

Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award



2004 Recipient:
Colin Thomas, M.D.

The Community Foundation established the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award in 1993 to honor local philanthropists who make significant contributions and provide outstanding leadership to benefit Henderson County. The Community Foundation accepts nominations from the community before reviewing and selecting a recipient. The 2004 recipient is Dr. Colin Thomas.

We are fortunate to live in such a caring community, where people volunteer to help others less fortunate than themselves, donate to non-profit organizations in need, and look out for their neighbors. Colin Thomas has been a leader in this community for decades. He moved from New Orleans about 30 years ago and practiced medicine in the field of urology at Pardee Hospital until he retired in 2000. In retirement, he planned to slow down, but his dedication to the community and well-being of others has meant that he has continued to find not only ongoing ways to serve, but new ways to help our community.

Besides Dr. Thomas' continuous involvement with Pardee Hospital, he has been involved with the Volunteer Medical Resource Center, and has been active with Four Seasons Hospice and his church, Immaculate Conception. An exemplary leader in the



community, Dr. Thomas is well-known and respected by his colleagues, community leaders, and non-profit organizations. He has been instrumental in helping many non-profit organizations raise money. The Pardee Urgent Care last fall dedicated a room to him for his contribution in helping raise money to build the VMRC (Volunteer Medical Resource Center) facility. In 1998 – 2000, he participated in the Immaculate Conception Church, Capital Campaign which raised \$2 million. And, in 1997 he served on the committee to raise money for the Partners in Health Capital Campaign to raise \$1 million for Pardee Care Center and Elizabeth House. He also served as co-chair in the Pardee Hospital ER fundraising Campaign, which raised a total of \$4.8 million.

Dr. Thomas has a natural ability to motivate people to make changes in Henderson County. We should consider ourselves fortunate to have such a kind-hearted, genuine community leader. There are some people who go above and beyond what's expected. They give of themselves, and continue to give – and you wonder where they find the time, energy, and drive to do it all. Colin Thomas is one such person; truly opening doors to opportunity in Henderson County. In his honor, the Community Foundation awarded a \$1,500 grant to the Volunteer Medical Resource Center.