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Sullivan Named CEO of YWCA Central Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, AL., December 16, 2014 – The Board of Directors of the YWCA Central Alabama announced today that Yolanda Sullivan has been named CEO of the agency, effective immediately. Sullivan, a former Board president, has served as Interim CEO since January 2014.

Following a nationwide search, the YWCA Board of Directors unanimously chose Sullivan, who had a 30-year career with Vulcan Materials before taking the interim position, to lead the YWCA into the future. Sullivan follows longtime CEO Suzanne Durham, who retired in December 2013 after 34 years with the agency, which is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

“We were impressed with Yolanda’s passion, commitment, knowledge, honesty and consistency in fulfilling the YW’s mission,” said Board member Eleanor Griffin, who chaired the search committee. “We also applaud her ability to empower staff in daily operations yet have the vision to explore future growth opportunities for the YWCA.”

Sullivan, who worked in the areas of finance and corporate human resources at Vulcan, was no stranger to the YWCA. A volunteer with the agency for 20 years, she served as Board president during a successful \$15 million capital campaign. She also served as treasurer, vice president of finance and as president of the Junior Board.

“She was the perfect candidate for the job,” said Board president Kathryn Harbert. “She has the necessary skills to handle a large and complex agency with many different programs and areas of focus. More importantly, she has the heart for the hurting women, children and families we serve. We knew we were putting the YW in very capable hands when she was named Interim CEO, and she made the transition a seamless one for the leadership, staff and community partners.”

Sullivan, who is only the eighth executive director or CEO in the agency’s 111-year history, has long been a vital part of the community, as well. She serves on the board of The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and is a member of The Women’s Network and Zonta International. She has past service on the boards of United Way of Central Alabama, Birmingham Museum of Art, St. Vincent’s Health System and The Bell Center. She is a graduate of Leadership Birmingham, Leadership Alabama, Momentum and Project Corporate Leadership. Sullivan is an active member of St. Francis of Assisi, where she has held a number of leadership positions.

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 more than 111 years, the YWCA Central Alabama has been responding to the needs of women, children and families. The YW’s programs and services serve women, children 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. For more information, please visit www.ywcabham.org, www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama and www.youtube.com/ywcentralal or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.