

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Retired YWCA CEO Suzanne Durham Receives Woman of Vision Award**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL., February 26, 2014** --- Recently retired CEO of the Central Alabama YWCA Suzanne Durham will be honored with the "Woman of Vision" award at the Momentum Conference on February 26, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center.

Momentum addresses the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. Through skills-based training and mentoring, MOMENTUM helps build the capabilities of emerging Alabama women leaders by offering best practices for top-level managers. Momentum honors Durham for her outstanding leadership and contributions to the Birmingham community for over three decades. Momentum is an organization that seeks to empower a diverse group of promising women to develop leadership skills that, "positively impact business, culture and politics in Alabama."

Before retiring, Durham served as the CEO of the YWCA for 34 years. Durham joined the YWCA Central Alabama as Executive Director in 1979, when the organization was just a few months from foreclosure on its headquarters. Thanks to two capital campaigns raising over \$15 million, today the YWCA has renovated its main building and tremendously expanded over a dozen buildings, including housing and family resource facilities in Woodlawn. Under Durham's leadership, the YWCA's programs and grown exponentially to insure comprehensive domestic violence and housing services, a nationally accredited childcare service and successful social justice programs.

Because of her leadership skills and commitment to the Birmingham area, Durham has acquired numerous awards and recognitions honoring her service. Durham has twice been named by Birmingham News as "One of the 10 Most Influential People in Birmingham." In 2004, Birmingham Business Journal named her "Business Woman of the Year," being the first non-profit professional to receive the award. The University of Montevallo named her the Distinguished Alumna of 2013, and in 2013, she was named an inaugural "Women Who Make a Difference" by al.com/The Birmingham News/Birmingham Magazine/Red Mountain Theatre. Birmingham's Childcare Resources presented her with the Childcare Resources Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedicated efforts towards the wellbeing of children. Most recently Durham has been recognized by Birmingham Magazine as one of their "Leading Ladies."

#### **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 over 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 more information, please visit [www.ywcabham.org](http://www.ywcabham.org), [www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama](http://www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama) and [www.youtube.com/ywcentralal](http://www.youtube.com/ywcentralal) or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.

for every woman