The Community Foundation established the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award in 1993 to honor local philanthropists who make significant charitable contributions and provide outstanding leadership to benefit Henderson County. The Community Foundation accepts nominations from the community, before reviewing and selecting a recipient. The 2002 recipients are Tom and Sue Fazio, shown above (far right) with their children.

The Fazio name is synonymous with award-winning golf course designs. Tom Fazio has been designing golf courses for 35 years and is considered the best in the industry.

In addition to golf, the Fazios are also passionate about giving back to their community. The Fazios founded the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County in 1993 and have worked tirelessly on its Board of Directors since then. They have been instrumental in grant writing and fundraising for nearly $1 million for club facilities, as well as over $250,000 in endowment funds for the club at the Community Foundation. Tom serves on the National Board for Boys and Girls Club of America in the Southeast region, while Sue has served on many local non-profit Boards including the United Way, Children and Family Resource Center, and Blue Ridge Community Health Services Foundation.

Many local non-profits have been touched by the Fazio’s generosity, including the Arts Center, Four Seasons Hospice, Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Mainstay, YMCA and United Way, to name just a few. The Fazios also support several national and Florida-based charities. This abbreviated list does not begin to tell the story of just how many people have been positively affected by the kindness and generosity of Tom and Sue Fazio. In honor of the Fazios, the Community Foundation will award $1,500 to the non-profit of their choice, the Boys and Girls Club.