



For devotion and commitment to finding viable solutions and improving housing conditions for low-income families through volunteer commitment and sacrifice the NC Housing Coalition presents the Sister Barbara Sullivan Award to **Garry Merritt**.

Garry, this award is presented to you in honor of your volunteer service and leadership as an officer and board member for two non-profit organizations whose missions are focused on the development of affordable housing primarily for low-income seniors.

Garry Merritt is a market rate residential and commercial land developer by trade, but for almost 25 years he has volunteered as an officer and board member for 2 non-profit organizations whose missions are focused on the development of affordable housing primarily for the low-income elderly.

He joined the board of Christian Village, Inc. in 1986 where he has served as both President and Vice President of the board. He has led the organization through the purchase of 33 acres of property and the development of a nursing home, 2 HUD Section 202 developments and a Rural Development property in King, NC, providing 95 units of housing for the elderly and 116 nursing care beds. He went on to share the experience of the organization with the co-sponsoring of 3 Section 202 properties in Virginia, adding another 147 elderly units. Just this year he arranged for the board to participate in a strategic planning process that now has the organization poised to undertake the development of the balance of the property in King. As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, in 1993 he agreed to join the board of the NC Housing Foundation. By that time the Housing Foundation had already developed 4 Section 202 properties and 1 HUD 236.

Garry is now serving his 3rd term as President of the Board for the Housing Foundation which now has 11 Section 202 properties, 3 Section 811 properties, and 1 Section 236 property in its HUD portfolio. They have also purchased or developed 8 Medicare/Medicaid licensed assisted living complexes, they have been the non-profit partner in the development of 9 new tax credit properties, acquired 3 older Section 202 properties by refinancing with tax credits, and developed 1 Housing 400 Initiative project for a total of 1,444 apartment units and 484 assisted living beds across the state of NC. They have also created an affiliate property management corporation that manages 19 projects with a total of 803 units and provides services coordination to 26 projects throughout NC, SC, and VA.

Garry always acts as a proponent and advocate for all 3 organizations and holds them all to the highest standards. He displays an enthusiasm that is contagious and shares his professional experience with them and with other non-profits that have needed a more experienced partner. He is currently working tirelessly on behalf of the Housing Foundation on 2 projects that are in the pipeline - 1 involving tax credits and NSP funds and the other a Capital Grant and Per Diem transitional housing project for homeless veterans. He will soon be meeting with representatives from the homeless providers' network in Winston-Salem to see how the Foundation can partner with them to meet the goals of the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. To quote the director of the Ten-Year Plan, "I have never seen such an involved, caring Board of Directors



chairman". And on a personal level, he has always been kind and caring with other board members and the staff of the organizations he serves.

For all of your contributions Gary, the NC Housing Coalition is pleased to present you with this award.