

Power of Women

BY NANCY GROVES

Women have always exercised power, perhaps subtly, in their homes and communities, and at times more visibly, in prominent leadership positions. Today in America, many barriers have fallen and women can pursue paths undreamed of by their sisters in the past.

As Henry Medical Center prepares to salute women at a special health conference free to the public, here are the stories of four Henry County women, leaders in business and civic affairs, who share their successes and hard-won wisdom. The women will speak at The Power of the Woman: A Women's Health Conference, part of HMC's 25th Anniversary programming, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Education Center on the HMC campus.

Dana L. Lemon, Lorene M. Lindsey, Kay H. Pippin and Marcia G. Taylor will be featured for their career and civic contributions at the Power of Women event at HMC. The day's agenda will also include a women's health fair featuring bone density screenings, yoga and fitness demonstrations, massage therapy, cholesterol and glucose testing, migraine screenings, financial planning for women, stress therapy, beauty makeovers, body fat analysis, blood pressure screenings, breast cancer risk assessment, irritable bowel syndrome information and other activities.

This fair will benefit Haven House, Henry County's domestic violence shelter for women. Participants are asked to bring a donation of a personal hygiene product such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste or deodorant.

Almost all of these women have undergone some type of career change, raised families and faced the common adversity that comes with being a successful professional and a committed wife and mother. But all of them have risen to the challenge—and they've all managed to give something back to their communities, too.

Marcia G. Taylor is another keynote speaker who has learned to juggle career, family and civic obligations. Taylor is president and chief executive officer of Bennett International Group, Inc., in McDonough. Taylor and her late husband bought what was then a small trucking business in 1974. The business now comprises 15 business units, all revolving around transportation, with operations in the United States and abroad and an annual revenue of \$170 million.

Taylor has steered the company forward since her husband, J.D. Garrison, died in 1981. Her three grown children have now joined the family business. "There are a lot of good people here,



and we've worked together for a lot of years to pull it together," Taylor said. "We've been able to make it grow."

In addition to running the company, Taylor is on the boards of several organizations and businesses and is active in the National Association of Women Business Owners.

To hear inspirational stories from these four powerful women make plans to attend the Power of the Woman: A Women's Health Conference. The event is co-sponsored by HMC and Heritage Bank, Guidant, Wachovia Bank, Sam's Club, The Daily Herald, Indigo Yoga and Barber Broadcasting System. For more information call (770) 506-1579 or visit our website at www.henrymedical.com. 