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## **Vintage Carolina Kicked off Community Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Hendersonville, N.C., April 8, 2008:** The Community Foundation of Henderson County, along with its sponsors, hosted Vintage Carolina—High Spirits & Fine Food on April 8, 2008 at the Hendersonville Country Club. The evening came together in an extraordinary way, kicking off the Community Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The evening raised over \$40,000 to support the mission of the Community Foundation to help people who care make lasting contributions to causes that matter.

Rick Austin, chair of the board of directors, welcomed guests to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event. "Our community takes an active role in making a difference for others and a brighter future for those who come after us ... just as the founders of the Community Foundation started for us 25 years ago. Causes such as accessing education, the arts, and health care; preserving the environment, local history, and culture; addressing urgent and long-term conditions that face us now and preparing for what our community has yet to face in the future. By participating together as a community, we make a significant difference in causes that matter ... through our giving." J.W. Davis, North Carolina Chairman of Carolina First Bank, the Bordeaux sponsor, also shared words of welcome and appreciation for the community.

Over 300 guests enjoyed some of the best selections of wine and beer provided by a variety of area distributors and sampled an array of specialty dishes prepared by area chefs. As guests mingled, they enjoyed the live music of Simply Said.

Young women with the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant assisted with the raffle and displayed the amethyst pendant, one of the evening's raffle items. YouTheatre students announced event happenings throughout the venue.

"On behalf of the board of directors, thank you to the committee members, professional chefs, guests, auction contributors, underwriters, and dozens of volunteers who were responsible for the successful evening," stated Rick Austin, chair of the board of directors.

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President/CEO McCray Benson remarked, “This celebration adds another ring to this tree of philanthropy that was planted just 25 years ago. This truly is the community’s Foundation and is a reflection of the community’s strength and vision for the future.”

Since 1983, the Community Foundation, comprising of more than 370 funds, has been serving the entire community by assisting people and organizations with their charitable giving, providing financial aid to college students, and making grants to nonprofit organizations in Henderson County and beyond. As the Community Foundation completes its first quarter century, it will continue to serve thousands of people who share a common desire—to make our community a better place now and countless years from now.

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