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A charitable 501(c)(3) organization
on behalf of El Paso Children's Hospital,



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Children's
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UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OF EL PASO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2012

**AMERICA FERRERA TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER
AT EL PASO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GALA**

Star of television, cinema and stage, America Ferrera, will be the Featured Speaker at the second El Paso Children's Hospital Gala to be held 6 p.m. Friday, March 2, 2012 at the El Paso Convention Center. El Paso Children's Hospital is scheduled to open February 14, 2012. "On that fateful day we will no longer be able to say that El Paso is the largest metropolitan area in the United States without a licensed children's hospital," said University Medical Center Foundation Executive Director, Dennece Knight. "That's a lot to celebrate." The \$150 dollar tickets can be reserved by calling 915/521-7229. Proceeds from the event benefit sick and injured children at El Paso Children's Hospital.

After she appeared in such films as *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *Lords of Dogtown*, Ferrera landed the starring role in the hit ABC dramedy *Ugly Betty* in 2006. Her fearless portrayal of 'Betty Suarez' in this breakthrough role earned Ferrera an Emmy®, a Golden Globe®, and Screen Actors Guild Award, as well as ALMA and Imagen Awards.

Ferrera's starring performance in the Patricia Cardoso film "Real Women Have Curves" earned her a Sundance Jury Award for Best Actress, an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Debut Performance, and a Young Artist Award nomination for Best Performance for a Leading Young Actress.

Ms. Ferrera just finished an eight week run in London starring as Roxie Hart in the West End production of the hit musical "Chicago."

"From any vantage point, America Ferrera is a wonderful role model for our community," said Knight. Ferrera executive produced and appeared in long-time boyfriend, and now husband, El Pasoan Ryan Piers Williams' "The Dry Land" which premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and won "Best International Film" at the 2010 Edinburgh Film Festival. The film has been released by Maya Entertainment.

America Georgina Ferrera was born in Los Angeles, California. Of Honduran descent, Ferrera and her five siblings were raised by her mother in the San Fernando Valley. She began acting in local productions at age seven and signed with a small talent agency at 16. Between auditions, Ferrera attended the University of Southern California, where she studied Theater and International Relations.

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