



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Annual Gala Honors Youth, Community Service, and Advocacy** Two new awards honor memory of Alice King and Patty Jennings

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children is pleased to announce their annual Gala, to be held on October 23, 2009, at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque. In addition to celebrating another year of advocacy on behalf of New Mexico's children and families, the event recognizes individuals with a strong commitment to community service.

NM Voices will also be giving out two new awards at this year's Gala. The First Annual Alice King Public Service Award will honor a leader within the community who demonstrates a genuine commitment to the service and well-being of New Mexico's children and families. The award is inspired by the memory of former First Lady Alice King, a dedicated advocate for New Mexico children. The organization will also present the Patty Jennings Citizen Advocate Award to a member of the community who is a committed activist for New Mexico's children. Patty Jennings, late wife of Senator Tim Jennings, worked on behalf of children with special needs and kids in foster care.

"Both Alice King and Patty Jennings were outstanding advocates and activists for children's issues," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of NM Voices. "Their work within New Mexico communities is still felt today. Thanks to their families' generous consent, these awards will honor their memory and recognize individuals that demonstrate the same dedication to the welfare of New Mexico's kids."

Nominees for the Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award will also be honored at the event. This annual award recognizes New Mexico youths aged 13 to 26 who show tremendous dedication to strengthening their communities through public service. Nominations for the Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award can be made by downloading a nomination packet at [www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org) or calling 505-244-9505, ext. 10, 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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