THE ARTHUR M. BLANK
FAMILY FOUNDATION

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THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION HIRES U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY VETERAN AS QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAM OFFICER

ATLANTA, GA (Thursday, October 2, 2014) ----- The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation announced today that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Special Assistant to the Deputy Regional Administrator Suganthi Simon has been named Program Officer – Quality of Life for the organization. Beginning on October 20, Simon will implement grant making programs and public-service projects that build community and enhance quality of life in Atlanta and beyond.

"Throughout her career, Suganthi has developed visionary approaches that promote positive change in people's lives and build and enhance the communities in which they live," said John Bare, Vice President – Programs of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. "Her attention to the needs of local residents and her creativity align perfectly with our mission, and we are grateful for her leadership on the arts, parks, youth fitness and public service."

Simon joins The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation from the EPA where she was Special Assistant to the Deputy Regional Administrator, preparing policy briefs for a variety of audiences, executing the annual "Collegiate Sports Sustainability Summit" and participating as a member of the White House Council on "Strong Cities, Strong Communities."

Prior to her most recent post as Special Assistant, Simon served in various roles with the EPA since 2000, including Pollution Prevention & Sustainability Coordinator, where she was responsible for managing Federal grants to states and non-profit institutions and initiating community roundtables to address long-standing issues. Simon also served on the 2013 NCAA Final Four™ Atlanta Sustainability Executive Team where she helped develop sustainability procurement specifications for future NCAA bids.

Simon earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Wellesley College in 1997 and received her master's degree in Industrial Environmental Management from Yale University in 1999.

"It is a privilege to become a member of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation team," said Simon. "I look forward to the opportunity to work with communities on innovative solutions that enable young people and families to achieve results beyond what seems possible today."

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.