For Immediate Release  
Date October 8, 2012  
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YWCA Awarded a Three Year Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant

BIRMINGHAM, AL – The YWCA was recently awarded a three year Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant from the Department of Justice: Office of Violence Against Women. The LAV program is intended to increase the availability of legal assistance needed to effectively aid adult and youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking who are seeking relief in legal matters arising as a consequence of that abuse or violence.

The grant funds will be used to provide direct legal services to victims of domestic violence and to provide enhanced training for lawyers representing these victims. The objective of the LAV Grant Program is to develop innovative, collaborative projects that provide quality representation to victims.

LAV grant funds will allow the YWCA to hire two new attorneys to join the YW Family Law Center, a comprehensive, holistic, legal services system that serves victims of domestic violence in Jefferson, St. Clair and Blount counties. The YWCA is the area’s only certified provider of domestic violence services and is an established leader in court advocacy and legal services. The YW Family Law Center provides legal representation over a broad spectrum of legal issues that survivors encounter.

Victims who attempt to seek relief without an attorney are faced with a fragmented and confusing court system that is especially unfriendly to the victim trying to represent themselves. Providing them with comprehensive legal representation bolstered by an array of YWCA supportive services will help victims escape battering and live a life that is violence-free.

Without the option of a comprehensive response to their civil legal needs, many domestic violence victims return to their abusive environment. The Center’s attorneys work diligently to accomplish their goal of victim safety. Their training and knowledge allows them to relate to and address the specific and unique concerns of their clients, concerns that might be overlooked or misunderstood by lawyers unfamiliar with their client’s experiences and needs of victims of domestic violence.

About the YWCA

The YWCA Central Alabama is a United Way organization that is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. For over a century, the YWCA Central Alabama has been responding to the needs of women and families. The YW’s programs and services serve women and families by providing: affordable child care for families; child care and after-school enrichment programs for homeless children; affordable housing; a broad array of domestic violence services; and social justice programs.

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