



2013 Sauer Award Recipient Mary Garrison reads to her grandson, Luke, on the porch at the Historic Johnson Farm.

**F** A writer's storied career helping others

Mary R. Garrison - 2013 Sauer Award Recipient

A resident of Henderson County since 1976, Mary Garrison has long enjoyed volunteering for worthwhile causes in the community and providing support to a wide range of charities. Those charities are too numerous to count but it is estimated that she is associated with more than 20. A superstar on the community stage, Mary always seems to manage a low-key backstage entry and exit so that others receive the credit.

Most people know Mary through her monthly column in the Hendersonville Times-News. Friendly and accessible, Mary's dispatches relate lighthearted personal experiences, offer advice on how readers can help local charities, and educate voters on local issues. She is also a highly acclaimed author, receiving numerous awards for her publications.

Mary actively supports the Historic Johnson Farm and is a diligent supporter of education, serving on the committee for NC Teaching Fellows, various scholarship committees, Teacher of the Year Selection Committees and the Henderson County Education Foundation. She also volunteered for academic boosters and established funds for math and science departments. She and her husband worked with other dentists to support fluoridation of our community drinking water. She is a member of The Medical-Dental Auxiliary; she served as treasurer of the Flat Rock Merchants Association and worked with the ECO Big Sweep for the past several years.

She is also active with United Way and First Methodist Church. She served as past publicity Chair of the League of Women Voters and served on the Historic Flat Rock Board of Trustees. She also taught a Babysitting Clinic for Teens and displays undying support of the Flat Rock Playhouse with a front row seat for every show presented.

Our community is fortunate to have a person of Mary's caliber working for us. Because of her generous giving and countless hours of dedication to our community, Henderson County is a much better place. Her words, her actions, her giving and her leadership make her an ideal recipient of the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award.

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