Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award

Ten years ago, the Community Foundation established the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award to honor local philanthropists who provide outstanding leadership or make significant charitable contributions to benefit Henderson County. The Community Foundation accepts nominations from the community, before reviewing and selecting a deserving recipient. The 2003 recipient is Frank Ryd.

Frank first came to Henderson County as a counselor at Camp Mondamin in 1961. In 1978, he joined the staff of Blue Ridge Community College, eventually becoming Director of Counseling Services. He is currently Dean of Students at BRCCC, known for his open door, helpful advice, and dedication to students.

Frank has committed a lifetime of involvement to charitable activities for community organizations. In 1999, he co-chaired the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation’s annual campus fund drive to raise money for student scholarships. More than $19,000 was raised, a record amount of contributions at that time. He chaired SSEACO’s local building fund drive to raise $100,000 for the agency, which allowed SSEACO to move to its current location.

He’s the founder and organizer of the “Carpenter’s Club” at St. James Episcopal Church. This group of 40 parishioners do construction work every week for the Housing Assistance Corporation, an invaluable service to those in need. Frank has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club since 1978, and he also serves on the Boards of the Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra, African Medical Mission, and Alliance for Human Services. In the past, Frank has provided leadership as a Board member to several agencies, including the United Way, the Community Cultural Arts Center Committee, Western North Carolina Public Radio, and the Parents Assistance League.

He chaired the Community Foundation’s Scholarship Committee, and through his leadership the Community Foundation developed a generic application currently used by not only the Foundation, but other groups in our community.

Frank has been recognized for his dedication to the community with numerous awards, including the Governor’s Volunteer Award, Blue Ridge Community College’s Community Service Award, Kiwanis Club of Hendersonville’s Spiritual Aims Award, Civilian Citizen of the Year, and as a semi-finalist for the Asheville Citizen-Times’ Western North Carolina Citizen of the Year.

Frank is truly making a difference in Henderson County. In his honor, the Community Foundation will award a $1,500 grant to Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation for scholarships.

Book of Memory

Anyone can make a gift to the Community Foundation in memory of a cherished family member or friend. The Community Foundation places all of the names in a permanent “Book of Memory,” which is on display in our office. The following names were placed in the Book of Memory in 2002-2003:

- Anna Kathryn Justiss Albright
- H. H. Blankenship
- Mary Bristow
- Irene Moe Donald
- Gayle Drew
- Katherine Eidney
- Kenneth Eidney
- Ann Fletcher
- Robert Freeman
- Daniel C. Gibson
- Eleanor Gould
- James J. Gragg
- Dixie Graham
- Joe T. Hunt
- Ralph Jones
- Francis A. “Strip” Kingsby
- George W. LeMert
- Peggy Lovvorn
- Dr. Ray L. Lovvorn
- Virginia Lovvorn
- Glenn Mathis
- Lillian Mayes
- J. Andrew McBride
- Charles T. McLeod
- Lucille M. Means
- Robert G. Miller
- Gustave Moesnessen
- Kathy L. Mortl
- Ruth H. Mullins
- Hoyte Murphy
- Wiltie Ogil
- Cathy O'Gorrel
- Paul and Betty Parsons
- Herman Popkin
- Hugh D. Ramsey
- Hal Ratner
- Wallace D. Rotheeck
- Kristen Sue Shapley
- Bob Storey
- Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Willie
- Lillian C. Williams
- Sally Cabe Wilson
- Fred Young

Celebrating 20 Years

Donor George Phillips established an endowment as a challenge to the Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra to raise additional funds for the guest artists’ chair. Symphony supporters responded to his challenge, adding more than $26,000 in contributions to this fund to benefit the symphony forever.

In 2002, the Community Foundation launched the “Endowment Challenge” to inspire local non-profit organizations to secure their future by establishing or adding to an existing endowment fund with the Community Foundation. Within a year, Blue Ridge Community Health Services Foundation, Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Interfaith Assistance Ministry and Mainstay had all established new endowments, and the Community Foundation added $5,000 to each of these new funds.

A Community Foundation grant provided start-up support to the Volunteer Medical Resource Center, whose mission is to provide medical triage, limited treatment, referral, and case management to low-income residents who cannot afford healthcare. This grant was made possible by the Charles and Eleanor Meloun Charitable Fund.