



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Tuesday, February 1, 2011

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

### **Y OFFERS UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUTH A HELPING HAND**

*PHOENIX, AZ:* --- The Valley of the Sun YMCA through their Community Initiatives provides an important career and education program that serves over 90 underprivileged teens and young adults in Greater Phoenix. **Workforce Development at the Y (WD)** helps young people, ages 14-21, get started in the right direction ---as well as empowers them to see beyond their circumstances.

"Our program does not tell participants what to do, but guides them on how to achieve their career and education goals," says Meghan McGilvra, Director of Workforce at the Y. "Susie was a 19 year-old single mother and a high school drop out before enrolling in the WD program. Now she has completed her GED, and is finishing her Phlebotomy certificate at Estrella Community College. Susie, like all of our participants, was eager and deserving and just needed a helping hand."

While in the program, participants have access to dynamic educational and vocational training resources, they acquire work-readiness skills, gain confidence, and have the opportunity to explore their own career interests.

**Workforce Development at the Y**, offered by YMCA Community Initiatives, is honored to be helping these youth achieve their dreams, and along the way create a stronger workforce for our community.

**For more information about Workforce Development at the Y --  
or to arrange for an interview with a  
Valley of the Sun YMCA Community Initiatives Representative,  
please contact: Manda Hurdelbrink • 513.324.8610 cell**



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*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 [valleymca.org](http://valleymca.org) to find your local YMCA.*

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