reformers are doing to make the schools better for kids nationally and locally. Kathleen Carroll of *The Record* calls it “...a tough-talking exposé.” This movie “challenges New Jersey's education establishment”, according to Kristen Alloway of *The Star-Ledger*. Timothy J. Carroll of *The Hudson Reporter* says, “Is your school sub-par? Are costs for education still high? Bob Bowdon can connect the dots.”

Bergen LEADS is an adult leadership program sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. As part of a year-long series of seminars on issues affecting Bergen County, the men and women in the class of 2010 of Bergen LEADS will focus on Education on December 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning with “The Cartel” movie screening and continuing throughout the day with a general overview of the educational system in Bergen County.

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, to operate model volunteer programs, to build capacity for effective volunteering, and to participate in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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