



Larry & Denise Miller Iberia Parish

Nominated by: Karen Bonin & Melissa Dworaczyk

Larry and Denise Miller are the recipients of the 2021 Leaders In Philanthropy Award for Iberia Parish.

Larry grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, attended college at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL, and moved to Abbeville in 1982 when his parents opened a McDonald's Restaurant.

Denise grew up near Kaplan, Louisiana, and attended E. Broussard High School. Larry and Denise met while both working at McDonald's in Abbeville.

The couple feels fortunate to have a successful McDonald's franchise business in the Acadiana community and feels it is only right to give back and help the communities that supported their business all these years.

For the Millers, giving comes naturally and is done genuinely, often with a "hands-on" personal touch as Larry is many times the one delivering the donation. The Millers never like seeing anything go to waste and have repurposed tons of office furniture, kitchen equipment, lighting, and more to ARC of Acadiana, New Iberia City Parks, local Acadiana schools, and other area non-profits. Larry and Denise are longtime supporters of the Ronald McDonald House, and oftentimes, Larry takes the "real" Ronald McDonald to visit with children in schools where he spreads joy, as well as offers motivation and inspirational tips and advice.

The couple provides thousands of pounds of food annually to The Soloman House, St. Francis Diner, Franklin Food Bank, and the Methodist Church of New Iberia. Larry and Denise are longtime supporters of Templegates of Prayer, where Larry has served as both Vice-President and Treasurer and Denise has served as Sisterhood President.

Supporting and furthering education and athletics is a passion of the Millers. Over the past 20 years, they have supported 18 local schools throughout the Acadiana area. These contributions span from library books, Race for Education incentives, and Project Graduation supplies. They have purchased new scoreboards for the Catholic High of New Iberia and Kaplan High baseball teams and are avid supporters of the New Heights Gym amateur gymnastics meet which is the largest meet in the state. Throughout the years, the Millers have provided significant tuition assistance to employees of their 10 area McDonald's restaurants encouraging the employees to further their education.

The Miller's style of philanthropy is diverse, unique, genuine, and impactful. They are always ready and willing to go above and beyond.

The Millers have been married for 30 years and have 2 children, Haley and Jordan Miller.