
Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable **LEADERSHIP** Award



The 1999 recipient is William "Bill" F. Stokes, Jr. Mr. Stokes is the CEO of Morrow Insurance Agency. A native of Hendersonville, he and his wife, Grace, have two grown children.

Mr. Stokes' commitment to the community has been extensive and varied and is reflected in his many volunteer activities. He led the fundraising efforts for the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville from 1993-1998. He initiated the Hole-In-One contest as a fundraiser for the Henderson County Heart Association. He is past President of the Rotary Club and served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 1982-1989 and was President in 1987. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Henderson County for six years serving as Secretary. Mr. Stokes has served as the President of the Board of Directors of both Blue Ridge Community Health Services, Inc. (BRCHS) and Blue Ridge Community Health Services Foundation.

When Mr. Stokes joined the Board of Directors in 1989, BRCHS, Inc. was just entering an expansion phase in response to a 1988 United Way survey documenting the need for primary health care services for the working poor in Henderson County. Previously, operating as a seasonal migrant clinic, the staff faced the awesome task of caring for a much larger number of patients than ever seen before on a year round basis. The challenge to the Board of Directors was to find the funds needed to support high quality medical services for a client population which was largely uninsured, and could only make a small contribution to the overall cost of medical care.

Under the leadership of Bill Stokes, BRCHS launched a community wide capital campaign and raised a total of \$900,000 to support the center's programs and services. The success of that campaign has stimulated greater success for BRCHS, Inc. in locating and acquiring grants, and a wider base of ongoing support in the community. During 1998-99, Mr. Stokes, as President of the Blue Ridge Community Health Services Foundation Board led yet another capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million for a new dental center. The new center will allow thousands more of the undeserved in our area to receive dental care they so desperately need. In 1999, he initiated the first Etowah Valley Charity Pro-Am to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville and BRCHS, Inc. Mr. Stokes has exhibited the kind of leadership and commitment in solving community problems that makes him an excellent recipient for the leadership award.

In honor of William "Bill" Stokes, Jr., a \$1,500 grant will be awarded to the Blue Ridge Community Health Services Foundation.

Established in 1993 by the Community Foundation Board of Directors, the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award serves as a memorial to Mr. & Mrs. Sauer for their philanthropic support of our community.