



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Winners Announced for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spirit of Hope Awards** Native-American leader, legal eagle among honorees

ALBUQUERQUE—Winners and finalists for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alice King Public Service Award and Patty Jennings Citizen Advocacy Award, and the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awards have all been selected.

**McClellan Hall** of Gallup is the winner of the Alice King Award. Mr. Hall created the award-winning National Indian Youth Leadership Project, which has provided substance abuse prevention, leadership development, and service learning opportunities for Native youth since 1985.

**Tara Ford** of Albuquerque received the top honor for the Patty Jennings Award. She is the co-founder and co-director of Pegasus Legal Services for Children, a nonprofit that provides legal services on behalf of children in the foster care system.

**D'Ana Alderete** of Albuquerque is the First Place Honoree for the Amy Biehl Award for the 19 to 26 age group. Ms. Alderete volunteers at numerous nonprofits, including OFFCenter Community Arts Studio, New Mexico Youth Alliance, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Cuidando los Niños.

**Cecilia Frescas** of Albuquerque is the First Place Honoree for the Amy Biehl Award for the 13 to 18 age group. Among the groups with which she works are OYE (Organizing Youth Engagement) and SWOP (SouthWest Organizing Project).

The award finalists are as follows:

Finalists for the Alice King Award are **Mavis V. Price** of Thoreau and **Lovee McGee** of Albuquerque. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Price is serving her second term as

Vice Chair of the NM Children's Trust Fund. Ms. McGee currently serves the community by tutoring and mentoring youngsters, and creating and implementing innovative programs to meet some of their many needs.

Finalists for the Patty Jennings Award are **Augustine "Chris" Baca** of Albuquerque and **Marcela Díaz** of Santa Fe. Mr. Baca is the long-time executive director of Youth Development, Inc. (YDI). Ms. Díaz has headed the Santa Fe-based *Somos un Pueblo Unido* for the past 13 years.

The Amy Biehl second place honorees are **Jacqueline Gibbs** of Santa Fe (19-26 age group) and **Denise Chavez** of Albuquerque (in the 13-18 age group).

"It's always humbling to look at the community-service resumé's of all the incredibly dedicated people who are nominated for these awards," said Eric Griego, executive director of New Mexico Voices for Children, which sponsors the awards. "They remind us that the world is full of generous people quietly working to make it a better place. It's inspiring, too, to know how much change can be brought about when the will and desire are there."

The winners and finalists will all be honored on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010 at the Spirit of Hope Celebration. The four Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awards honorees will each receive cash prizes and U.S. savings bonds.

The event, held at the Albuquerque Museum Amphitheatre, begins at 6:30pm with live music by Cathy McGill and food from local restaurants. Among the dignitaries on hand to help present the awards will be Attorney General Gary King and Senate President Pro Tem Tim Jennings. The evening will also include a tribute to Polly Arango, a long-time NM Voices Board member who died suddenly this past summer. Tickets are \$100 and are available online at [www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org) and at the door. Proceeds benefit future Spirit of Hope Celebrations.

Spirit of Hope sponsors include: DW Turner, Field and Frame, St Joseph Community Health, Limited Brands, AFSCME, McCune Charitable Foundation, i2i Institute, NM Forum for Youth in Community, Heritage Audio Visual, and Dean Rudoy, Ph.D.

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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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