

# Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award

2003 Recipient: Frank Byrd

**T**en 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 Byrd.



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 BRCC, 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 \$150,000 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, Civitan 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.