

*Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc.
PO Box 721
Flat Rock, NC 28731*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Miss Hendersonville Pageant Will Honor Outstanding Women

(Hendersonville, NC) The Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, an official preliminary to the Miss America Pageant, is now accepting nominations for the 4th Annual Cathy Ervin Overstreet Woman of Achievement Award.

The award was originally created by the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc. in memory of Overstreet and her service work in the community. Overstreet obtained 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.

Tiffany Ervin, the current executive director of the scholarship program and the younger sister of Overstreet, chose to continue the award in her sister's memory when she accepted the program's reigns in 2005. "Over the last three years, we have recognized nearly three dozen women from our community for their volunteer service and contributions to society," said Ervin. The first winner was Patsy Farmer Jones, a retired public school teacher and an active volunteer in the community. In 2006, the pageant honored Ruth Birge, the publisher of the Hendersonville Times-News who serves on several non-profit boards. Last year, Debbie Patrick was recognized for her numerous volunteer efforts in the community, especially with the Women Helping Women committee of the Pardee Hospital Foundation.

Each year, the pageant committee contributes a monetary gift to the charity of the winner's choice, said Ervin. "In 2005, a check for \$250 was given to the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation in Patsy's honor. And in 2006, Ruth selected the United Way of Henderson County as the charity of her choice." In 2007, Patrick selected the Women Helping Women Fund at the Pardee Hospital Foundation.

The 2008 Cathy Ervin Overstreet Woman of Achievement Award will be presented to a woman in the community who exemplifies personal and professional accomplishment through community service. Nominations are being accepted from the public and candidates must be a resident of Henderson County and be at least 18 years of age.

Nominations may be simply a letter of recommendation or they may include any support materials that may provide additional information. No materials will be returned, however. Deadline for receipt of nominations is February 1, 2008. A volunteer panel of judges will review the nominations and select a winner, who will be announced at the 2008 Miss Hendersonville Pageant on February 16 at the Flat Rock Playhouse.

Nominations should be mailed to:

Woman of Achievement Award
PO Box 1766
Flat Rock, NC 28731

Nominations may also be emailed to misshendersonvillepageant@yahoo.com.

All nominees will be invited to the pageant on February 16 where they will be introduced on-stage.

“We all know women who make a difference in the lives of others,” said Ervin, “and this award is a great way to honor them. I’m proud to be able to honor my sister’s memory with this award. She was a very special person to all who knew her. And those who didn’t know her missed having an amazing friend.”

Miss America contestants and volunteers complete more than 500,000 hours of volunteer service each year, making it one of the strongest service organizations in the nation. The Miss America Organization is the world’s largest provider of scholarship money for women, awarding more than \$35 million in scholarships each year. In 2007, the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant awarded more than \$5,000 in scholarships.

More information on the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant is available online at www.misshendersonvillepageant.com.

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