

For Immediate Release

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YWCA Central Alabama CEO Announces Retirement at End of the Year

BIRMINGHAM, AL, Nov. 27, 2018 – Yolanda Sullivan, CEO of YWCA Central Alabama, announced her retirement at the end of December at today’s board meeting. Sullivan served as interim CEO following the retirement of Suzanne Durham in 2014 and was named CEO in January 2015.

“Being the CEO of the YW has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my professional career,” said Sullivan. “There is an abundance of grace in this organization for its mission and the clients we serve day in and day out. However, having fought cancer in 2016, I have simply not been able to return to my previous energy level. The YW needs a vibrant leader and as much as I want to fulfill that role, my physical body is not letting me.”

Board President Maggie Brooke says they are forming a search committee to fill the role and plan to name an interim CEO as quickly as possible.

“It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors accepted Yolanda’s resignation at our meeting today,” said Brooke. “Yolanda has been one of the most passionate leaders in the organization’s history. She has been tireless in her pursuit of funding for new and expanded programs – even when facing her own health crisis. It will be hard to find a replacement, but we will begin that process immediately. In the coming weeks we will also name an interim CEO to help ease the transition for her departure on Dec. 31.”

Sullivan is the fourth CEO in the organization’s history. Mary Davis Stradley led the organization from 1914 to 1958, when Ethel Gibson became executive director for the next 21 years. In 1979, Suzanne Durham became CEO and led the organization for 35 years until 2014.

YWCA Central Alabama is a United Way agency 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 financially struggling families; safe, affordable housing; a broad array of domestic violence services; and social justice programs. For more information, please visit www.ywcabham.org, <http://www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama> and <http://www.youtube.com/ywcentralal> or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.

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