

**For Immediate Release**

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**YWCA to Host Candlelight Vigil in Honor of Domestic Violence Victims**

PELL CITY, AL., September 30, 2015 --- The YWCA Central Alabama will host a Candlelight Vigil in memory of domestic violence victims from Alabama on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 6 p.m. Pell City Mayor Joe Funderburg will be among the speakers at the vigil, which will take place in front of City Hall.

“October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we want to honor these victims as we try to educate the public about this horrible crime,” said Courtney Cook, who serves as the YWCA’s community outreach specialist in St. Clair County. “Domestic violence does not discriminate. Even though no one goes into a relationship thinking she will be abused, it happens every day.

The statistics speak volumes:

- In one recent year, there were 661 cases in which domestic violence victims in St. Clair and Blount counties were assaulted or raped by someone claiming to love them.
- Nationally, four women lose their lives each day at the hands of an intimate partner.
- More women are injured by domestic violence than by automobile accidents, muggings or rapes by strangers combined.
- Nearly 1 in 10 children witness domestic violence, and boys who witness the crime are twice as likely to become abusers themselves.
- In 2014, 2,086 calls to the YWCA’s 24-hour Crisis Line were made.

The YWCA offers victims a broad array of domestic violence services, including Our Place, an emergency shelter in St. Clair County. The agency also offers legal assistance, court advocacy, support groups, and assistance with housing and employment. “Victims often think there is no way out, but help is available,” Cook said.

If you need help, call the YWCA’s 24-hour Crisis Hotline at (205) 322-4878 or the Statewide Crisis Hotline at 1-800-650-6522.

**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](http://www.ywcabham.org), [www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama](https://www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama) and [www.youtube.com/ywcentralal](https://www.youtube.com/ywcentralal) or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.