



PRESS RELEASE

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Nominations for 17th Annual Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award Now Open NM youth honored for community service, volunteer work

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award. The award honors New Mexico youths, ages 13 through 26, who are making a difference in their communities through service work or outreach.

The annual award was created to honor Amy Biehl, a graduate of Santa Fe High School. Amy went to South Africa in 1993 at the age of 26 as a Fulbright Scholar to help that country's leaders develop a new constitution. While conducting voter registration for South Africa's first all-race election – which ended the policies of apartheid – she was killed in a race riot.

Over the past 16 years, hundreds of New Mexico youths from all over the state have been honored for their work to make the world a better place. "It's really inspiring to read about what these young people accomplish and the amount of time and dedication they put into their volunteer work," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of NM Voices. "We encourage teachers, coaches, employers, and other adults who mentor youths to nominate a young person who's making a difference in their community."

Nominees are split into two age categories – 13-18 and 19-26 – and are evaluated on their vision, initiative and dedication in service to others. A committee of community members will name one winner and one honoree from each age category. These four will receive cash awards and a sculpture. All nominees will be honored at the 2nd Annual Spirit of Hope Celebration in September.

The nomination deadline is 3pm, Tuesday, August 31. To request a nomination packet call 505-244-9505, ext. 10, or download the forms at www.nmvoices.org.

NM Voices will also be presenting the Alice King Public Service Award and the Patty Jennings Citizen Advocacy Award at September's Spirit of Hope Celebration, but the call for nominations will not go out until later this summer.

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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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