



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **UNITED WAY YOUNG LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD ANNOUNCED AT LEADERSHIP LIVE**

**TUCSON, AZ (March 4, 2010)** – The United Way Young Leaders Society (YLS) is pleased to announce that Josie Bayang and Dr. Jesus Bernal have been named co-recipients of the Young Leader of the Year Award. Presented at the 2010 Sunset Show Leadership LIVE on March 2, the Young Leader of the Year Award is the highest honor given by YLS to a young leader for extraordinary leadership and commitment to community service.

Bayang is an Integration Engineer with IBM. Considered among her peers as one of IBM's most accomplished young engineers, Bayang's time and energy spent outside of her work duties is equally as impressive. She has been IBM Tucson's K-12 Outreach Coordinator for two years, helping to reignite student interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). She has served for six years with the core team of EXITE, an intense science, engineering, math and technology camp that is offered annually to 30 junior high school girls. Bayang also helps build homes with Habitat for Humanity and serves as a Lay Eucharistic minister at her church.

"Josie is one of those very special people that make the world a better place for everyone they interact with," said Julie Wolfe Beadle, United Way Vice President of Resource Development. "Josie exemplifies the type of exceptional young talent we have in Tucson and she is well-deserving of this award."

"I am humbled and appreciative for being selected for this award," Bayang said. "I am very proud to be a part of YLS because the organization enables passionate, young professionals to come together and make a difference in the community," she added.

Dr. Bernal is a Chiropractic Physician with Bernal Chiropractic. His great passion is people, and he is dedicated to helping others succeed and to live healthier lives. He regularly serves as a community health educator and hosts a weekly health tip talk show on a Spanish radio station. He also donates his time and medical facilities to teaching job skills and training students at Apollo College and the Pima Medical Institute. Dr. Bernal also volunteers with United Way, Mulcahy YMCA, St. John's Evangelist Catholic Church and the Humane Society.

"Dr. Bernal is an incredible role model for citizen involvement in Tucson," Wolfe Beadle said. "His dedication and skills have improved the lives of so many in our community and helped build our youth for the future. His ability to bring people together is an ideal that we can all learn from," she added.

- Young Leader of the Year announcement continued... -

“Winning this award means a great deal to me, and I will strive to consistently re-earn the privilege of the recognition,” Dr. Bernal said. “I would like to use this award as a call to action for EVERYONE to Live United by finding a cause; a school, a church or a foundation where you feel helpful. One person can make a huge difference and that is where the Young Leaders Society shines brightly. I love being a part of this group,” he added.

The Young Leader of the Year Award was established in 2008 to recognize an individual who has emerged as a community leader and exemplifies the mission of United Way through a demonstrated commitment to volunteerism, philanthropy and leadership in the areas of **Education, Income and Health**.

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**About United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona**

*United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is working to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of **Education, Income and Health**. United Way is dedicated to creating long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant issues. Our focus areas include: helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people’s health. Living United means being a part of the change. **Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED**. For more information about United Way, please visit [unitedwaytucson.org](http://unitedwaytucson.org).*

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