

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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December 17, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Rosie Sais 505-629-9493

Embargoed until December 18, 2009 (gifts are a surprise)

Probation and Parole Spreads Holiday Cheer to Women Offenders

Who: New Mexico Corrections Department Probation/ Parole staff statewide

What: Donations will be given to women and children at the NM Women's Recovery Academy

When: Friday, December 18, 2009 from 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Where: New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy in Albuquerque. The Women's Recovery Academy is located at 6000 Isleta Blvd. SE in Albuquerque's South Valley.

Why: Community Service Project

Santa Fe—The New Mexico Corrections Department, Probation/Parole staff are donating Christmas gifts and other goodies to offenders and their children at the New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy (NMWRA) in Albuquerque. All 68 women at NMWRA will be given a watch that is accompanied by a card that says, "Time for Change." They will also be given personal hygiene items, clothing, food, and toys for the 12 children that live at the academy/half-way house.

Statewide, all five Probation/Parole regions have participated and contributed. Probation/Parole employees generously donated approximately \$2,000 out of their own pockets, and other private individuals and New Mexico businesses donated approximately \$1,000 toward the gift items.

The New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy houses 68 women parolees and probationers that have special needs. The academy offers women parenting skills and job readiness services along with substance abuse and mental health treatment. The program objective is to help each offender reach the ultimate goal of transitioning back to community life, where she can stand on her own two feet.