



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nominations sought for awards honoring Alice King, Patty Jennings Child advocates to be honored at Spirit of Hope Celebration

ALBUQUERQUE—Nominations are being sought for two awards named for New Mexico child advocates Alice King and Patty Jennings. Winners of the awards will be honored at New Mexico Voices for Children's Spirit of Hope Celebration dinner in October.

The **First Annual Alice King Public Service Award** will honor a public leader who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to and service for New Mexico's children and families. The **Patty Jennings Citizen Advocacy Award** will be presented to a New Mexican who has demonstrated outstanding community service in advocating for New Mexico children. NM Voices is also seeking nominations for its **16th Annual Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award**, which honors youth aged 13 to 26 for their outstanding contributions in the public interest.

Alice King was New Mexico's beloved First Lady while her husband, former Governor Bruce King, served three terms in office. She founded the NM Girls Ranch and the NM Children's Foundation, was chair of the NM Children's Trust Fund, and was a major supporter of the Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital. Patty Jennings, the late wife of state Senate President Pro Tem Tim Jennings, was an advocate for early intervention, special education, and other services for children with special needs, and was instrumental in the creation of the NM Medical Insurance Pool. Both women passed away within the last year. This is the first year NM Voices is giving awards in their names.

"Both Alice and Patty were champions for children, and we owe them a debt of gratitude," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of the child advocacy organization. "The former first lady's work, in particular, really paved the way for much of the work we do now to improve the well-being of New Mexico's children."

Amy Biehl, a graduate of Santa Fe High School, lost her life while working to end apartheid in South Africa. NM Voices has given awards in her name to New Mexico youth since 1993.

Nomination deadline for all three awards is 3pm on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009. Awards will be presented at the Spirit of Hope Celebration, on Friday, October 23, 2009, 6pm-9:30pm, at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque. Our Spirit of Hope Host Sponsor for this event is Pachamama.

Nomination criteria and forms, as well as submission instructions, are available online at www.nmvoices.org. Forms are also available at NM Voices during regular office hours at 2340 Alamo Ave. SE in Albuquerque. Call 505-244-9505 for more information.

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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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