

*Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Miss Hendersonville Pageant Seeks Contestants
Contestant Meeting on Sunday, November 29

(Hendersonville, NC) When Ciara Newman heard her name called as the new Miss Hendersonville in February, there was a sense of déjà vue for the Blue Ridge Community College student. Three years ago, she was the first young lady crowned Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen, then a few months later, she won the title of North Carolina's Outstanding Teen, and traveled the state representing her community service platform, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness.

Her efforts on behalf of the state pageant and her platform didn't go unrecognized that year. She was awarded the key to three different cities, earned a volunteer recognition award from the Governor of North Carolina, and made an appearance in all 100 counties in the state, the first time ever a state queen had reached that accomplishment. All of that while completing her senior year of high school.

Now as Newman prepares to graduate from Blue Ridge Community College in December, it's time to reflect on her accomplishments and activities as Miss Hendersonville 2009. She has completed hundreds of hours of volunteer service in the community with organizations like the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Flat Rock Playhouse, Rotary International and Kiwanis, just to name a few.

Her year of service will end in February when she crowns her successor. The 2010 pageants will be held February 5 and 6 at Flat Rock Playhouse. A meeting for potential

contestants will be held on Sunday, November 29, at 2 p.m. at the Hendersonville Elks Lodge. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for anyone who wishes to participate in the Outstanding Teen or Miss Hendersonville Pageant in 2010.

Contestants for Miss Hendersonville must be between the ages of 17 and 24, single and never have been married, a United States citizen, and meet residency requirements, meaning they must live, work or go to school in Henderson County. In addition, all contestants must be able to meet the time commitment and responsibilities set forth by the local pageant and meet all character criteria established by the Miss America Organization.

There is no fee to enter the Miss Hendersonville Pageant, and the five areas of competition include private interview, talent, lifestyle in physical fitness (swimsuit), onstage interview and evening wear.

The Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen competition is open to young ladies 13-17 years of age who meet the same criteria. These contestants can be no older than a high school junior. There is a \$150 entry fee for the Outstanding Teen competition, and the winner will compete for the state title in Raleigh next summer.

"The teen contestants compete in the same five areas of competition as the Miss Hendersonville contestants," said Tiffany Ervin, Executive Director of the program and a long-time volunteer with the Miss America organization. "However, rather than modeling a swimsuit, they model a physical fitness outfit that represents their favorite physical activity."

Katie Holbert, a junior at East Henderson High School, is the reigning Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen and will crown her successor on Friday, February 5, 2010.

All required paperwork will be distributed at the contestant meeting. "Every contestant will have an opportunity to be introduced to our community through several appearances that

have already been scheduled, including the Hendersonville Christmas Parade, volunteer opportunities with the Salvation Army, and fundraising for the Children's Miracle Network. This will give them great experience in dealing with the public and will also benefit our community through increased volunteer participation," said Ervin.

The winners of the 2010 competitions will represent the area in the state pageants, held in Raleigh next June. The new Miss Hendersonville will earn a \$1,000 college scholarship, sponsored in part by the Rotary Club of Hendersonville.

The Miss America Organization is the world's largest provider of scholarship money for women, awarding more than \$45 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.

The Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc. is an official preliminary to the Miss North Carolina Pageant and is produced annually by Morning Glory Productions. Newman is the only local titleholder to earn the Miss NC's Outstanding Teen title, and Heather Walker, Miss Hendersonville 1973, is the only local winner who has won Miss North Carolina. Appearances can be scheduled by calling 828-243-5870 or emailing tiffanyervin@yahoo.com. More information on the Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant is available at www.misshendersonvillepageant.com.

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