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YWCA of Richmond Joins The Rising

LOCAL YWCA JOINS GLOBAL CAMPAIGN - ONE BILLION RISING - TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

February 14, 2013 to be V-Day's Largest Day of Action Ever

(Richmond-VA) On February 14, 2013, the YWCA of Richmond will join with activists around the world for ONE BILLION RISING, the largest day of action in the history of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. The YW will join with other local activists and advocates from One Billion Rising RVA at the Richmond Coliseum from 11AM-2PM for a rally and events designed to celebrate women's empowerment and add to the voices calling for an end to global violence against women.

ONE BILLION RISING began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. On February 14, 2013, V-Day's 15th anniversary, the YWCA of Richmond will join activists, writers, thinkers, celebrities, and women and men across the world as we express their outrage, demand change, strike, dance, and RISE in defiance of the injustices women suffer, demanding an end at last to violence against women.

"The YWCA of Richmond has a long history of providing a voice for women in Richmond," said Chief Executive Officer, Linda Tissiere. "For more than 125 years we've been a proud advocate for women and children in our community. Over that time, our mission has changed to reflect changing needs and today we serve survivors of domestic and sexual violence through a number of programs." YWCA of Richmond programs include community counseling, emergency and transitional housing, hospital accompaniment, and case management for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. "Joining the call to action issued by One Billion Rising is an opportunity for us to share our local mission in the context of this global action to call attention to the crisis of violence against women. It is empowering to add our Richmond voices to the voices of women across the globe," Tissiere added.

Activities take place throughout the months of February and March and the YWCA of Richmond invites the community to join them on February 14 at 10AM at their downtown location, 6 North 5th Street, to create posters and a banner for a group march to the Coliseum at 11AM. "We invite our neighbors and fellow advocates to join us an hour before the rally begins at the Coliseum. We're just 5 blocks away and we will provide supplies to make a large banner and individual posters as well as light refreshments before marching to the Coliseum as a group," said Tissiere. To learn more about actions in Richmond, visit <http://onebillionrisingrva.wix.com/onebillionrisingrva>.

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About One Billion Rising

One in three women on the planet is raped or beaten in her lifetime. That is ONE BILLION WOMEN violated. One billion daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, lovers and friends. On 14th February 2013, V-Day's 15th Anniversary, we are inviting ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence. ONE BILLION RISING will move the earth, activating women and men to dance across every country. V-Day wants the world to see our collective strength, our numbers and our solidarity across borders. Join V-Day and ONE BILLION RISING today and SAY NO to violence against women and girls. To sign up and learn more, visit www.onebillionrising.org

About V-Day

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and other artistic works. In 2012, over 5,800 V-Day benefit events took place produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. To date, the V-Day movement has raised over \$90 million and educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns, reopened shelters, and funded over 14,000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq. Over 300 million people have seen a V-Day benefit event in their community. V-Day has received numerous acknowledgements including Worth Magazine's 100 Best Charities, Marie Claire Magazine's Top Ten Charities, one of the Top-Rated organizations on Philanthropedia/Guidestar and Great Nonprofits. V-Day's newest campaign is ONE BILLION RISING which will culminate on 021413 with a global action worldwide. www.vday.org

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