

For Immediate Release

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Anytown Alabama Ends with Focus on Transformation and Inclusivity

BIRMINGHAM, AL., June 8, 2017 – More than 80 students from 35 high schools in the Greater Birmingham area are finishing up a life-changing week at **Anytown Alabama, a teen leadership summit** held at the Camp Hargis Retreat in Chelsea (928 Hargis Drive, Chelsea, AL 35043). The student delegates will spend **Friday, June 9, 2017** examining ways to translate their experience into action so they can help transform their schools and communities and make them more welcoming and inclusive for all.

Anytown Alabama is a week-long residential camp started by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) in 1989, and it is now the product of a partnership with the YWCA. Participants are diverse in terms of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and neighborhood, and the experience prepares them for life after high school, where cultural sensitivity and the ability to communicate with all types of people are crucial.

Friday's activities are designed to challenge delegates to consider how they are going to use what they have learned at Anytown to challenge oppression, be empowered, and to stand up for what they believe is right. They also will learn various ways to deal with conflict.

The media is invited to attend any of the sessions from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, June 9, or the closing ceremony, which will take place on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at YWCA Central Alabama (309 23rd Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203).

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the sessions, reporters will not be able to listen in or take video footage of some activities and small group conversations. However, individual interviews with staff and student delegates may be conducted during these times. Please check in with a co-director for guidance upon arrival.

About the YWCA

The YWCA Central Alabama is a United Way organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. To learn more, visit www.ywcabham.org.

About NCCJ of Alabama

NCCJ of Alabama, the National Conference for Community and Justice, was founded in 1932 and is dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism through advocacy, conflict resolution and education. Led by an all-volunteer board since 2010, NCCJ raises funds through its Brotherhood and Sisterhood Awards Dinner to support Anytown Alabama.