

For Immediate Release
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Business and Professional Women's Suitcase Drive to Benefit Domestic Violence Victims

Birmingham, AL., Oct. 19, 2015 — Business and Professional Women (BPW) of Alabama recently hosted a suitcase drive to benefit domestic violence victims, many of whom must flee their abusive homes with their belongings in garbage bags. The group will deliver the suitcases, filled with personal items for the victims, to the YWCA Central Alabama, 309 23rd Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203, on **Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 3 p.m.**

The project was part of a statewide effort called "Suitcases for a Better Life," and BPW members from all over Alabama participated in the drive. Local churches, city leaders and businesses also supported the efforts. The suitcases will be filled with items like sheets, pillowcases, baby wipes, diapers and toiletries to help victims as they begin to rebuild their lives. The suitcases will be distributed to various domestic violence shelters across the state.

The state BPW chapters are located in Bessemer, Greater Birmingham, Haleyville, Pell City, Montgomery, Andalusia, Tuscaloosa and Jasper. The group has been involved with raising awareness about domestic violence and working to eliminate the crime since the mid-1990s.

"We are so grateful to be among the recipients of these suitcases," said Amanda Carmichael, assistant director of domestic violence services at the YWCA. "Many victims arrive in shelters with just the clothes on their backs, and it is so comforting for them to receive these suitcases and other necessary items. It makes a tremendous impact on them during their time of crisis."

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 112 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 more information, please visit www.ywcabham.org, www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama and www.youtube.com/ywcentralal or follow [@YWCentralAL](https://twitter.com/YWCentralAL) on Twitter.