

Ruth Birge, the 22nd recipient of the Sauer Award, brings color and vibrancy to an historic corner of downtown Hendersonville.

A Compassionate Force Guiding Positive Change Today and For Future Generations

2015 SAUER AWARD RECIPIENT RUTH BIRGE

Every year, Community Foundation of Henderson County honors an outstanding local philanthropist with the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award.

Named for the Sauers, the award exemplifies the generosity of a husband-and-wife team who supported many local charities during their lifetimes and then left the first \$1 million unrestricted gift to the Community Foundation through their will. Through their endowment and other unrestricted gifts, the Sauers' legacy continues to support numerous charitable causes throughout Henderson County.

Like the honor's namesake, 2015 Sauer Award recipient Ruth Birge personifies the spirit of selfless giving and an unwavering dedication to making a difference in our community – all of

which she does with boundless humor and a great love for humankind.

Since moving to Hendersonville in October 2002, Ruth has volunteered locally with more than 15 organizations. She has been and continues to be a great mentor to all and has reached out to almost every community group and business to strengthen relationships, advocate for partnerships and find ways to collaboratively address issues.

Ruth's background has included her owning three businesses, working as executive director of United Way of Henderson County, having a career in print-media, and serving on the ATHENA Award Committee and the boards of Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, Community Foundation of Henderson County, Grace Lutheran Church, Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, Henderson County Historic

Courthouse Committee, Hendersonville Rotary Club, League of Women Voters, N.C. Press Association, Pardee Hospital Foundation, and Western Carolina Community Action.

She has made several attempts at retirement but her love and commitment to our community keeps bringing her back into service in a variety of roles.

Ruth exemplifies hard work, tireless determination, wisdom and integrity. When you hear her irresistible laugh, it is difficult to imagine that she has faced any misfortune.

With her down-to-earth nature, Ruth inspires through her actions, words, smile and often a hug, and she consistently pours out positive energy that makes us all want to be the best we can be in our community.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SAUER AWARD

Visit www.CFHCforever.org/SauerAward for a list of past recipients, more about the award and how to nominate someone.