



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

**GOOD NEWS!
FROM THE VALLEY OF THE SUN YMCA**

***YMCA "Model United Nations" helps develop future leaders
5th Annual Model UN convenes on March 27, 2010***

PHOENIX, AZ: ---Since 2005 the Valley of the Sun YMCA, through their Community Initiatives YMCA, has provided an opportunity for middle-school students to participate in a social and educational program called the Model United Nations--where students learn about the basic structure and function of the United Nations, as well as other cultures around the world.

On Saturday, March 27th, over 50 students from all five participating schools will convene to hold an all-day General Assembly of the Arizona YMCA Model United Nations at ASU Mercado Center, Building C. The day will include a special guest speaker, roll call of member states, general debates about numerous global issues including "the right to education", "economic effects of drug trafficking", and "efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger". A Festival of Nations will display information that the students have gathered about their designated country and at the closing of the Assembly, awards and recognition will take place.

Each participating school is assigned to represent a different country. During the school year, students meet weekly to research their designated country and learn about its culture, customs, and issues. All students utilize teamwork, develop public speaking and leadership skills, and build awareness of global issues. It is the hope that through this program, students will develop a "social responsibility" to all nations and that this program will create future leaders that are globally sensitive.

Schools participating and their designated country in the 2010 YMCA Model United Nations are:

White Cliffs Middle School (Kingman) - *United Kingdom*
Christ Lutheran School (Phoenix) - *Germany*
Rhodes Junior High School (Mesa) - *Turkey*
Shepherd Junior High School (Mesa) - *Ireland and Czech Republic*
Crossroads School (Mesa) - *France*

The Valley of the Sun YMCA is proud to be a part of the growth and development of our future leaders.

The Community Initiatives YMCA is a strategic priority for youth development from the Valley of the Sun YMCA. This "branch without walls" operates youth development programming in YMCA service areas throughout Maricopa County and the State of Arizona. The youth development programs offered concentrate in four primary domains of service: High School Dropout Intervention, Work or College Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Youth delinquency prevention and intervention.

About the YMCA:

Over 2600 YMCAs serve 21 million people each year, including nearly 10 million children under the age of 18. YMCAs respond to critical social needs by drawing on their collective strength as one of America's largest not-for-profit community service organizations. Through a variety of programs and services focused on the holistic development of children and youth, family strengthening, and health and well being for all, YMCAs unite men, women and children of all ages, faiths, backgrounds, abilities and income levels. From urban areas to small towns, YMCAs have proudly served America's communities for nearly 160 years by building healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Visit valleyymca.org to find your local YMCA

**For more information about the YMCA Model United Nations ---
or to arrange for an interview with a Community Initiatives Representative for the Valley of the Sun YMCA,
please contact: Manda Hurdelbrink • 513.324.8610**