



THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

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Soccer in the Streets Receives \$75,000 Grant from The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Grant to Help Create the First Youth Soccer League in Atlanta's Historic Westside Neighborhoods

ATLANTA, August 26, 2014 - Soccer in the Streets is proud to announce a three-year \$75,000 grant received by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in conjunction with the new MLS Atlanta franchise. The grant will help launch a new youth soccer program in Atlanta's Historic Westside Neighborhoods, serving youth in Vine City, English Avenue and Castleberry Hill.

"It is an honor for Soccer in the Streets to partner with The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation on this program," said board chairman Richard Rushton. "We hope to have a strong, positive impact on the lives of the children who participate and on the Westside community as a whole."

Programming will operate out of the John Hope Community Center and include youth league practice and game play, weekly pick-up games for kids and adults, referee training, enrichment activities off the field, and employment opportunities for local teenagers.

"Soccer in the Streets is playing a central role in providing young people living in Atlanta's Historic Westside neighborhoods the opportunity to play the game of soccer while learning life skills," stated John Bare, Vice President – Programs of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. "We are thankful for the work that they do, and we're excited about growing the game of soccer in metro Atlanta."

Atlanta will be home to the 22nd Major League Soccer franchise which will begin play in 2017. More information can be found by visiting www.mlstatlanta2017.com.

"We are ecstatic to have the support of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and Soccer in the Streets as integral partners in our continued focus on health and wellness in underserved communities," said HJ Russell & Company Resident Service Coordinator William Oliver. "Soccer is the fastest growing sport in

the United States and we are happy to be able to expose children of all backgrounds to the beautiful game.

Families interested in signing up for the league can visit the John Hope Community Center during regular business hours or contact Soccer in the Streets directly at 1-888-436-5833. For more information on Soccer in the Streets, visit www.soccerstreets.org.

About Soccer in the Streets

Soccer in the Streets is a leader in the field of sports-based youth development and is a member of the FIFA Football for Hope program and a network board member of streetfootballworld. Its mission is to empower underserved youth through soccer, character development, mentoring, and employability programs.

About The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Formed in 1995, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation promotes innovative solutions to improve 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 more than \$300 million to various charitable organizations.

For more information, visit www.blankfoundation.org or follow us on twitter at @BlankFoundation.