

***HENRICO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
recognized as one of five outstanding With Our Youth!
community projects nationwide.***

The NRTA (National Retired Teacher Association) named **HRSP** as a recipient of the **2002 WOY!** award. On September 29, 2002, at the **NRTA State President's Conference** in **Washington, D. C.**, **Elsie Pelfrey**, **HRSP** Past-president and Historian, accepted the award on behalf of Henrico County's school retirees.

The project, which was submitted to the **Virginia Retired Teachers Association** as part of the **With Our Youth!** program, was selected by **VRTA** to be sent on to the national group. **WOY!** is a program begun in 1998 as an outgrowth of the **1997 Presidents' Summit on America's Future**, chaired by **Colin Powell**. Retired educators across the nation pledged themselves to "**America's Promise**," as they worked with community outreach programs impacting on youth.

During 2001-2002, **HRSP** members were asked to keep track of the time spent on community activities including work with young people and with adults. As the hours were reported, it became evident that the members were, indeed, giving back to the community in the spirit of the organization, "**To Serve, Not To Be Served.**" Several projects were identified as involving a large number of members.

One project, in particular, was the **Henrico Christmas Mother Program** which **HRSP** has supported since 1993. This was an activity in which the unit participated as a group and was the main thrust of the **WOY!** report. In addition to over \$2500 in monetary contributions from members, two members serve on the Christmas Mother Board, 4 serve as co-chairmen and 25 worked as volunteers during the December, 2001 distribution days.

A second project was a new one - to assist with **Hilliard House**, a homeless shelter for women and their children. One **HRSP** member serves on the board, four members had been involved in tutoring last spring and ten members are working with providing clothing for the mothers and their children in conjunction with Alpha Delta Kappa, a society of teachers. The unit plans to continue its support of this effort.

Finally, the other activities monitored over the past year indicated that the association members are involved with many services to the community that include children and youth. **Through tutoring, mentoring and volunteering with church activities, school services, libraries, hospitals, etc.**, it was estimated that over **5000** hours were given to community service by **HRSP** members.

In addition to the national award, on October 8, 2002, at the **VRTA Conference** in **Blackstone**, **HRSP** was named the **Most Outstanding Unit** in Virginia and received an award for its work with community service and youth.