Jacksonville, FL – February 29, 2024 – The C. Herman & Mary Virginia Terry Foundation, now known as the Terry Family Foundation, has named Betsy C. Cox, niece of Herman and Mary Virginia Terry and a local attorney, as president of the 40+ year old family foundation in anticipation of an increased philanthropic presence in the near future. Kathleen S. Shaw, a veteran grantmaker with deep experience in Northeast Florida, has been named executive vice president of the Terry Family Foundation and will lead the anticipated expansion of grantmaking when she joins the Foundation on March 25, 2024.

Herman Terry died in 1998 and Mary Virginia Terry died in 2022, having made the Terry Family Foundation the primary beneficiary of their substantial estate. The addition of those assets has exponentially expanded the Terry Family Foundation’s capacity for grantmaking, and it is now poised to be one of the area’s largest private funders, thanks to their charitable bequest.

“My aunt and uncle’s shared passion for helping others during their lifetime will be greatly amplified by the generosity of their estate,” noted Foundation President Betsy Cox. “We anticipate spending the next several months in thoughtful reflection to plan the Terry Family Foundation’s expanded mission, and we will provide greater clarity once we complete that process.”

During their lifetimes, the Terry’s made milestone gifts to numerous organizations supporting the arts, higher education, children’s causes, and health care, primarily in Northeast Florida but also at the University of Georgia, Herman Terry’s alma mater, and Valdosta State University, Mary Virginia Terry’s alma mater.

“The opportunity to continue my aunt and uncle’s legacy of giving is exciting, and we are particularly pleased to bring Kathleen Shaw to our organization to guide us on this journey,” Cox continued. “She will be responsible for the Foundation’s grantmaking programs and collaborating with other funders, grantees and an array of other partners.”

Kathleen Shaw will join the Terry Family Foundation following more than 20 years at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, most recently as Senior Vice President, Programs
and Initiatives. In more than 25 years working in the local nonprofit community, Kathleen built many successful grantmaking initiatives across a broad array of fields. She has led teams of professional grantmakers in the deployment of millions of philanthropic dollars on behalf of some of our communities’ largest donors, and she shares her expertise with other grantmaking professionals and philanthropists locally, regionally and nationally.

Betsy Cox is also a trustee of the Terry Family Foundation. Other Foundation trustees include Kathleen H. Cold and Sandra M. Corbett.

About C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry
Herman and Mary Virginia grew up in Quitman, Georgia. Mary Virginia graduated from Valdosta State University and Herman graduated from the University of Georgia. Soon after their marriage in 1941, they moved to Jacksonville, FL where Herman pursued his career in finance and insurance, ultimately serving as President and Chairman of the Dependable Insurance Group. They embraced their new home and gave generously to the community in ways both small and large, including the Terry Heart Institute at Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Ascension St. Vincent’s Terry Cancer Center, the Women and Infants Pavilion at St Vincent’s Southside, the Terry Family Campus at Ronald McDonald House, the Terry Theatre at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, the Terry Concert Hall at Jacksonville University, the Ortega Life Center at Ortega Methodist Church, the Museum of Science & History, the Jacksonville Symphony, the Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens, and the University of North Florida, among others. They were devoted supporters of the University of Georgia, and UGA’s business school was officially named the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry College of Business in 1991. Herman Terry died in 1998, and Mary Virginia Terry died in October of 2022.

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Betsy C. Cox, President
Kathleen S. Shaw, Executive Vice President (as of 3/25/2024)