I recently had the privilege of hearing one of YWCA Central Alabama’s clients share how the agency helped save her. She was in an abusive relationship and was afraid for her life. She wasn’t sure what to do or where to go, but she knew she had to escape. A friend gave her some advice that changed everything. “Call the YWCA,” she said. “They will help you.”

The YW has been answering the call in our community since 1903, and the work we do is important. It’s both life-changing and lifesaving, and it wouldn’t be possible without your generosity and compassion. Because of you, our children get the best start possible in our nationally-accredited child development center. Hundreds of individuals and families living paycheck to paycheck have a safe, affordable place to call home. Domestic violence victims find the strength and resources they need to build new lives free from abuse, and middle and high school students learn to advocate for schools and communities that are inclusive and fair to all.

Our YW is fortunate to have the best staff, Board, Junior Board, volunteers and faithful supporters imaginable, and I have loved watching you make the magic happen as we continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community. More than 12,000 individuals turned to us for help in 2017, and we are grateful to you for sharing your time, talents and resources to help them rebuild their lives. I can’t think of a greater gift.

It has been a privilege to serve as Board president of this wonderful organization for the past three years, and I am thrilled to pass the torch to our new president, Maggie Brooke. Under her leadership, the YWCA will grow and thrive so that it can continue to be there for women, children and families in crisis.

Thank you for the very important role you play in making it happen.

Sincerely,

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YWCA Board President
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The YWCA’s Child Development Center* is nationally-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), an honor only 6 percent of centers in the country have earned.

KIDS Korner provides a safe, nurturing environment for children of homeless families to learn, play and grow. Calico Corner primarily serves children of working poor families.

The First Class Pre-K program** prepares students for “big school” so they are ready to learn and are on track academically, socially and emotionally with their peers.

The After-School Enrichment Program (ASEP) provides academic support for homeless children in grades K-8. The summer program offers field trips, academic instruction, swimming, arts and more.

In 2017, with your help, the YWCA:

- provided **14,605** days of care to **112** children ages 8 weeks to 5 years
- delivered **4,104** days of academic and enrichment activities to **83** school-age children
- distributed **4,512** toys and gifts to **564** children through Santa’s Workshop
- trained **10** single mothers as certified vision assistants and provided them with child care

“*Partnerships with JCCEO Head Start and Early Head Start
** Partnership with Alabama Department of Education’s Office of School Readiness

“*They taught her how to read, how to write her name, numbers, letters, shapes. She knew it all before going to kindergarten.”

— Katie, on the impact the YWCA’s Child Development Center had on her child.
The YWCA offers a variety of services to help domestic violence victims and their children escape abusive homes and become self-sufficient.

The YW has emergency shelters for victims and their children that serve Jefferson, St. Clair and Blount counties. The agency also operates a 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (205.322.4878) to assist callers with safety planning and other resources.

YW Court Advocates help victims navigate the court system while the Family Law Center provides comprehensive civil legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.

The Supervised Visitation and Exchange Center at the YWCA provides an emotionally and physically safe environment for children to visit with their noncustodial parents.

In 2017, with your help, the YWCA:

- provided 12,929 nights of shelter for 235 adults and 185 children and answered 1,764 crisis calls
- guided 3,883 victims through the courts and provided legal services to 410 survivors
- taught 2,410 students about healthy dating relationships and delivered domestic violence outreach and training to 3,825 individuals
- delivered safe visitation and exchange services to 192 men, women and children

“The YW helped me through a very hard time in my life. I’ve learned to believe in myself again.”
— Brittany, a domestic violence survivor
The YWCA provides safe, affordable housing units to individuals and families living paycheck to paycheck, including the elderly, disabled, homeless and other vulnerable populations.

The YW offers more than 150 affordable housing units, including permanent housing as well as transitional housing for women escaping abusive relationships. Interfaith Hospitality House allows homeless families to stay together during their time of crisis. The shelter in Woodlawn serves mothers with at least one teenage son, married couples with children, and single fathers with children. CREW (Creating Responsible, Educated Working teens) provides valuable summer work experience for teenagers and is housed in the YW’s Family Resource Center, which serves the Woodlawn community.

In 2017, with your help, the YWCA:

- provided 80,417 nights of safe, affordable housing to 307 low-income individuals
- delivered 7,106 nights of shelter to 20 homeless families, a total of 80 clients
- served 870 adults and children in the Woodlawn community through arts, education and healthy lifestyle programs
- distributed 376 food boxes to those in need

“The apartment I live in is better than a home. I think there is no other program better than the YWCA’s.”

— A resident of YWoodlawn
Empathy and awareness is the secret to breaking through prejudice.
— A 2017 Anytown Alabama delegate

The YWCA's social justice programs are designed to equip students and adults with the skills they need to stand up for what is right and to help make schools and communities more fair and inclusive for all.

Youth programs, including Anytown Alabama, Heritage Panel, and PEACE Birmingham, allow diverse groups to learn from each other and help participants become advocates for change.

The Building Communities, Bettering Lives AmeriCorps program** is a service initiative that increases the impact and reach of the YW and other local nonprofits.

The YWCA advocates for fair lending practices for all to help clients trapped in a cycle of debt from payday and title loans with exorbitant interest rates.

In 2017, with your help, the YWCA:

hosted 40 AmeriCorps members who contributed 65,746 service hours to the YWCA, our partner agencies and the community

equipped 607 youth and adults to break down barriers and build bridges through leadership and training programs

advocated for fair lending practices at events reaching more than 300 community members and policymakers

awarded 7,858 free clothing items to 497 people and provided 97 prom dresses to girls in need.

*Partnership with The National Conference for Community and Justice
** Partnership with the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services and the Corporation for National and Community Service

“Empathy and awareness is the secret to breaking through prejudice.”
— A 2017 Anytown Alabama delegate
sources
actual unaudited
$7,899,209

- United Way: 20%
- Contributions: 17%
- Special Events: 13%
- Grants: 35%
- Interest/Miscellaneous: 1%
- Program Service Fees: 14%
- Development: 10%
- Domestic Violence Services: 21%
- Management and General: 10%
- Building Services: 10%
- Interfaith Hospitality House: 5%
- Social Justice: 12%
- YW Homes: 5%
- After-School Enrichment Program: 3%
- Residency: 9%
- Child Development, Low-Income: 9%
- Child Development, Homeless: 6%
Thank you for investing in the lives of the women, children and families served by the YWCA. Listed below are gifts received in 2017. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy, but if we have inadvertently left your name out, please contact the YWCA’s development department at 205.322.9922.

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