

For Immediate Release
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**One of the Most Influential Voices in Social Change and Civil Rights
To Join the YMCA in Honoring Area Professionals and Teens
At 30th Anniversary YMCA Salute to Black Achievers Gala**

As a high school student, Dr. Bernice A. King touched some of the world's great leaders when she spoke in her mother's stead before the United Nations. On June 6, 2008, Dr. King will again be inspiring positive change from the same stage shared by her mother 25 years ago – in Cincinnati – at the Salute to YMCA Black Achievers Gala at Duke Energy Center that will honor more than 35 adult professionals and role models, area businesses and several teens.

Other entertainment that evening will include: Team Cincinnati, formerly known as team Lachey will be performing at the VIP reception; P. Ann Everson-Price and the Super Children's Choir, the Solid Rock Church Fire Choir, and Robert Lomax will perform during the Gala program; and Deborah Burks, a 2007 YMCA Black Achievers Volunteer of the Year, will be singing during Dr. King's book signing following the program and dinner.

Since its beginning in 1979, the Salute to YMCA Black Achievers Gala has grown into one of the largest local events honoring professionals of color for their career and civic accomplishments, and for their year long volunteer commitment to help prepare students for college and beyond. More than 4000 adult mentors have impacted more than 5000 local teens in the YMCA Black Achievers Program 30 year history.

“Our Gala is an important platform for us to raise awareness about the importance of positive influences on young people. Our featured speaker, adult honorees and guests all share a vision that through their dedication and leadership, teens will be successful in their path toward personal accomplishments,” said Toni Miles, YMCA Black Achievers executive director.

The YMCA Black Achievers Program includes college prep and leadership development activities focusing on study skills/time management, interviewing techniques, financial management, team-building field trips, community service-learning projects, college tours and more. It strongly incorporates the Abundant Assets – 40 critical factors for the successful growth and development of young people – and centers around the relationships of adult professional mentors and teens. The 2008 to 2009 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

More About The Speaker

The youngest daughter of Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bernice has actually brought her family's message of civil rights, positive social change and empowerment to people of all backgrounds, around the globe. She has appeared on such shows as Oprah, BET Talk with Tavis Smith, and the Judge Hackett Show; and has been featured in People Magazine,

Ebony, Essence, Ladies Home Journal, Gospel Today and Charisma Magazine. In 2005, the American Legacy Magazine recognized her as a ‘Woman of Strength and Courage.’

After receiving her bachelors degree from Spelman College, Dr. King earned her masters of divinity and doctorate of law degrees from Emory University. As an ordained preacher, she is a minister at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia.

It was as a law clerk in the Fulton County Juvenile Court, when it all came in focus for her that too many teens are victims – first of society, and second of a legal system based on retribution instead of rehabilitation. The experience fueled Dr. King to greater action.

She has mentored fifth grade girls at an inner-city elementary school. In an inauguration speech to sixth graders who would be attending the Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy, she spoke of their making significant history and the expectation of their setting the trend for the future. Dr. King has planned and organized numerous conferences, seminars and workshops on important life skills such as nonviolent conflict resolution and race relations. In 2007, she announced the establishment of the Be A King scholarship at Spelman College in honor of her mother. Dr. King recently founded Be A King, whose mission is to re-brand and re-image generations of people to elevate the way they think, act, live and lead. Through Be A King, she hopes to develop a nation of young people who dominate the global marketplace and transform the world culture with a KINGdom mindset.

For information about the YMCA Black Achievers Program and the Banquet, the public can contact Toni Miles at the YMCA, 513-362-YMCA (9622) or tmiles@cincinnatiymca.org; or visit www.myy.org. VIP reception and registration will be 6 to 7 pm. with program beginning at 7 p.m.

With more than 83,000 members across the Tri-State, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati has grown to operate 111 program child care, CincyAfterSchool, and 21st Century Community Learning sites in addition to its 17 branches and summer camp locations. The Association is the largest non-governmental, non-profit community services organization in this area that is committed to helping everyone reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind, and body – regardless of their ability to pay. Each year tens of thousands of people from children to seniors are able to participate in YMCA programs and services because of financial assistance, including health and wellness, active older adult programs, youth and teen camp, swimming and water safety lessons , teen achievers, college readiness, and job preparedness. In 2007, nearly 10,000 kids participated with YMCA scholarships.

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