

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

NON-FAMILY DIRECTORS TO JOIN BLANK FOUNDATION BOARD FOR THE FIRST TIME

Atlanta, Georgia (January 15, 2016) – The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation today announced the appointment of four new Associate Directors to its Board of Directors, marking the first time since its founding in 1995 that non-family members have been invited to join the board. The appointments became effective on January 1, 2016.

Appointees include: Suzanne Apple, former senior vice president of private sector engagement at World Wildlife Fund-U.S.; Bill Bolling, founder of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Rosalind Brewer, president and CEO of Sam's Club; and Elise Eplan, principal of The Eplan Group.

"The time was right," stated Arthur M. Blank, chairman of the foundation. "The work of our foundation is growing, and we believe the combined talent, breadth of experience and demonstrated commitment to service of these individuals will elevate our current work and allow us to do even more."

Suzanne Apple most recently served as Senior Vice President of Private Sector Engagement at World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-U.S, where she led the work around responsible sourcing and sustainable business practices, corporate philanthropy and cause-related marketing. Prior to joining WWF, Apple served as vice president, community affairs and environmental programs for The Home Depot from January, 1992 until October, 2002, where she managed the company's community relations, charitable contributions and environmental commitments. Apple serves on the board of the Atlanta Girls School and is a trustee of the Hix and Bertha Green Foundation, her own family's foundation.

Bill Bolling is the founder of the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) and served as its executive director from 1979 through May of 2015. In this capacity he oversaw the distribution of millions of pounds of good but unmarketable food and grocery products each year through a network of more than 600 nonprofit partner organizations that feed the hungry, as well as other food banks throughout the southeast. Bolling has been honored numerous times for his work, including *2015 Dan Sweat Award* presented by Central Atlanta Progress, the *2015 Heroes, Saints and Legends Award* presented by the Foundation of Wesley Woods, the *2014 Award for Distinguished Service* presented by the Atlanta Business League, *Georgia Trend Magazine 2012 Georgian of the Year*, the *2009 Shining Light Award* presented by Atlanta Gas Light and News/Talk 750 WSB, and the *2009 Beacon of Light Award* presented by BoardWalk Consulting.

Rosalind Brewer became president and CEO of Sam's Club, a division of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Walmart), in 2012 after serving as Walmart's Southeast division and East division president. Before joining Walmart, Brewer worked for Kimberly-Clark Corp. for 22 years. She serves on the board of directors for Lockheed Martin Corporation, and serves as chair of the board of trustees for her alma mater, Spelman College.

As one of the founding directors in 1997, Elise Eplan helped the Blank family served as Vice President for Special Initiatives until 2009, when she became the principal in The Eplan Group, a firm that advises philanthropic organizations. A fifth generation Atlantan, Eplan is an active volunteer. She served as the Founding President of Hands On Atlanta and President of the Atlanta chapter of The American Jewish Committee.

"We are thrilled that these four amazing individuals have agreed to serve on our board," said Foundation President Penelope McPhee. "Their passion for and deep engagement in our community will bring important new perspectives to the Foundation's work."

About The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Formed in 1995, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation promotes innovative solutions to transform the lives of youth and their families, seeking results that move communities beyond what seems possible today.

The Foundation invests in early childhood development, education, green space and the arts, and leads giving programs for each of the Blank Family of Businesses, including the Atlanta Falcons, PGA TOUR Superstore, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and MLS Atlanta. Mr. Blank, chairman of the foundation, co-founded The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, in 1978 and retired from the company as co-chairman in 2001. Through the foundation and his family's personal giving, Mr. Blank has granted nearly \$300 million to various charitable organizations.

For more information about The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, visit www.blankfoundation.org or follow us on Twitter at @blankfoundation.

Media Contact: **The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation**
 Alison Sawyer
 asawyer@ambfo.com