

For Immediate Release
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North Avondale Resident Co-Chairing YMCA Salute Gala

Glenda Cousins, vice president and manager of community development for U.S. Bank, is co-chairing the Salute to YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers Gala, which will be held November 20 at the Duke Energy Center.

Ms. Cousins was honored at the 1997 Salute Gala as a YMCA Black Achiever and currently serves on the board of the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati and the national board of the YMCA Black & Hispanic Achievers Program. She also serves on the boards for Talbert House, The Greater Cincinnati Micro-Enterprise Initiative. Additionally, Ms. Cousins is an alumnus of the African American Leadership Development Program (class XI), a YWCA 2002 Rising Star, and is a graduate of Project Blue Print. She is the head youth coordinator, and sits on the board of trustees at Christ Temple Baptist Church.

The Gala, which will recognize regional professionals of color for their career accomplishments and volunteerism, will be held November 20 at the Duke Energy Center. CSI NY star Hill Harper will be the featured speaker.

Honorees will demonstrate their commitment to giving back through their involvement as mentors in the YMCA Black & Hispanic Teen Achievers Program. Since its beginning That Program has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships, and engaged more than 3,400 adult volunteers through a network of corporate and community partners. The 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 2009 to 2010 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

About the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati: As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.