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**YWCA Honors 11 of Atlanta's Most Prominent Female Leaders at the
23rd Annual Salute to Women of Achievement Luncheon**

*Stephanie Blank, Trustee of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, is chosen as
the 2006 Woman of Achievement.*

ATLANTA (May 1, 2006) — The YWCA of Greater Atlanta has announced this year's inductees into the Academy of Women Achievers and Stephanie Blank, Trustee of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, as the 2006 Woman of Achievement. All of the 11 women will be honored at the Salute to Women of Achievement Luncheon and Benefit on May 17th, at the Georgia World Congress Center.

For the past 23 years, the YWCA has recognized Atlanta's premier female role models through the Academy of Women Achievers, which is the first major program to formally acknowledge the professional and civic accomplishments of Atlanta's women. Each year the honorees are nominated by their peers into the Academy and celebrated at the annual Salute to Women of Achievement Luncheon in May. Members of the Academy and former Women of Achievement include Jane Fonda, Coretta Scott King, Mayor Shirley Franklin, Monica Kaufman, Gladys Knight and Rosalynn Carter.

This year, more than 1,200 distinguished corporate and civic leaders are expected to pay tribute to the phenomenal women who embody the organization's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Blank is recognized in the Atlanta community for her philanthropic and community-oriented endeavors. In addition to serving as a trustee of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, she is an advocate for children and serves as a board member of Camp Sunshine, a board member of The Emory University Board of Visitors and an advisory board member of the Atlanta Outward Bound Center. She has also served on the boards or committees of the Woodruff Arts Center, the Atlanta Symphony Center, the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta and was a member of the Tourism Task Force of the Governor's Commission for A New Georgia. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation Board of Trustees and the Atlanta Falcons Women's Association. In 2000, Blank and her husband Arthur were named as the Georgia Philanthropists of the Year by the National Society of Fundraising Executives and in 2001, they were joint recipients of The Abe Goldstein Human Relations Award from The Anti-Defamation League.

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In addition to highlighting Blank, the YWCA will also honor the accomplishments of the 10 newest inductees into the Academy at this year's luncheon. The 2006 Academy boasts some of the most influential and accomplished women in a variety of industries including healthcare, social services, government law and Information Technology.

Other members of the 2006 Academy are:

Claire Arnold, Founder and CEO, Leapfrog Services
Leona Barr-Davenport, President and CEO, Atlanta Business League
Carol Hunstein, Presiding Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
Elizabeth Omilami, ED, Hosea Feed the Hungry
Melanie Platt, SVP Human Resources, AGL Resources
Anne Quantro, Chef and Owner, Bacchanalia Restaurant
Judy Tabb, Partner, Carr Tabb and Pope LLP
Dr. Beverly Tatum, President, Spelman College
Marvonia Walker, Regional Vice President, WW Grainger
Evonne Yancey, Director of Government and Community Affairs, Kaiser Permanente

"We are so pleased to be able to recognize such a dynamic group of women this year," said Justine Boyd, CEO of the YWCA of Greater Atlanta. "It is our mission to empower all women in Atlanta, and the Academy and Salute event are just two of the ways that we bring attention to the very significant things women accomplish every day."

For more information about the Salute luncheon or the Academy of Women Achievers, visit www.ywcaatlanta.org, call 404.527.7575 extension 105 or email salute@ywcaatlanta.org.

Founded in 1902, the YWCA of Greater Atlanta is a membership movement whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. We fulfill our mission with programs that empower Atlanta's women and girls through education, advocacy and unity. Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together people who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. For more information on the YWCA strategic vision and community involvement, please contact us at 404.527.7575 or visit www.ywcaatlanta.org.

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