



AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL

## **EVA LONGORIA PARKER biographical profile**

### **2010 FEDEX LEGACY FREEDOM AWARD**

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She once said, quote:

*"My identity is not about where my family came from; instead, it's about who I am and who I want to be. Ever since, I've tried to define myself by the work I do to help others, and by the people who motivate me—the people I look up to.*

*This work has helped me find something bigger than myself, but it has also helped me find my true self. My identity doesn't have to be Mexican; it doesn't have to be American—my philanthropy defines who I really am."*

She has taken the phrase, more than a pretty face, and given it new energy.

She doesn't play by the Hollywood rules, and gives the Lone Star State of Texas all of her praise as her real home. Although her public persona is one of glamour, and sex appeal, her true beauty really shines when she speaks about her older sister who is developmentally challenged and is the inspiration for the work she does with young people who are developmentally challenged.

Actress Eva Longoria Parker was born in Corpus Christi, Texas and is the youngest of four daughters.

Despite working on a farmland that had been handed down to them from past generations, the family often had very little money.

Eva acted in small television roles early in her career but became an international sensation from the television series *Desperate Housewives*.

In 2006, Longoria founded *Eva's Heroes*, a San Antonio, Texas charity which helps developmentally disabled children. Her older sister, Lisa, who is intellectually disabled, was the inspiration for *Eva's Heroes* and the work her

mother did for 25 years as teachers assistant and special education teacher taught her the value of creating a learning environment for young people with challenges.

Eva's Heroes provides an inclusive setting built on four tenets interact, grow, learn, and love and Eva would like for the program to be used as national model.

She is the national spokesperson for PADRES Contra El Cancer, Parents Against Cancer and also supports the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Stroke Association, Project HOME and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Longoria Parker is also an executive producer of Shine Global Inc.'s upcoming documentary The Harvest which is focused on the 500,000 child migrant farm workers in the U.S. and is currently helping them fundraise for the film.

Longoria was named Philanthropist of the year in 2009 by the Hollywood Reporter for her commitment to Latino causes and giving back to the community and became one of the first celebrities to launch a campaign for temporary housing for the victims of the Haiti earthquake in 2009.

Longoria Parker donated a house to one of the victims of Katrina through the Oprah Angel Network.

Longoria Parker currently works closely with The United Farm Workers (UFW), The Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund (MALDEF), the Dolores Huerta Foundation and The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), and the Cesar Chavez Foundation.

As the international L'Oreal spokesperson, she is a strong supporter of the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, the leading independent, non-profit organization in the United States dedicated to advancing research, raising awareness and finding a cure.

She serves on the National Museum of the American Latino Commission and received the 2010 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute *Medallion of Excellence for Leadership and Community Service*.