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**One of the Most Influential Voices in Social Change and Civil Rights
To Join the YMCA in Celebrating 30 Years of Engaging Minds
At 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 YMCA Salute to Black Achievers Gala.

The youngest daughter of Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 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.'

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the YMCA Salute to Black Achievers Gala has grown into one of the area's largest recognition programs bringing together impactful adults to inspire and encourage teens toward paths of success.

"We are thrilled to have Bernice as our featured speaker this year," said Toni Miles, YMCA Black Achievers executive director. "Her message and her actions are a perfect fit for what we are striving to accomplish through our program. Bernice shares a strong common interest with the YMCA and Salute to Black Achievers honorees in shaping positive character values among young people."

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.

The YMCA Black Achievers (teen) Program has served over 5,000 students, awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships and engaged more than 3,500 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 2007 to 2008 goal is to serve over 500 students in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky communities.

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.

The YMCA 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. With 60 locations, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is also the largest provider of child care programs, that in 2007, served nearly 10,000 kids on YMCA scholarships. The annual Strong Kids Campaign helps make that possible.

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