

For Immediate Release
December 11, 2015
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***** The best time for photo and video opportunities is 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

YWCA to Host Annual Santa's Workshop for Homeless Families

Birmingham, AL, December 11, 2015 – The YWCA Central Alabama's annual Santa's Workshop will be Saturday, December 12, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the agency's downtown Birmingham location, 309 23rd Street North. This event brings the magic of the holidays to homeless families and families experiencing crisis. Parents have the opportunity to "shop" for free gifts for their children while the boys and girls create festive holiday crafts to give family members, teachers and other loved ones. The children also get the chance to meet Santa and have their pictures taken with him.

Santa's Workshop will be attended by about 500 homeless parents and children served by Salvation Army, Family Promise YWCA's Interfaith Hospitality House, YWCA's Transitional Housing, YWCA's Family Violence Center, First Light and Project Safe. More than 300 community volunteers are expected on Saturday, including several community groups and members of the YWCA Board and Junior Board. Donations for this unique holiday event have been collected from generous community groups and individuals, including TAP, Inc. and former University of Alabama football standout Marcell Dareus, who plays for the Buffalo Bills.

"Santa's Workshop provides a wonderful opportunity for families to experience the joy of giving when they might not otherwise have the chance," said Mary Jane Gibson, coordinator of volunteer services for the YWCA. "It is a special day that is made possible by hundreds of volunteers and donors who support Santa's Workshop and the very deserving families who participate. We are so grateful to them, our generous corporate sponsors and Belk for helping to make sure that parents and children in need have a truly joyous holiday."

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 on Twitter.

for every woman