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Billye Suber Aaron - Community Activist and Educator - Honored as YWCA of Greater Atlanta's 2016 Woman of Achievement

Atlanta, GA, May 10, 2016 – Each year at the signature fundraiser, *Salute to Women of Achievement*, YWCA of Greater Atlanta honors a dynamic woman in Georgia whose leadership and civic work embodies our mission to eliminate racism and empower women. This year's theme, "Propelling Our Foundation Forward," illustrated the long-term impact of YWCA programs on those we serve and exemplified the work of the 2016 Woman of Achievement, [Mrs. Billye Suber Aaron](#).

An educator at heart, Mrs. Aaron enjoyed an 11-year career at Spelman, Morehouse, and South Carolina State Colleges and also founded the Mayor's MASKED Ball at UNCF (United Negro College Fund) – one of the organization's longest running and highest grossing projects. Mrs. Aaron and her husband, Hank Aaron, also established the philanthropic trust, the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation, and support various initiatives that assist African American and other minority students. Last year, the Morehouse School of Medicine broke ground for the Billye Suber Aaron Pavilion.

"It is vital, as leaders in our community, to collaborate our efforts in order to truly make a difference," said YWCA of Greater Atlanta CEO Sharmen Gowens. "The YWCA of Greater Atlanta is sincerely honored and thankful for Mrs. Billye Suber Aaron and this year's inductees for their commitment to the betterment of women and girls."

In addition to recognizing Mrs. Aaron at *Salute*, the YWCA inducted ten distinguished Atlanta leaders into the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers. These women are making a difference for women and girls in the areas of education & economic empowerment, health & safety, and advocacy and social justice. This year's inductees included:

- [Qaadirah Abdur-Rahim](#), CEO, *Future Foundation*
- [Liz Blake](#), (Retired) SVP Advocacy, Government Affairs & General Counsel, *Habitat for Humanity International*
- [Shan Cooper](#), Chief Supply Chain & Technology Officer, *WestRock Company*
- [Sandra Deal](#), *First Lady of Georgia*
- [Francesca Gary](#), CEO/President, *Amerigroup Georgia*
- [Lila Hertz](#), Community Activist
- [Meredith Leapley](#), President & Founder, *Leapley Construction*
- [Julie Miller-Phipps](#), President, *Kaiser Permanente of Georgia*
- [Sarah-Elizabeth Reed](#), *First Lady of Atlanta*
- [Julie Seitz](#), Global Director, Workplace Strategy & Operations, *The Coca-Cola Company*

Past honorees have included Carol Tomé, Stephanie Blank, The Honorable Shirley Franklin, Mary Brock, Rep. Stacey Abrams, and Lisa Borders, to name a few.

The 33rd annual *Salute to Women of Achievement* luncheon took place today, **Monday, May 9** at the **Atlanta Marriott Marquis**. Delta Air Lines and Kaiser Permanente were the top sponsors for the event, and all proceeds went to support YWCA programs and initiatives.



About YWCA of Greater Atlanta: YWCA of Greater Atlanta is a stalwart nonprofit leader in advocating for issues that impact women, girls, and families across the city. Located at 957 North Highland Ave., NE, our mission to eliminate racism and empower women is fulfilled through direct services, educational programs, and public policy initiatives. For more information, visit our website: www.ywcaatlanta.org.

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