

For Immediate Release

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AMERICORPS MEMBERS COLLECT CANNED GOODS AND COATS TO COMMEMORATE MLK DAY OF SERVICE

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Members of the YWCA’s *Building Communities, Bettering Lives* and *Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers* AmeriCorps programs are collecting coats and canned goods for MLK Day of National Service. Items being accepted between now and January include: **coats/outwear, scarves, gloves, hats, canned goods, nonperishable food items, duffle bags, suitcases and backpacks**. Donated items can be given to any participating AmeriCorps member or dropped off at the YWCA’s AmeriCorps program at 309 23rd Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

On January 21 from 10 am-2 pm, the AmeriCorps members will gather at the YWCA to sort and distribute collected items to more than a half dozen agencies like YWCA My Sister’s Closet, Pathways, Urban Ministry, The Dannon Project and Firehouse Shelter.

“Each year AmeriCorps members start collecting items in December to share what has been donated with programs and agencies serving vulnerable populations. This annual effort is consistent with Dr. King’s strong care and concern for those living in poverty,” said AmeriCorps Director Angela Abdur-Rasheed. After the items are shared with the nonprofit agencies, AmeriCorps members will gather in the YWCA’s Kimerling Chapel for a light lunch and a MLK Day roundtable discussion on **The Role of AmeriCorps Service in the Dream of Dr. King**.

To make a donation of coats or canned goods or for more information about the YWCA’s AmeriCorps program contact Angela Abdur-Rasheed at 205-322-9922, ext. 206 or americorps@ywcabham.org.

About AmeriCorps

A national service initiative, AmeriCorps is akin to the Peace Corps and is for persons desiring to commit to at least one year of service nationally, rather than internationally. Since the programs 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 benefitting the YWCA Central Alabama and its 15 nonprofit partner agencies in the metro-Birmingham area and Shelby and St. Clair counties.

**YWCA IS ON
A MISSION**

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Central Alabama

About the YWCA

The YWCA Central Alabama is a United Way organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YW's programs and services serve women, children and families by providing: affordable childcare for families in need; 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/YWCACentral Alabama and www.youtube.com/ywcentralal or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.

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