

**For Immediate Release**

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**Free Job Training Program Offered for Chronically Unemployed**

**Birmingham, AL, Nov. 18, 2016** – YWCA Central Alabama and Hope Inspired Ministries are joining forces to provide a **job training course** for adults who are low-skilled, poorly educated and chronically unemployed. The 11-week course will begin in January and **information sessions for potential students will be held Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 29, 2016 at 2 p.m.** at the YWCA's Family Resource Center in Woodlawn, 100 59th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35212.

The program is designed to help participants obtain and maintain employment. Each student will participate in more than 400 hours of training which includes life skills, employment skills, unpaid internships with local businesses and GED preparation. Classes will be held Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning Jan. 9, 2017.

“We take a holistic approach which has allowed us to be very successful with the population we serve, and it has changed and saved many lives since our inception in 2012,” said Kirk Ingram, Birmingham site director for Hope Inspired Ministries. Each program concludes with a cap and gown ceremony, and graduates share their stories about the impact the course has made.

“We are thrilled to help bring this program to the community,” said DeShunn Wilkerson, coordinator of the YW's Family Resource Center. “A lack of training and education is a major barrier for so many, and we think this course will help participants find a path to success and self-sufficiency.”

For more information about the program, visit [www.hopeinspiredministries.org](http://www.hopeinspiredministries.org) or call 205.949.5555.

The YWCA Central Alabama is a United Way organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA provides child development programs for children of homeless and working poor families; safe, affordable housing; a broad array of domestic violence services; and social justice programs.

Hope Inspired Ministries serves low-skilled, poorly educated, and chronically unemployed men and women by preparing them to obtain and maintain employment. We do so in a manner that develops individual worth, encourages personal responsibility, and promotes the value and honor of work. We introduce a way of life that promotes the development of the emotional, physical, and spiritual maturity in each student.