

*Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc.
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Tara Ledbetter Named “Woman of Achievement”

(Hendersonville, NC) Tara Ledbetter was honored recently with the 4th Annual Cathy Ervin Overstreet Woman of Achievement Award from the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant.

Ledbetter was recognized for her involvement with numerous local organizations, including the Women Helping Women committee, Mainstay, the Dispute Settlement Center, Junior Achievement and the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce. She also serves as the current president of the NC Apple Festival Board of Directors and is a Branch Manager for Macon Bank in Hendersonville.

The award was presented by Barbara Ervin of Spartanburg, SC, the mother of the pageant’s current executive director Tiffany Ervin, and its’ former executive director, the late Cathy Ervin Overstreet. Ledbetter received a crystal pineapple, which represents the symbol of hospitality, and a gift of \$250 was made in her honor to the charity of her choice, Mainstay, the domestic violence prevention agency in Henderson County.

The award was originally created by the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc. in memory of Overstreet and her service work in the community. Overstreet renewed the Miss Hendersonville franchise shortly after moving to the area in 1995, and then passed away suddenly in 2002, while still serving as the executive director of the pageant. The pageant committee presented the Woman of Achievement award posthumously to her family at the 2003 competition.

Ervin, the current executive director of the scholarship program and the younger sister of Overstreet, chose to continue the award when she took over the program in 2005, naming it in her sister’s memory. “We have had some wonderful women recognized over the past three years,” said Ervin. “I am in awe of the amazing accomplishments of these remarkable women in

our community.” Previous winners include Patsy Farmer Jones in 2005, who selected the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation as the charity of her choice, Ruth Birge in 2006, who selected the United Way of Henderson County, and Debbie Patrick in 2007, who selected the Women Helping Women Committee of Pardee Hospital Foundation.

The Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc. is part of the Miss America Organization (MAO), the world’s largest provider of scholarship money for women. MAO awards more than \$40 million in scholarships each year. In addition, contestants at all levels are required to adopt a cause, or platform, and to serve their communities on behalf of these and other causes. Miss America contestants and volunteers complete more than 500,000 hours of community service each year, making it one of the strongest service organizations in the nation.

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