

For Immediate Release

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YWCA AmeriCorps Members Host Canned Goods and Coat Drive for MLK Day of Service

Birmingham, AL, Jan. 4, 2018 – YWCA Central Alabama’s AmeriCorps members are hosting a **Canned Goods and Coat Drive** to benefit clients of local nonprofits and to commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. **Donations will be accepted through Jan. 12, 2018 and may be dropped off between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the front desk at the YWCA, 309 23rd Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203.**

The collection, held in partnership with the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers’ AmeriCorps program, will honor Dr. King’s legacy and his concern for those living in poverty. Members have been collecting new and gently used coats, outerwear, canned goods and nonperishable items since December.

On January 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the group will sort the donated items at the YWCA and deliver them to five nonprofits that serve people in need. Following the deliveries, the members will gather in the YWCA’s Kimerling Chapel for lunch and a roundtable discussion on “The Role of AmeriCorps Service in the Dream of Dr. King.”

A national service initiative, AmeriCorps is similar to the Peace Corps but is for those desiring to commit to at least one year of service nationally, rather than internationally. Since the program’s founding in 1994, 1 million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.4 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

This year, men and women from Alabama and around the country have committed to a year of full-time capacity building and direct service benefitting the YWCA Central Alabama and its 16 nonprofit partner agencies in the metro-Birmingham area and Shelby, Blount and St. Clair counties.

For more information, contact Angela Abdur-Rasheed at 205-322-9922, ext. 206 or americorps@ywcabham.org.

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 working poor 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.