



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Four New Mexico youth honored for community service work** Awards to be presented at NM Voices for Children's Spirit of Hope Celebration

ALBUQUERQUE—Four young people are being recognized for their vision, initiative, and dedication to community service with the Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award. The honors will be bestowed at the Spirit of Hope Celebration on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque. The youths will be honored along with two adults who will be awarded the First Annual Alice King and Patty Jennings awards for their work on behalf of New Mexico's children.

The Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award celebrates New Mexico youths, ages 13 through 26, who have demonstrated leadership in their communities. In all, 19 youths were nominated from across New Mexico. One nominee from each of two age groups (13-18 and 19-26) is designated a winner and another is designated honoree. Each of these four young people receives a \$1,000 scholarship. All nominees receive a certificate and are honored at the event.

The two first place winners are **Alejandra Carmona** of Albuquerque (13-18 age group) and **Fiona Walters** of Mexican Springs (19-26 age group). The two second place winners are **Alex Wirth** of Santa Fe (13-18 age group) and **Arielle Hawnee** of Sapello (19-26 age group). Their short biographies are attached separately and head shots are available upon request.

Amy Biehl, a graduate of Santa Fe High School, was killed while working to end apartheid in South Africa in 1993. She was 26 years old. NM Voices has given the award in Amy's honor since 1993.

The 2009 Spirit of Hope Celebration, sponsored by New Mexico Voices for Children, is Friday, October 23, from 6:00pm-9:30pm at the Embassy Suites near Downtown Albuquerque. The evening will include dinner, a live auction, and live entertainment. Tickets are \$100, and are available online at [www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org) or call 505-244-9505. All proceeds go to continuing the Awards in the future.

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.

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