

For Immediate Release
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YWCA Central Alabama Celebrates Annual AmeriCorps Week

BIRMINGHAM, AL., February 26, 2013 —YWCA Central Alabama will celebrate its annual AmeriCorps Week March 9-17, 2013. AmeriCorps members will partner with One Roof and other community agencies to participate in Project Homeless Connect on March 9, 2013, at the Boutwell Auditorium. During this time, members of Birmingham's homeless population will receive medical, mental, dental and vision care, free legal assistance, state ID and social security cards, food, clothing and many other services. AmeriCorps members will also be presented with a proclamation from Birmingham's Mayor William Bell on Tuesday, March 12, at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall recognizing AmeriCorps Week in the City of Birmingham. Lastly, the YWCA's "Building Communities, Bettering Lives" AmeriCorps program will host a special celebration featuring successful AmeriCorps alumni on Wednesday, March 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the YWCA's Ethel Gibson Room (309 23rd Street North).

AmeriCorps Week is a recruitment and recognition event designed to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible. The week provides an opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members in communities across the country and is used to recruit and motivate people to join the AmeriCorps program or to volunteer in their communities.

YWCA Central Alabama has 32 AmeriCorps members serving in areas supporting the homeless population, social justice initiatives, child care and after-school enrichment, girl's and women's leadership, domestic violence services, persons with disabilities, housing and economic development. Partnering agencies also hosting a YWCA AmeriCorps member include: AIDS Alabama, Children's Aid Society's Alabama Pre and Post Adoption Connection, Girls on the Run, Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama, Heart Gallery of Alabama, Hope Manifest, Leading Edge Institute, One Roof, Pathways, Railroad Park, REV Birmingham, Safehouse, Woodlawn United, Workshops Inc and YouthServe. YWCA AmeriCorps members devote 1,720 hours each year to serving these programs and volunteering with agencies benefitting the metro-Birmingham area. Members receive a living allowance during their service and an educational award at the end of service.

AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 85,000 Americans to give back in an intensive way to their communities and country each year. It consists of three main programs: AmeriCorps State and National, whose members serve with more than 1,840 national and local nonprofit and community groups; AmeriCorps VISTA, through which members serve full time fighting poverty; and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a team-based residential program for young adults 18-24 who carry out projects in public safety, the environment, youth development and disaster relief and preparedness.

The YWCA would like to extend its gratitude to the AmeriCorps members who continue to further the YW's vision of creating a more caring community and achieving positive changes in the lives of individuals and families whom we serve. For more information on the AmeriCorps program log on to www.ywcabham.org or email americorps@ywcabham.org.

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 110 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 every woman