

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2016

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YWCA's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® Event to Raise Awareness about Domestic Violence

BIRMINGHAM, AL., May 16, 2016 --- YWCA Central Alabama will host the third annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® event on **Thursday, May 19, 2016 at Railroad Park**. Men will slip on red high heels and take a walk through the park to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Participants will gather at the West Gate of the park, along 14th Street South, about 5 p.m. and the walk will begin at 5:45 p.m. Following the walk, the group will head to Regions Field for a Thirsty Thursday Barons game.

“Having men walk in women’s shoes is a lighthearted way to put the focus on a very serious topic,” said Ann Thomas, co-chair of the event. “It will definitely get people talking, and it’s a way to steer the conversation to the important issue of domestic violence.”

The numbers show why the need is critical. Last year, the YWCA received 2,740 calls to its 24-hour Crisis Hotline (205.322.4878) and served 212 adults and 209 children in two confidential shelters. Nearly 4,500 victims received court advocacy services. Nationally, three women die each day because of domestic violence, and 7 million children live in a home where intimate partner abuse has occurred.

“We want people to think about what it means to walk in a domestic violence victim’s shoes,” said Mary Elizabeth Roberson, Walk a Mile co-chair. “This event is eye-catching but eye-opening at the same time.”

Sponsors for the event include: Baptist Health System; [Belk, Inc.](#); [Metro Mechanical Services, Inc.](#); [Moore’s Marinade](#); [Resolute Running](#); [Shannon Waltchack, LLC](#); and Southern Medical Solutions LLC.

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 113 years, the YWCA Central Alabama has been responding to the needs of women, children and families by providing child development and after-school enrichment programs for homeless children, affordable housing, a broad array of domestic violence services, and social justice programs. For information, www.ywcabham.org, www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama and www.youtube.com/ywcentralal or follow [@YWCentralAL](https://twitter.com/YWCentralAL) on Twitter.