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AmeriCorps Member From San Antonio Wins City Year Young Leader Award

**Lila Givens Recognized For Success With At-risk Students
In Program Sponsored By WellMed Charitable Foundation**

San Antonio, TX - Lila Givens, a 23-year-old City Year San Antonio AmeriCorps member, has won the City Year Eli J. Segal Bridge Builder of the Year Award.

The award, presented May 19 in Los Angeles, goes to the most outstanding City Year young leader of 2010. Givens was selected from among 1,500-plus City Year AmeriCorps members in the United States, London and South Africa. She was recognized for dramatic efforts to turn around academics, discipline and attendance among hundreds of at-risk 7th graders in the Southwest ISD.

Givens led a team of first-year City Year AmeriCorps members assigned to Christa McAuliffe Middle School in a school turnaround collaboration called Diplomas Now involving three non-profits - City Year, Communities In Schools and Talent Now.

Based on research by Johns Hopkins University, the local program is sponsored through a **\$50,000 grant** from the **Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust** in partnership with the **WellMed Charitable Foundation**.

Through Diplomas Now, Givens and her team dedicated a year of full-time service to work with nearly 900 students at McAuliffe Middle School, where 95 percent of the students are identified as at-risk for becoming dropouts.

With guidance from Givens and her team, problematic absentee rates were cut in half, discipline improved, and passing rates in math and English spiked more than 75 percent.

Also, the school met Federal and State Performance Improvement Targets for the first time in four years and will be removed from a "watch list" of poor-performing schools.

The award also recognized Givens' off-campus efforts to positively impact young people in the San Antonio community, such as designing and implementing a week-long overnight leadership camp in the Hill Country for nearly 200 middle school students.

The WellMed Charitable Foundation (www.wellmedgives.org) is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization that supports seniors and their caregivers in our community with special emphasis on wellness, prevention and living with chronic illness. Established in 2006 by Dr. George M. Rapier III, a noted geriatrician and Chairman of the Board, the Foundation has contributed more than \$3 million to the San Antonio community.