



Excerpted from: ***Keepers of the Children: Native American Wisdom and Parenting*** by Laura M. Ramirez

### ***A Real Life Story*** (from Chapter 1 )

*Where vision lives, children flourish.*

When I think about the difference that loving parents make in their children's lives, I remember my encounter with the championship boxer, Oscar de la Hoya. At a promotional dinner in Las Vegas in November 2002, Oscar was posing for photographs with his fans. During a lull, I approached him for an autograph. As I handed him a poster of himself to sign, I said, "Oscar, write something you believe in."

He looked at me, "What do you mean ... something I believe in?"

"A statement about something you feel is important in life."

"Something I believe deep down in my heart?" he asked, grinning boyishly and tapping his fist against his chest.

I nodded.

He signed the poster, then handed it back to me. Above his autograph, he'd written the words, "I love my MOM."

His eyes twinkled and I smiled in recognition. Oscar de la Hoya, who holds seven world titles in five different weight classes, had confirmed

that his big heart was nurtured first outside the ring, in the loving light of a mother, who had encouraged her son to shine.

If you ever have the opportunity to watch Oscar box, you'll notice that at the end of the match, he looks up, opens his arms in a wide embrace and blows kisses to heaven. If you know his story, it's easy to see why. Oscar's mother died many years ago, but you are *\*alive\** and whether you're a mother or a father, you have a chance to make as big a difference in your child's life, as Oscar's mother made in his.

This is the subject matter of *Keepers of the Children*. By reading and making the ideas your own, you will learn how to create a lifelong relationship with your child that is based on love and mutual respect. Using a mix of Native American philosophy and developmental psychology, you will discover how to raise a child who *\*knows\** himself, knows his purpose, fulfills his destiny and cherishes *\*you\** for these gifts.

It is my deepest hope that one day your adult child will acknowledge you in the manner of Oscar de la Hoya.

To purchase your copy of ***Keepers of the Children: Native American Wisdom and Parenting***, click on <http://www.walk-in-peace.com>.