



PRESS RELEASE

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Advocates release vision of future for NM children

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children released its New Mexico Children's Charter today. The Charter envisions a New Mexico 20 years hence in which children have the best possible opportunities to succeed. It was created in conjunction with the advocacy organization's 20th anniversary celebration.

The goals outlined in the Charter – such as universal health care, living wages, a progressive tax system, and a transparent government – follow NM Voices' four core values of economic justice, healthy communities, citizen participation and human rights.

"The Charter is not so much a road map as a destination," said Eric Griego, NM Voices' Executive Director. "We will spend the next year getting our partners and allies to help us set some measurable targets and create specific policies so that beginning in the 2009 state legislative session, we can begin to work toward these outcomes," he added.

The Charter will officially be unveiled at NM Voices' 20th Anniversary Gala and Awards ceremony later this month and attendees will have the opportunity to sign their names to it. The group will also bestow Voice for Children awards to 20 outstanding New Mexico child advocates and Legislative Champion awards to 20 currently serving state legislators.

The keynote speaker is author, actor and activist Victor Rivas Rivers. The spokesperson for the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Rivers will talk about how he survived a childhood of horrific domestic violence with the help of many caring adults. His riveting story illuminates the need for comprehensive child advocacy strategies that provide support systems for families.

The 20th Anniversary Gala is Friday, Nov. 9, 2007, at the Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Pl. NE, Albuquerque, 6:00-9:30pm. Tickets are \$100 each. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To purchase tickets online go to: <http://www.nmvoices.org/>. To inquire about sponsorships, contact Felicia Griffin at 505-244-9505 ext. 21 or development@nmvoices.org. Major sponsors for the event include Dean W. Rudoy, Ph.D., Qwest, ASFME, and Pachamama.

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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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