

So You want to be a Billionaire??!!??

Well Who doesn't??!!?? But, honestly? This is a pretty exclusive club. Accumulating that kind of wealth is a very rare occurrence. But, according to Forbes Magazine, our fair state of Georgia boasts 17 of them! And, while some of these folks are pretty well known, it is kind of fun to go through the list just to see who made the cut.

Let's start with the co-founders of The Home Depot, **Bernie Marcus** and **Arthur Blank**. Both have philanthropic foundations where they donate significant amounts of money for charitable causes. And, of course, Blank is equally well-known for being the owner of our Atlanta Falcons.



The late Truett Cathy founded Chick-fil-a and his vision and business lives on through his children, **Dan Cathy, Bubba Cathy and Trudy Cathy White**, all billionaires!!

Of course, who could forget **Ted Turner** and his contribution to not only television with his founding of CNN in 1975, but, also, to the Atlanta Braves and the Atlanta Hawks, both of whom he owned at one time!



David Zalik, who emigrated to the U.S. from Israel at the age of four, founded an Atlanta-based financial technology company called GreenSky, which was sold to Goldman Sachs in 2022 for \$2.2 billion! Zalik still sits at the helm of his brain-child.



And, if you've ever used "Calendly" scheduling software, you may be interested to know that its founder, **Tope Awotona**, who was born in Nigeria, started this company and still runs it in Atlanta! Currently, Calendly, which is universally acknowledged as the "Cadillac" of scheduling software, does more than \$30 million in annual sales! Not too bad!



In 2012 **Sara Blakely** became the youngest self-made billionaire in U.S. history with the invention, in her Dunwoody garage, of Spanx, shapewear for women, apparently LOTS and LOTS of women!!!

Rachel Cowan

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newest team member, Rachel Cowan! Rachel, who was born in Fayetteville, joined us in the Fall of 2023, and came to us in a very curious way. She and Renee were actually thrown together when they were both called for Jury Duty at the same time. They struck up a very nice conversation and Renee really liked her and thought she would be an excellent addition to our staff. She asked Rachel to come in and interview with both Renee and me and I was equally impressed with her background, skill set and her friendly and outgoing personality! We both agreed that she would be a great “fit” and offered her a position. Rachel will be providing client service support and learning all of the paperwork responsibilities, which are many!

For those of you who are local to Peachtree City, Rachel graduated from Starr’s Mill High School and began working with Southern Community Bank, where she assisted in loan processing, loan operations and special assets. That is, until the bank was shut down by the FDIC! United Community Bank bought the



assets of the now defunct Southern Community Bank and Rachel went to work for them, eventually moving to Homebridge Financial Services in Peachtree City, where she assumed more of a “Human Resources” role. In September of 2020 she moved to the Weissman Law Firm in Peachtree City where she became an assistant Paralegal, picking up an entirely new set of skills.

Eventually, she went back into the world of loans, taking up residence at Prosperity Home Mortgage in Fayetteville, where she worked as a Sales Coordinator helping to make certain that real estate closings went smoothly and according to plan!

And, now she’s here with our crazy crew!!

In Rachel’s world there is no one more important than her 16 year old son, Colton, who happens to be an accomplished football and lacrosse player! In her free time she enjoys reading, romance novels mostly, but honestly, with Colton’s busy sports schedule, she doesn’t have a ton of “free time”!!

And, during the week, we all get to enjoy her smiling face and bubbly personality. And, I know that when you have a chance to meet her you will see why Renee and I are so happy that we have been able to add her to the team. Rachel is also a Notary Public, which is great for our clients, because it gives us one additional person in the practice who can notarize your important documents . . . At no cost to you!

So, welcome Rachel . . . We hope that you have a wonderful and LONG career with Dunlap & Associates!

Ray

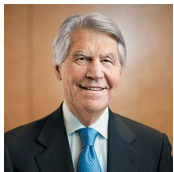
**“I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford.
Then I want to move in with them.”**

—Phyllis Diller



Billionaires *(Continued from Page 1)*

And, one of the richest entertainers in the world runs his media empire from right here in Atlanta, and that is **Tyler Perry**, who owns not only his own studio, but a good chunk of the BET network as well.



Next up on the list is **John Brown**, who ran Stryker Corporation, a medical device and software company. And, even though he stepped down as CEO of the Michigan based company, he has retired to Georgia and still owns 5% of the company which is worth over \$1 billion!

Gary Rollins is a pest control legend. He was Chairman of the Board at Orkin for decades and now chairs Rollins Pest Control right here in Atlanta! And both companies have been wildly successful!



Ben Chestnut and **Dan Kurzius**, both of Atlanta, launched the very popular software company, Mailchimp, back in 2001 and have reaped in massive profits over the past quarter century, qualifying them to make this prestigious list!

Joe Rogers succeeded his father, Raj Sardana, who founded Waffle House in Avondale estates in 1955. Rogers ran the company from 1973 to 2012. Today there are 1,991 restaurants located in 25 different states! Since he left the helm of the iconic breakfast chain, Rogers has run a very successful Information Technology company called Innova Solutions in Duluth, Georgia.



Finally, Jim Kennedy finishes this list of Georgia billionaires. Cox joined media conglomerate Cox Enterprises in 1972 eventually rising through the ranks to become their current Chairman of the Board! Not surprisingly, he has a net worth today north of \$6.7 billion!

And what about me? Well, I just barely missed making this list . . . by pretty close to a billion dollars! But, I'm trying to remain optimistic, because you never know when your PowerBall numbers might just come in!!!! Always keep the faith!!!

Ray



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