For Immediate Release
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World Renowned Artists Help YMCA Celebrate Area Professionals Committed To Helping Young People 'Be, Believe, Become' At Salute to YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Gala

On November 5, world renowned Puerto Rican pianist, composer and producer Adlan Cruz, and multiple Stella Award nominated gospel artist Shirley Murdock will join the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati in recognizing area professionals who are passionate about wanting to see young people succeed. Through music they and YMCA guests, will celebrate success stories, the kind of stories that come when positive adult role models inspire young minds to 'Be Believe Become' – the theme for the 2010 Salute to YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Gala. All 45 honorees at the Salute to YMCA Black & Latino Achievers have committed to volunteering for a year to help the YMCA prepare local students for college and beyond.

Cruz shares a common vision with the YMCA and its supporters, friends and volunteers of wanting to provide young people with environments where they will thrive. His philanthropic work is deeply rooted in the lives of Brazilian children. A tireless traveler, he has strengthened the self esteem of more than 200 children in his South American country by creating a foundation that teaches them academics and of course, music. During his latest visit to Buffalo, New York, Cruz touched the souls of children with disabilities. His Adlan Cruz Foundation provides support for a school in Brazil including offering financial assistance to kids in need. It also aides orphaned children in Congo and child victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. This past spring Cruz was recognized for his accomplishments with an honorary doctorate of humanities from the University InterAmerican of Puerto Rico.

An Ohio native, through her ministry Murdock has touched and been touched by those in need of inspirational guidance from difficult circumstances. She enjoys reaching out to young people and adults at home and around the country. Her message is simple...you need to love yourself more than life's negative influences because how you love yourself is the template for how you love others. In fact, Murdock's latest Stellar Award and Dove nominated project, SOULFOOD, includes the video for her single *I Love Me Better Than That*. It's a song used by Chicago's Battered Women Network to help women victims of domestic violence.

The Salute to YMCA Black & Latino Achievers Gala will begin at 6 p.m. at the Bank of Kentucky Center on Northern Kentucky University campus. Additional Gala information including honoree bios is online at www.myy.org. (Honoree bios will be posted mid October.) Cost is $100 per seat for the Gala or $125 for VIP and Gala. For more information or to make a reservation, the public can call 513-362-YMCA (9622), email tmiles@cincinnatiymca.org.

The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is one of the area's largest nonprofits focused on engaging individuals and families in youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. This year more than 125,000 people will come to the YMCA to learn, grow and thrive. Adult role models nurture positive values and life lessons in children through sports, summer camps, structured

child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families to be together, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The YMCA ensures these opportunities are available to everyone no matter their ability to pay with generous support from community partners and donors. Last year alone more than 27,000 families and individuals enjoyed happier and healthier lives thanks to the YMCAs vision of being accessible to all.

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