

For Immediate Release
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YWCA to Host Seventh Annual Purse & Passion St. Clair County Luncheon

BIRMINGHAM, AL., August 17, 2015 – The YWCA Central Alabama will host its Seventh Annual Purse & Passion St. Clair County Luncheon on August 20, 2015 at The Beacon at First United Methodist Church in Pell City, Alabama. The event, co-chaired by Blair and Cindy Goodgame, will raise funds to support Our Place, the YWCA's domestic violence shelter in St. Clair County that offers a broad array of domestic violence services to women and children in the area.

Victims of domestic violence who live in rural areas are often in isolated locations and have difficulty accessing services. Deterred by lack of transportation, distance or fear of an unknown city, they may be hesitant to travel to Birmingham to seek shelter from an abuser. Our Place, which is confidentially located, is the only domestic violence shelter certified by the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence that serves victims in St. Clair and Blount counties.

In 2014, Our Place provided emergency shelter to 79 women and children who were fleeing abusive homes. Shelter staff provided counseling and helped the victims make safety plans, obtain jobs or job training and work toward self-sufficiency. In addition, 1,252 domestic violence victims in St. Clair and Blount counties received assistance last year through the Court Advocacy program, which helps victims navigate the complicated legal system. Our Place also provided support groups for women and children affected by domestic violence and assisted rural victims in accessing social services and safe housing.

The YWCA would like to extend a special thank you to title sponsor Alabama Power and presenting sponsors Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC and Red Diamond. Other generous sponsors include: Benjamin Moore Paints; City of Pell City; First United Methodist Church; Publix Super Markets Charities; Metro Bank, WKW Erbsoleh North America; Chapel in the Pines; Logan Martin LakeFest, LLC; Mays Bend Ladies Club; Trinity Industries; St. Clair Times; The Daily Home; Hill, Hill & Gossett, P.C.; PNC; Landmark Credit Union; St. Vincent's Health System; US AmeriBank; First Baptist Church South; Kilgroe Funeral Home; Barnett Jones Wilson, LLC; Butts to Go; Kell Realty; Magnolias Gift Shop; Mary's Mini Warehouse; Town of Steele; Usrey Funeral Home; Women on Mission, Cropwell Baptist Church; Rhodes Agency – Allstate; The Elmer B. and Glenda S. Harris Legacy Endowment Fund; and Paul and Marie Manning. All proceeds will directly support the operation of Our Place and domestic violence services in St. Clair and Blount counties.

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, www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama and www.youtube.com/ywcentralal or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.