



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **YWCA Central Alabama Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and AmeriCorps Week**

**Birmingham, AL**-- YWCA Central Alabama's AmeriCorps program will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and AmeriCorps Week March 10-16, 2019 to spotlight the outstanding service of its members and alumni since the program's inception in 2009. YWCA AmeriCorps members and alumni will be celebrated at a reception at the YWCA on **March 14 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** featuring Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin. The celebration lands in the center of AmeriCorps Week, the national time set aside to bring awareness of and recognition to those in National Service.

YWCA Central Alabama has 40 AmeriCorps members offering full-time direct service and capacity building in the metro-Birmingham area. "Since this year's program started in September our AmeriCorps members have served more than **10,000** individuals, to include more than **135** veterans and more than **3,300** disadvantaged children and youth," said AmeriCorps Director Angela Scott Abdur-Rasheed. Members receive a small monthly stipend and an education award for their one year of service. Many go on to productive careers in social services, education and the legal field with more than 65 having found careers within the YWCA and its nonprofit partner agencies at the end of their AmeriCorps service. Partnering nonprofits who host a YWCA AmeriCorps member include *One Roof, College Admissions Made Possible, Birmingham Education Foundation, Urban Ministry, Safehouse of Shelby County, AlaQuest, Heart Gallery of Alabama, Girls, Inc., Junior Achievement, Mothers' Milk Bank, Freshwater Land Trust, Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham, YMCA Northeast Branch, YouthServe and Woodlawn United Foundation.*

**About Building Communities, Bettering Lives AmeriCorps Program** is an award-winning program designed to harness the interests and talents of Americans with a passion for service, who will improve the programs and capacities of YWCA Central Alabama and its 15 partnering nonprofit agencies who host an AmeriCorps member through the program. *Building Communities, Bettering Lives* aims to improve the quality of life for central Alabamians through service in education, homelessness prevention and housing, youth empowerment, economic development, social justice initiatives, domestic violence services, healthy families, volunteer recruitment and management, and environmental stewardship.

**About 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 financially struggling families; safe, affordable housing; a broad array of domestic violence services; and social justice programs.

**About AmeriCorps Week** is a recruitment and recognition event designed to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible.

**For more information or to schedule a media interview, please contact Angela Abdur-Rasheed at 205-322-9922 ext. 206 or email [americorps@ywcabham.org](mailto:americorps@ywcabham.org).**

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