

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Scottie Vickery  
Director of Communications  
C 205.910.7978 | P 205.322.9922 ext. 307  
svickery@ywcabham.org

**YWCA AmeriCorps Members to Collect Coats, Canned Goods for MLK Day of Service**

**Birmingham, AL, Jan. 10, 2017** – Members of YWCA Central Alabama’s “Building Communities, Bettering Lives” AmeriCorps program are **collecting canned goods and new and gently used coats** to mark the MLK Day of Service. The food and coats will be distributed to local nonprofits serving people in need. Those wishing to donate may drop items off at the YWCA, 309 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203, **by Jan. 16, 2017.**

In keeping with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s compassion and concern for those living in poverty, the YWCA’s AmeriCorps members are partnering with the Alabama Network of Family Resource Center’s AmeriCorps Program, a sister program, to host the Canned Foods and Coats Drive. The members began collecting items in December.

**The combined total of 60 AmeriCorps members will gather at the YWCA on Jan. 16, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sort and distribute the items.** After the items are shared with the five area nonprofit agencies, AmeriCorps members will gather in the YWCA's Kimerling Chapel for a light 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 benefiting the YWCA Central Alabama and its 18 nonprofit partner agencies in the metro-Birmingham area and Shelby, Blount and St. Clair counties.

For more information about the YWCA’s AmeriCorps program, contact Angela Moore at 205-322-9922, ext. 206 or [americorps@ywcabham.org](mailto:americorps@ywcabham.org).

The 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.ywcabham.org), <http://www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama> and <http://www.youtube.com/ywcentralal> or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.