The Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Award honors local philanthropists who provide outstanding leadership or make significant charitable contributions to benefit Henderson County. This award exemplifies the meaning of doing what you can, when you can, to make our community a better place. As a wise volunteer once said, “You have two hands – one to help yourself, the second to help others.”

The Community Foundation of Henderson County is pleased to honor Dr. Stuart Cohn and his wife, Carola, as this year’s Sauer Award recipients. Over the years, they’ve given quietly and significantly, steadily increasing their level of support. As donors, they have been on hand to offer support and give advice to various nonprofits in Henderson County. The Cohns attend many nonprofit functions and events, often serving as ambassadors by bringing others with them to familiarize their guests with the good works that these nonprofits perform. They put to use their excellent skills and their passion for work. And they demonstrate their commitment to and passion for the youth of our community through a number of vital projects. In short, they are exemplary community citizens and steadfast advocates for the poor and disenfranchised in Henderson County.

We are grateful that the Cohns are willing to talk publicly about giving, frequently encouraging others to consider planned and annual gifts to benefit the community. Our city is made richer by their deep commitment to social action and community service.

In association with the Children & Family Resource Center, Dr. Cohn worked specifically on the United Agenda for Children, serving as a faithful attendee at planning sessions and offering keen insight and solid advice about the process. The Cohns have been generous donors to the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy for more than 15 years. As long-time volunteers, they often pitch in to work on mailings and other unglamorous, but vital, activities. These days you’ll regularly find Carola Cohn volunteering at Pisgah Legal Services, just as she has since 1996 when the non-profit opened a one-room office in Hendersonville. The Cohns’ commitment to Pisgah Legal Services led to the establishment of an endowment fund at the Community Foundation. In 2003, The Mediation Center gave Carola Cohn its first Peacemaker of the Year award, an honor the Center gives to individuals “who have become part of our Peacemaking community over the years and added their commitment, support and energy to the work of the Center in many different ways.” Rabbi Phil Cohen of Agudas Israel Congregation in Hendersonville says the Cohns are two of his favorite congregants. “There is no doubt that the Cohns are two of his favorite congregants. “They bring with them a genuine intelligence and generosity of spirit that infuses their personalities and their participation in temple.” Cohen says. “In particular, I am aware of their passion for keeping current with the news of the day – local, national and international. There is a Jewish legend that claims that the world is sustained by the work of 36 righteous people, without whom the world could not stand. They are quiet men and women of righteousness, and they probably do not even know that they have this role. This couple is the likeliest to be counted among the ranks of the 36. They are wonderful people.”