

BUILDING
SERVING
GIVING

50
Years Strong

THE MILLER FOUNDATION

1963-2013

FULFILLING THE
PROMISE
OF A BETTER
TOMORROW

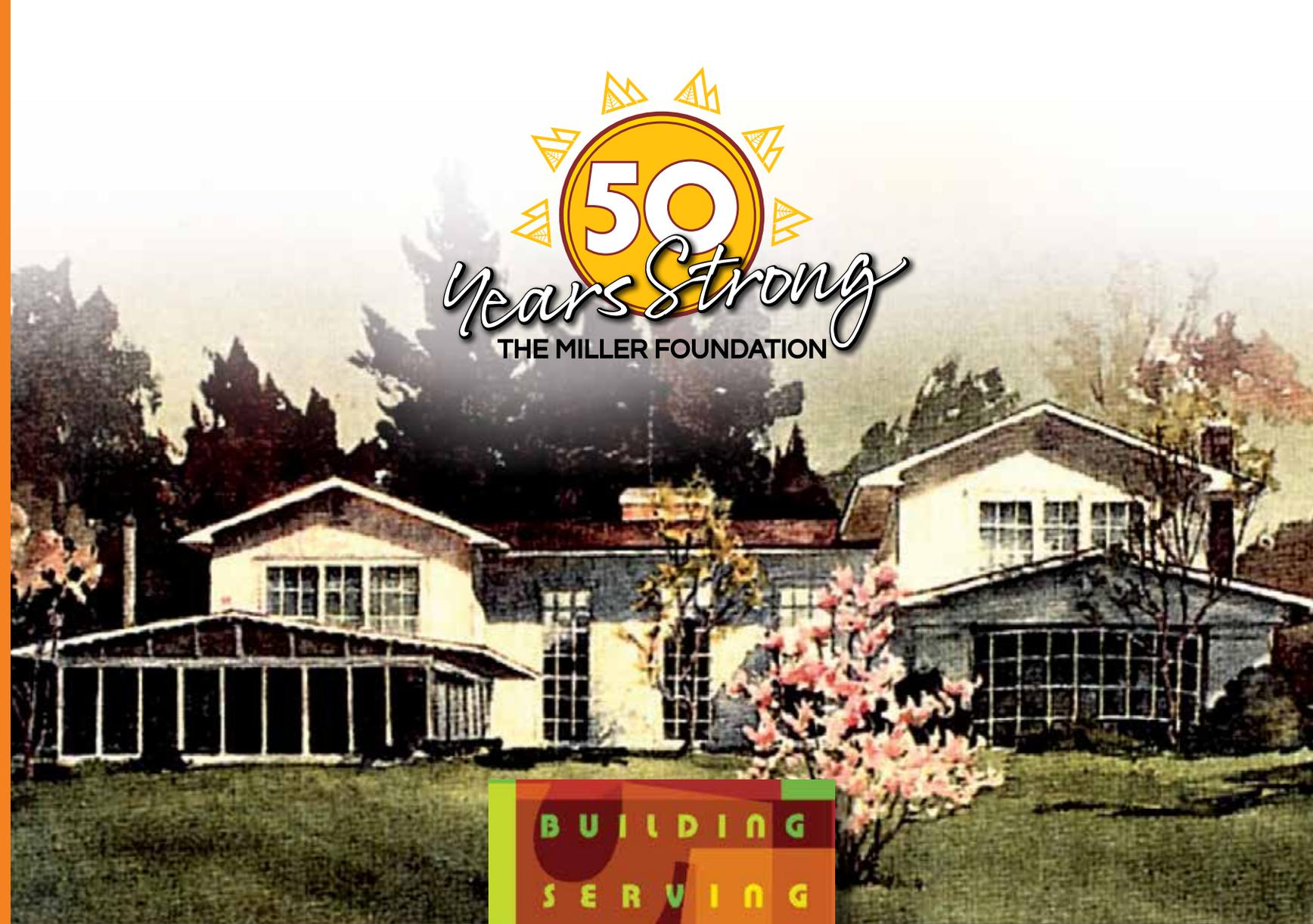






50 Years Strong

THE MILLER FOUNDATION



Throughout the last 50 years, The Miller Foundation and the Miller family have established a long history of commitment to building, serving and giving in the Battle Creek community. Served by three generations of Millers, the Foundation celebrates a strong family legacy encompassing the dynamic values of the founder's original goal: to support and sustain a constant "flow" of growth and change

securing the future of the greater Battle Creek community while enhancing the local quality of life. In celebration of our proud roots, the Foundation honors, preserves and protects our legacy through this historical booklet. May it serve as a tribute and reflection of the legacy of one family, three generations, and nearly a century of service to Battle Creek.

About the Miller's our family's history



Albert & Louise Miller

Albert L. Miller brought his family to a booming Battle Creek in 1910. Entrepreneurs such as C. W. Post and W. K. Kellogg were transforming the nation's breakfast tables. Other local industries were shipping their innovative products around the globe, while the Battle Creek Sanitarium was attracting health-conscious visitors throughout the world. The city of 25,000 was making a name for itself.

A. L. Miller wanted to be a part of such a community, and accepted an offer from cereal magnate C. W. Post to become editor of the *Morning Enquirer*. His decision launched a century-long partnership between Battle Creek and the Miller family that endures today. For three generations the Millers not only guided operations of the newspaper, but also put their community's welfare foremost in building their business, serving their community and giving of their time and resources.

Today, the benefits of their generosity are evident throughout Battle Creek. From helping provide such basics as food and shelter to building a stronger economic base and supporting education and cultural enrichment, the Millers' legacy is far-reaching.

A. L. Miller, along with his wife, Louise, and 4-year-old son, Robert Branson Miller, came to Battle Creek from Ottawa, Kansas, at the behest of Post, who sought a strong editor for his newly purchased *Morning Enquirer*, the smallest of the city's three daily newspapers. Miller's 16 to 18-hour work days soon yielded success, and in 1911, Miller launched the *Evening News* as a counterpart to the *Morning Enquirer* newspaper.

But Battle Creek was not all business for the Millers. They found southern Michigan's abundant greenery, numerous lakes and fast-running rivers and streams a welcome contrast to the stark landscape of Kansas. With A. L. Miller busy running two newspapers, Louise often took their son on exploratory trips throughout the area. Both Goguac and Gull Lake became favorite summer getaways for young Bob.

After residing for about a year in a hotel near the newspaper's downtown office and then a duplex on Penn Street, the family rented a spacious home on Garrison Avenue, where young Bob quickly made friends. He and his buddies (among them Sid Bennett, his life-long friend), especially enjoyed playing in a forest near the end of Garrison Avenue known as Merritt's Woods. Less than two decades later this area would be developed into a neighborhood of gracious homes where A. L. Miller and an adult Bob

EXTRA EXTRA
READ ALL ABOUT IT



The Enquirer Evening News Delivery Staff - 1915

"Bob Sr. was held in such high regard and esteem that when you walked into a room with him, people were in your corner from the start." Art Angood, Miller Foundation trustee, former board chairman and executive director

lived across the street from one another on Woodmer Lane. Today, Merritt's Woods is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the *Morning Enquirer* newspaper grew, A. L. Miller acquired a growing stake in its ownership, eventually gaining majority control with partner H. C. Hawk, who was general manager of Postum Cereals.

After the competing *Evening Moon* and *Evening Journal* consolidated into one paper in 1915, the *Evening News* and *Morning Enquirer* merged in 1918 to become the *Enquirer and News*. Encouraged by his father to learn all aspects of the newspaper business, Bob began working at the *Enquirer and News* at age 15. He started out in the production and mail room areas, eventually becoming a reporter apprentice when he graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1924.

After high school, Bob went off to Williams College in Massachusetts. Having grown up in a community and country that thrived during the "roaring '20s," Bob admittedly had "visions of perpetual prosperity" when he earned his college degree in 1929.

Such optimism seemed warranted. The Miller family's business interests were growing. Federated Publications was incorporated in December 1928, with A. L. Miller as president and chief executive. In addition to the *Enquirer and News*, the group included the *Lansing State Journal* (whose two owners were retiring) and the now defunct *Grand Rapids Herald* (whose publisher, Arthur Vandenberg, had become a U.S. senator).

"My life, what's left of it, is dedicated to doing what I can to make this a better, happier, greater community than it has ever been."
Robert B. Miller Sr. 1906-1999

a tribute to our history

An impressive new skyline was on the horizon for Battle Creek as well. Old Merchants Bank was planning to erect a 19-story tower on Michigan Avenue downtown, while Central National Bank had similar plans for a 21-floor structure on the opposite side of the street, about a block westward. The Battle Creek Sanitarium, meanwhile, built a grand 16-story tower addition to its facility on Washington Avenue.

But such high hopes crashed with the stock market in October 1929, throwing the country into a decade-long Depression. The impact wasn't immediate in Battle Creek. Both banks managed to complete their downtown towers by 1931. However, the lavish addition to the Sanitarium proved financially crippling as the facility's elite clientele dwindled, eventually forcing it into receivership. Retail and industrial enterprises also began to shrink. Work was started on a new Community Hospital in 1931, but it remained largely a shell until finally being completed in 1939. It was a sobering entry into adulthood for Bob Miller, who after college first worked as a reporter at the *Enquirer*, then served as its business manager. While he recognized that his family's personal circumstances were far from dire, he felt the painful impact of the Depression on the community he loved.

Despite the tough economic times, the '30s were a decade of personal milestones for Bob. In 1932, while working for the re-election of Herbert Hoover, he met an attractive volunteer at the local Republican office named Jean Leonard. They wed in April 1934. Their first son, Robert B. Jr., was born the following year on Herbert Hoover's birthday – Aug. 10. Son Allen was born in 1938.

Bob continued to help his father build Federated Publications. The *Enquirer's* AM radio station, WELL, the second oldest commercial radio station in Michigan, was part of the group. Federated eventually grew to include the *Marion* (Ind.) *Chronicle Tribune*, the *Lafayette* (Ind.) *Journal-Courier*, the *Idaho Statesman*, the *Olympian* and the *Bellingham* (Wash.) *Herald*.

As a businessman, husband and father, Bob wanted to help the Battle Creek community recover from the Depression and regain the economic strength that helped it grow early in the century. He knew that helping people was as important as running a successful business. He became active in the local chapter of the crippled children's movement. In 1945, he was asked to chair the initial United Fund drive, which for the first time included the USO and Red Cross in addition to the traditional Community Chest charitable agencies. Battle Creek had not had a successful Community Chest campaign since 1932, but under Bob's leadership, the 1945 United Fund drive raised 110 percent of its goal.

Troubled by a lack of coordination and efficiency among governments and agencies, the Millers and the *Enquirer* pushed for greater cooperation on many levels. When then, Mayor William V. Bailey proposed an ambitious plan in the 1940s to achieve railroad

Robert B. Miller Sr. and wife Jean Miller (1st wife)



Railroad Consolidation

CLEARING THE TRAFFIC JAMS — Many longtime residents remember an old joke that there were no bank robberies in downtown Battle Creek because the thieves would be stopped by a train on their way out of town. But the rail tracks surrounding downtown were no joke to motorists caught in frequent traffic jams. Robert B. Miller Sr. shared their frustration, and first sought to address the issue in the 1940s as part of a mayoral committee. But the stubborn problem persisted for decades. Finally, in 1978, Battle Creek voters approved a rail consolidation plan.

consolidation, flood control, urban renewal and highway extension, Bob Miller agreed to join a committee to promote the proposal, including serving as the panel's chairman. Over the course of the next decade or so, many of the plan's goals were achieved, but not railroad consolidation. However, Bob never gave up on the idea and in 1978 Battle Creek voters finally approved a rail consolidation plan to help ease the congestion caused by trains. Today the Robert B. Miller Bridge carries Washington Avenue travelers over Battle Creek's downtown rail tracks unimpeded.

Rail consolidation was just one of many community endeavors Bob Miller enthusiastically promoted after succeeding his father as editor and publisher of the *Enquirer and News* in 1953. A. L. Miller died in 1958, the same year that Bob Miller decided the *Enquirer* should launch a "Search for George." The newspaper asked readers to nominate people who had done something of significance for the

common good. Instead of "Letting George do it," they had stepped forward and met a need in their communities. Bob wanted such individuals recognized with a George Award. Since that initial search, dozens of nominations are submitted every year, with more than 300 George Awards being presented to date. Bob Miller often said the George Awards were among his proudest achievements as a newspaper publisher.

Bob also was a strong supporter of creating what today is Kellogg Community College. When he honored his parents with creation of the Albert L. and Louise B. Miller Foundation in 1963, its first gift was to help construct the Miller Gymnasium at KCC. Unfortunately, Louise Miller died in 1965, before the facility was completed.

Bob knew that economic development was key to the community's future prosperity, and he became a driving force in the late 1960s and 1970s for creation of Fort Custer Industrial Park and its marketing arm, Battle Creek Unlimited. Today thousands of people are employed by companies in Fort Custer.

In 1971, the Millers sold Federated Publications to Gannett Co. Inc., a decision that greatly enhanced the financial resources of the Miller Foundation and its ability to help the community.

Bob's wife, Jean, died in 1976. Two years later, he married Olive Adams, a longtime friend whose husband had died after 42 years of marriage.

It was also during the 1970s that Bob became an enthusiastic backer of what was to become Binder Park Zoo.

In 1979, Bob Miller retired as editor and publisher of the *Enquirer and News* and was succeeded by his son, Bob Miller Jr. Having gone into the newspaper business after college, Bob Jr. had worked as a reporter and been publisher at newspapers in Olympia, Washington, and Boise, Idaho, before returning to his hometown to take over the *Enquirer*.

Retirement did not reduce Bob Miller Sr.'s desire to help Battle Creek. His belief in the need for a strong downtown led him to form the McCamly Square Corp. in 1979 and invest \$2 million of his personal money into building a hotel-atrium-arena complex. Stouffer's Battle Creek Hotel (now McCamly Plaza Hotel) opened in 1981.

In the early 1980s, both Miller men worked with business and community leaders to promote the merger of the City of Battle Creek (whose population had decreased from 50,000 in 1950 to 36,000 in 1976) with the adjacent Battle Creek Township, generally known as Lakeview. In the fall of 1981, voters in both communities approved the proposal. On Jan. 1, 1982, Battle Creek grew from a population of 36,000 to 54,000, becoming the third largest city geographically in Michigan. Because of the merger, Kellogg Co. agreed to build its new world headquarters in downtown Battle Creek, helping to retain jobs in the community and create future employment opportunities.

Robert B. Miller Sr. with wife Olive Miller (2nd wife)



George Awards

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL EFFORTS — Robert B. Miller Sr. wanted to recognize people who took personal initiative to address a need in their community, and didn't wait to "let George do it." He decided to establish the George Awards, and in 1958 he asked newspaper readers to nominate people who had stepped forward the previous year and took positive action for the betterment of Battle Creek. The newspaper has presented George Awards every year since, honoring more than 300 "Georges" throughout Calhoun County.

THREE GENERATIONS



A. L. Miller, Bob Miller Sr., Al and Bob Jr.

"The Miller Foundation has maintained the initial purpose and philanthropic focus since the launch in 1963...to be a catalyst, not a cure-all, for the improvement of the Battle Creek area. That continues to be the philosophy/focus of the trustees today."

Gloria Robertson,
Miller College Vice President and
Miller Foundation trustee

photo of Al Miller to come

Bob Miller Sr. died in 1999, five years after the death of his second wife, Olive.

Having returned to Battle Creek, Bob Miller Jr. followed his father's footsteps in becoming deeply involved in community affairs. He actively supported construction of the new Kellogg Arena and brought international hockey to the venue with one of the first U.S. Russian hockey tournaments in the United States in the final days of the Cold War. The event helped spark local interest in hockey and led to creation of the Greater Battle Creek Ice Hockey Association, in which thousands of area young people have participated.

Bob Jr. and his wife, Patty, became active supporters of many local charities including Big Brothers-Big Sisters, American Red Cross, March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, United Way, Family Y Center, Art Center of Battle Creek, Battle Creek Community Foundation and the Music Center of Battle Creek. He was especially excited about the establishment of Miller College in 2005.

After a long battle with Parkinson's disease, Bob Miller Jr. died in 2007.

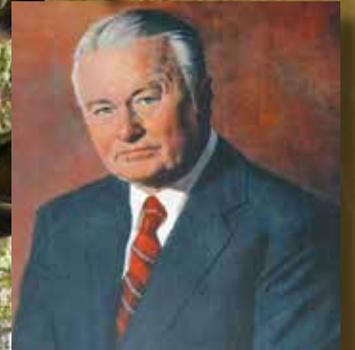
In addition to the Miller family's numerous public achievements, thousands of local residents have benefited from their personal kindness and generosity, whether it be paying for medical expenses, providing scholarships or meeting any number of other needs.

Al Miller is the youngest son of Robert and Jean Miller, grandson of Albert and Louise Miller, brother of Bob Miller Jr. With that lineage—three newspaper publishers—plus several cousins who were foreign correspondents, how did he avoid the same path?

Grown and educated in Battle Creek, with further attempts at education in New England, Al got his BA at Williams College in Massachusetts, then taught for three years in Lebanon. He returned to Michigan to get an MA in Ann Arbor, taught for two years in Massachusetts, then felt the pull of the Middle East and returned to Lebanon to teach for five more years. By that time, he and his wife Margaret had three children. When they moved back, they settled in Maine, where they had two more children.

In Maine, Al's new interest in theatre got the best of him. He started a children's theater, took up clowning, developed an adult ensemble and now, forty years later, is still teaching, directing, writing, acting and telling stories. As a teacher, he works with a variety of populations, using theatre as his text book. He lives in Arrowsic, Maine, on the banks of the Kennebec River.

Al remains an active member of the Board of Trustees for the Miller Foundation still today.



The Miller Foundation Founder
- Robert B. Miller Sr.

"We must use our resources to the best advantage in making our community a finer, better, happier one. But our most important role is to set an example, provide an incentive, so that others will join to provide a broad base that will make the resulting enterprise truly a community accomplishment."



The Miller Foundation inspiring our future

It began in 1963 with funds for a physical education facility at the fledgling Kellogg Community College. By the start of the 21st century, the Miller Foundation's continued commitment to Battle Creek sparked creation of an entire four-year college — Miller College.

The two projects illustrate how the Miller Foundation has grown over the past half-century. From one family's desire to serve the community, it has become a major force in helping area residents shape brighter futures. Robert B. Miller wanted to "help things happen in Battle Creek" when he convinced his mother, Louise B. Miller, to create a foundation 50 years ago.

Mrs. Miller initially wanted to help pay for construction of a gymnasium and swimming pool on the new KCC campus being developed in the Spring Lakes area on Battle Creek's north side. The donation would honor the memory of her late husband, longtime *Enquirer and News* publisher Albert L. Miller, who died in 1958.

While such a gift to KCC would be exceedingly generous, Bob Miller believed his family's resources should be used to make a longer-lasting impact on the community. He convinced his mother that creating a foundation would be a better alternative to a one time contribution. He insisted that the venture honor both his parents. Thus the Albert L. and Louise B. Miller Foundation was created. Its first major project was to use its own resources, as well as securing loans, to fund construction of the Miller Gym that continues to serve KCC today.

Bob Miller Sr. realized from the beginning that while his

family's resources were substantial, they would be depleted quickly if used to fund entire projects. Instead, he wanted the foundation to work in partnership with businesses, community groups, schools, governmental units and others to build a better Battle Creek. Bob decided that The Miller Foundation, as it came to be known, would contribute to many different projects and not be the sole funder of a few. He wanted it to serve as a catalyst for change, with others investing their time and resources as well.

"OUR INTENTION WILL BE TO HELP THINGS HAPPEN IN BATTLE CREEK, NOT MAKE THEM HAPPEN," he said.

Since 1963, The Miller Foundation has supported area groups in their efforts to help improve lives. Thousands of projects and programs have received funds, including many aimed at improving health, meeting nutritional needs, cultivating the arts, promoting education, encouraging economic development and much more. Grants have ranged from a few hundred dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

While the foundation has contributed to a vast array of causes over the years, its impact has been profound in several areas vital to the community's long-term success. The Miller Foundation has played a significant role in reshaping Battle Creek's downtown, industrial base and culture.

Bob Miller Sr. remembered as a child when Fort Custer opened in 1917 as a military training base for World War I. The influx of military personnel had a major impact on Battle Creek, helping business and industry to thrive.



310 WahWahTaySeeWay

A SPECIAL PLACE — In 1928, the Miller family bought approximately eight acres of somewhat barren land along Minges Brook, at the intersection of what today is Riverside Drive and WahWahTaySee Way. Louise B. Miller designed a lodge for the property to serve as a retreat for her husband, Albert L. Miller. It quickly became a favorite family getaway, with the Millers and their son, Robert B., planting hundreds of seedling evergreens which now provide shade and privacy. Bob Miller and his wife, Jean, were married in the lodge in 1934. In 1958, Bob and Jean built a new house on the property. Today it serves as The Miller Foundation headquarters. After Jean died in 1976, Bob married the former Olive Adams, and they built a third house on the property in 1986. That house now is Miller Manor, available free of charge for nonprofit groups to hold gatherings.



A seedling, a growing tree and the promise of tomorrow.

Battle Creek Unlimited



"Bob Sr. and the Foundation were supportive not just out of their pocketbook but also of their time... Bob thought it (an industrial park in Fort Custer) was one thing that would set Battle Creek apart from other communities up and down I-94."

James Hettinger, retired CEO, Battle Creek Unlimited

The facility remained active through World War II, but its use began to dwindle in the 1950s, with the military gradually reducing operations there.

When community leaders in the 1960s envisioned developing an industrial park in part of Fort Custer, Bob Miller Sr. thought

it was a terrific idea. In October 1969, the City of Battle Creek moved to purchase 1,800 acres of federal property to make the industrial park a reality. With support from The Miller Foundation, Battle Creek Unlimited was established to serve as the marketing agent. In addition to foundation dollars, the industrial park benefited from Bob Miller Sr.'s considerable enthusiasm for the project.

Within just a few years Fort Custer Industrial Park attracted companies from as far away as Germany and Japan, and today it is the site of many industries, including Battle Creek's largest employer, Denso Manufacturing of Michigan.

Miller Stone Building

— The Miller-Stone Building was built in 1917 as the YWCA with the help of a \$50,000 gift from Irving L. Stone in memory of his wife, Cordelia. It was used by the YWCA until its merger with the YMCA to become the Y Center in 1972. The colonial-style structure, which had a popular cafeteria and one of the first indoor swimming pools here, was designed by Rock Island, Ill., architect, C.D. McLane. Designated a historic site, its architectural features were preserved during the renovation for the schools, through a gift from the Albert L. and Louise B. Miller Foundation.





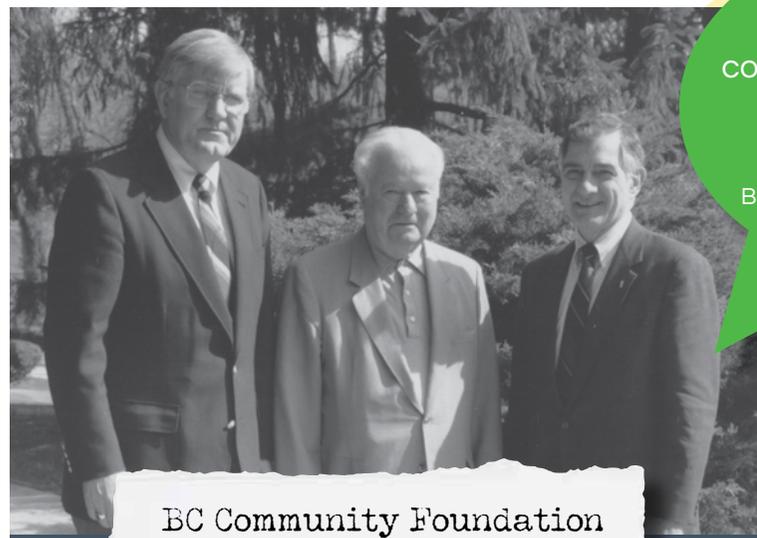
"Bob was a visionary...He would get enthusiastic, but I never saw him get angry at others or disrespectful. He just had a very positive mindset. He wanted to be realistic - he didn't want to create things that would become a burden in the future."

Russell Mawby, retired chairman and CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Battle Creek YMCA

A HEALTHY TRANSFORMATION — The YMCA dates back to 1889 in Battle Creek, but the organization underwent a major transformation in the early 1970s. Both the local YMCA and YWCA were grappling with aging facilities. The two groups decided to merge and build a combined Y Center. Robert B. Miller Sr. and W. James McQuiston chaired a capital campaign that raised \$2.5 million within five months. The new Y Center opened in July 1973. In addition to its support of the new Y, The Miller Foundation provided \$400,000 to renovate the old YWCA into the Miller Stone Building, a multi-use educational facility. Today the YMCA continues its mission of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Ted Govern, Bob Miller Sr., and Chris Christ.



BC Community Foundation

LETTING EVERYONE HELP — Not everyone can establish a family foundation. But Robert B. Miller Sr. believed there should be a way for people of more modest means to contribute to the improvement of Battle Creek. Working with Harry Davidson and Leonard White, they laid the groundwork for a vibrant civic foundation. The Miller Foundation, along with the Kendall and W. K. Kellogg Foundations, helped fund the start of the Greater Battle Creek Foundation (now the Battle Creek Community Foundation) in 1974 with about \$68,000 in assets. That initial investment has grown to more than \$100 million in assets today, allowing the foundation to distribute more than \$7 million annually in local grants and scholarships.

"It was always about the community, never about personal gain."

Peter J. Christ, former executive director, Battle Community Foundation

As the industrial park was taking shape, the future of the Millers' Federated Publications, which included the *Enquirer and News*, also was changing. In 1971, Federated's seven newspapers, were sold to Gannett Co. Inc. The move transferred the Miller Foundation's assets into Gannett stock, which showed strong growth in subsequent years, greatly enhancing the foundation's ability to help Battle Creek.

It was also during this period that Bob Miller Sr. began meeting with Battle Creek Public Schools Superintendent Harry Davidson and W. K. Kellogg Foundation executive Leonard White to discuss the possibility of creating a strong community foundation. Although there had been a modest civic foundation in Battle Creek, Bob wanted a conduit through which ordinary citizens could provide gifts to improve their community.

The Miller Foundation, along with the Kendall and W. K. Kellogg Foundations, helped fund the start of the Greater Battle Creek Foundation (now the Battle Creek Community Foundation) in 1974 with about \$68,000 in assets.

"Bob was instrumental in starting the community foundation," said Peter J. Christ, former executive director of BCCF. "He was a key motivator and rallying force in the beginning."

"Bob Miller's enthusiasm for the community made him want to provide an opportunity for everyone to be engaged," Russell Mawby, retired chairman and CEO of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, when speaking of the community foundation.

Battle Creek Community Foundation 1990 Grant Review Committee.



1963

1963: The newly established Albert L. and Louise B. Miller Foundation awards its first grant to Kellogg Community College for construction of a physical education facility.

1966

1965: Bob Miller Sr. is presented the Newton D. Baker II Award of the United Community Funds and Councils of America.

1966: Bob Miller Sr. is elected Federated Publications director for the ensuing year.

1973

1973: Miller Foundation awards first of almost \$2 million in grants for downtown improvement.

1973: Bob Miller Sr. named to the Civic Improvement Corp.

1973: Miller Foundation among first to provide funding for petting zoo at Binder Park.

1973: Miller Foundation pays for Berenice Bryant Lowe to write and publish "Tales of Battle Creek."

1979: Bob Miller Sr. receives the first "Super George" award.

1980

1980: Bob Miller Sr. co-chairs fund-raiser to expand Y Center.

1980: Seeing need for a quality downtown hotel, Bob Miller Sr. takes steps to make it happen, including his personal funds, foundation grants and community support.

1982: Ribbon is cut at the new \$3.7 million Miller Bridge honoring Robert B. Miller Sr. for his efforts to promote railroad consolidation.

1980: Miller Foundation leads effort to publish Battle Creek Sesquicentennial book.

1985: Olivet College presents Bob Miller Sr. with an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

1980s-1990s: Miller Foundation contributes almost \$2 million to Neighborhoods Inc., which became a national model for revitalization.

1990

1990's: Miller Foundation gives \$400,000 for renovation of Bailey Park, including construction of C.O. Brown Stadium.

1990's: Miller Foundation initiates and leads meeting to establish NorthPointe Woods.

1990's: 20,000 citizens participate in The Miller Foundation's ABC Survey asking the community what they want and need to help guide their grant making.

1990's: Miller Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, City of BC and Battle Creek Community Foundation collaborate on building Kellogg's Cereal City USA, now under renovation to become the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center.

1990's: Historical Society of Battle Creek presents Bob Miller Sr. with its first Berenice Lowe Award.

1995

1993: Miller Foundation gives \$75,000 toward startup of Burnham Brook Center.

1995: Miller Foundation pays for publication of the book "Empires" by Robert E. Hency.

1995-2008: Binder Park Zoo receives \$409,700 in grants.

1995-2010: United Way of Battle Creek receives \$737,000 in grants.

1995-2010: Neighborhoods Inc. receives \$1,269,557 in grants.

1998-2004: B.C. Family Y Center of BC receives \$413,200 in grants.

1999: Robert B. Miller Sr. passes away, but family legacy continues.

2000

2000: Miller Foundation gives \$300,000 to Leila Arboretum Society.

2001: Family Health Center receives \$160,000 for health enhancement and dental equipment.

2000-04: Haven of Rest Ministries receives \$200,000 in grants.

2004: Miller College receives the initial operating grant from The Miller Foundation.

1995-2010: KCC receives \$635,935 in grants.

2003: Haven of Rest Ministries receives \$145,000 in grants.

2003: The Music Center receives \$406,530 in grants.

2007: Robert B. Miller Jr., son of The Miller Foundation founder, dies.

2010

2010: The Miller Foundation establishes BCreative, a resource for students and teachers to explore and integrate the arts into education and the community.

2013

2013: 50-year anniversary celebrating a half-century of contributions to the Battle Creek Community.

50
Years Strong
THE MILLER FOUNDATION



\$450,000 Granted For KCC Building

Kellogg Community College than requested by the Michigan Department of Education will receive \$450,000 in construction funds from a \$4 million grant approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

1972: Miller Foundation kicks off consolidation of the local YMCA and YWCA and construction of a new Family Y Center with almost \$1 million in grants.



1971 Bob Miller Sr. becomes a director of Gannett Inc. when the company merges with Federated.

I N T H E B E G I N N I N G

1910

1928

1933

1950

1957

1961

then & now

A. L. Miller was hired by CW Post to manage the Enquirer, thus beginning the long association of the Miller family with the newspaper and Battle Creek.

Miller bought the Enquirer and News. It became a link in the chain of small newspapers which Miller purchased as head of Federated Publications.

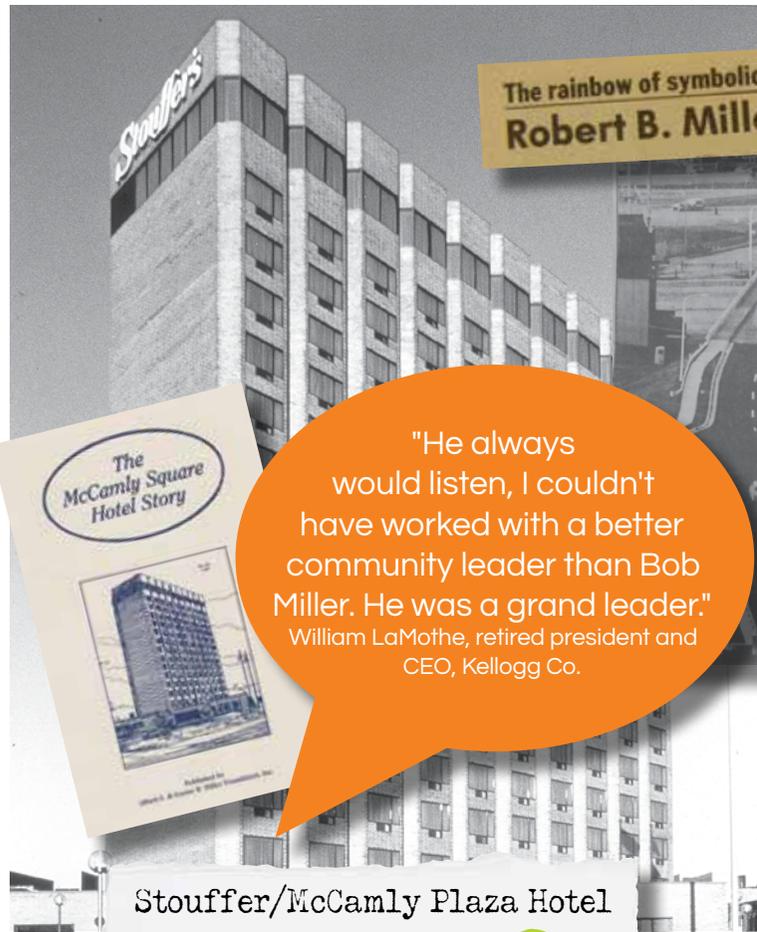
Miller becomes the newspapers' business manager.

Miller named co-publisher of the Enquirer and News.

Miller founds the George Awards & begins serving as newspaper editor until 1973.

Miller serves as chairman of the Battle Creek Railroad Consolidation Board.



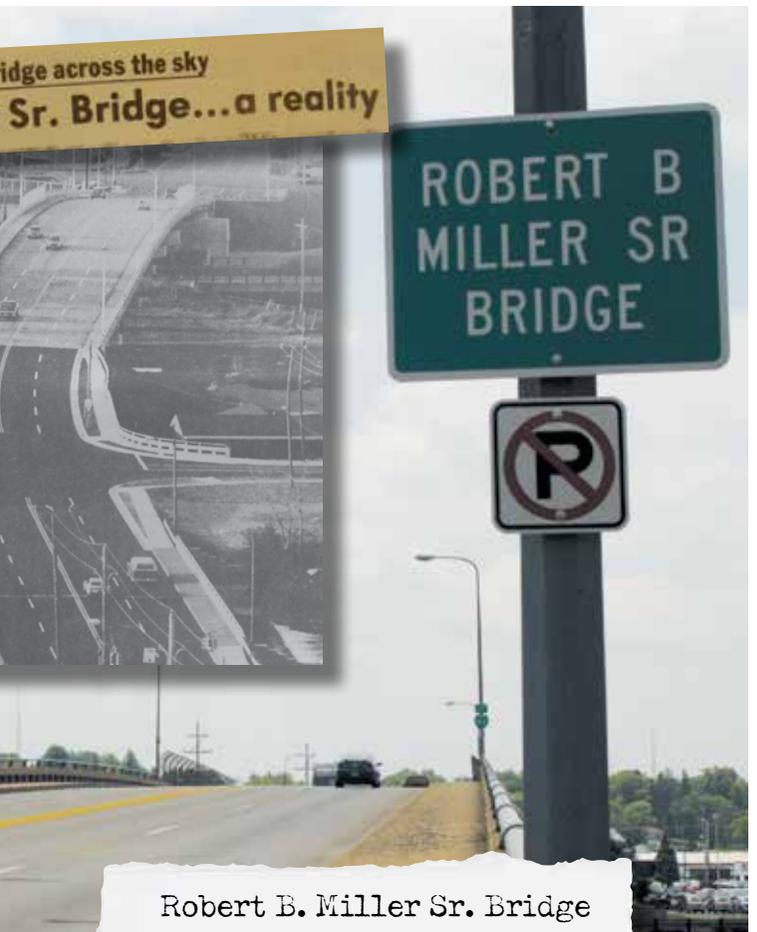


The rainbow of symbolic bridge across the sky
Robert B. Miller Sr. Bridge... a reality

"He always would listen, I couldn't have worked with a better community leader than Bob Miller. He was a grand leader."
 William LaMothe, retired president and CEO, Kellogg Co.

Stouffer/McCamly Plaza Hotel

RESHAPING THE CITY'S CORE — Robert B. Miller Sr. believed that a first-class hotel was essential to downtown Battle Creek's future. In 1979, he spent \$2 million of his personal funds to form McCamly Square Corp. Miller envisioned a "super block" development that would include a hotel, arena and retail/office complex. In November 1981, the 16-story, 250-room Stouffer Battle Creek Hotel (now McCamly Plaza Hotel) opened, with the McCamly Square project eventually including Kellogg Arena and an adjoining atrium area. Ownership of the hotel was transferred to Kellogg Co. in 1983.



Robert B. Miller Sr. Bridge

CONNECTING ALL PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY — In 1982 the bridge was dedicated in honor of Mr. Miller because of all his work promoting railroad consolidation. Mr. Miller concluded by saying "I am proud to be associated with and receive some of the credit for this bridge. It belongs to all of us. May it be a symbol of unification." Coincidentally \$4.2 million in bonds were sold on the construction cost of the bridge over the river and the railroads on Washington Avenue, thus completing the cycle of railroad consolidation.

Food Bank of South Central MI



INVESTING IN A NEW IDEA — Despite millions of hungry Americans, good food too often goes to waste. Finding a way to collect surplus food and distribute it to those in need was the focus of the food bank movement that started in 1965 in Arizona. Battle Creek, with its food industry, seemed a natural place to launch such a venture. When approached with the idea, Robert B. Miller Sr. agreed. The Miller Foundation and the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo provided the first funds to start the Food Bank of South Central Michigan in October 1982. Over the past three decades, the Miller Foundation has continued to support the Food Bank, which today serves more than 100,000 people a year through its nearly 300 agency partners in eight counties.

"Mr. Miller Sr. understood the concept of food banking, how specifically unique it was, and how it fit into the food industry... The Miller Foundation was integral to our starting....he thought if it ought to work anywhere, it ought to work in Battle Creek with the food companies here."
 Robert Randels, CEO,
 Food Bank of South Central Michigan

Just as he wanted to help sustain Fort Custer as a vital community entity, so too did Bob Miller Sr. want to see downtown Battle Creek survive the trend of retail stores moving to the suburbs, leaving behind empty buildings that often fell into disrepair.

As downtown struggled in the 1980s, the Miller Foundation invested \$3.8 million in revitalization efforts, part of \$100 million in public and private funds that went into capital improvements. Bob Miller Sr. wanted to see a "super block" built, providing a first-class downtown hotel, arena and retail space. He believed so strongly in the concept that he invested \$2 million of his personal wealth into constructing a 250-room hotel.

Stouffer Battle Creek Hotel, now McCamly Plaza Hotel, opened in November 1981, the first phase of the McCamly Square project that eventually would include Kellogg Arena and retail/office space. The hotel eventually was given to the Miller Foundation via a gift from Bob Miller Sr., but amid the recession of the early '80s, operation of the hotel threatened to drain the foundation's resources. In 1983, responsibility for the hotel and its debt was transferred to Kellogg Co., which was constructing its new world headquarters across the street.

Beyond downtown and Fort Custer, Bob Miller Sr. also was passionate about improving the quality of life for all Battle Creek residents.





A group of volunteers formed in the 1970s to pursue the idea of establishing a children's zoo. The idea intrigued Bob, despite widespread skepticism that Battle Creek could support a zoo.

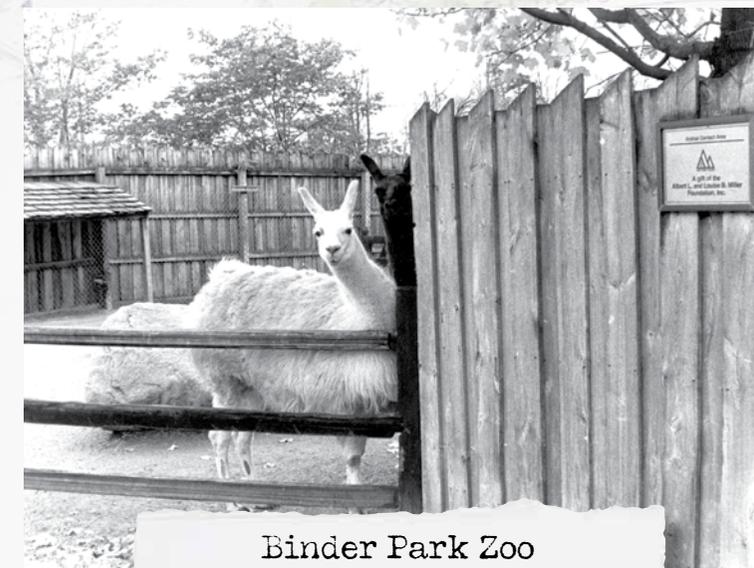
The Miller Foundation provided the first grant, for \$30,000, to pursue a petting zoo.

"Bob was willing to take chances," said Greg Geise, who became the zoo's first employee when he was hired as executive director April 1, 1977. "The Miller Foundation was one of three or four organizations that, frankly, made the zoo possible."

"He was a very strong-willed man and didn't have any space for negativity. It was, 'I want to make this community great. Are you going to help or not?'"
Greg Geise, executive director of Binder Park Zoo, 1977-2012

"Those early years were really, hard," said Geise, who retired in 2012 after 35 years as zoo director. "A lot of my job was to promote the dream (of a zoo), and Bob really got that because he had a dream for Battle Creek. He lent the project credibility."

Today Binder Park Zoo has grown from an initial 87 acres to 433 acres of natural forests and wetlands and is considered one of the leading cultural attractions in southwest Michigan. The Miller Foundation has provided additional funding throughout the years, including for the Miller Children's Zoo and contributing to the zoo's Wild Africa exhibit. Since its opening in 1977, the self-supporting, nonprofit zoo has attracted more than 7 million visitors.



Binder Park Zoo

FROM DREAM TO REALITY — To many people in Battle Creek 40 years ago, the idea of creating a zoo seemed like an impossible dream. But Robert B. Miller Sr. believed in dreams – and in Battle Creek. He convinced others in the community to join him in providing funds for a zoo like no other. The Miller Foundation awarded the first grant, for \$30,000, to pursue a petting zoo, which opened in 1977. Today the nonprofit, Binder Park Zoo covers 433 acres and attracts tens of thousands of visitors a year. The Miller Foundation has provided a total of more than \$1 million in funding through the years.



MILLER CHILDRENS ZOO

BINDER PARK ZOO

Battle Creek, Michigan



KELLOGG
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Kellogg Community College

SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES — As the campus of Kellogg Community College took shape in the early 1960s, the need for a physical education facility was clear. One of the first grants awarded by the newly established Albert L. and Louise B. Miller Foundation (later renamed The Miller Foundation) was to help pay for a gymnasium and swimming pool for KCC. Since that initial gift, The Miller Foundation has continued to support KCC in numerous ways, including helping make the campus handicap accessible and establishing The Miller Adult Scholarship Fund, which assists nontraditional students in obtaining a college education.

The Miller Foundation's most ambitious project to date has been creation of Robert B. Miller College, a four-year baccalaureate institution adjacent to the KCC campus.

Several colleges and universities long had branch offices and offered courses in Battle Creek, often in cooperation with KCC. But none would provide a program in which local residents could earn a degree without eventually traveling outside Battle Creek for coursework.

A number of community leaders, particularly those concerned about economic development, advocated for establishment of a four-year college in Battle Creek to provide a more educated workforce and attract professionals to the community.

In 2000, an exploratory committee, made up of representatives of The Miller Foundation, KCC and economic development interests, was formed to study the possibility of a four-year college. It was a daunting challenge.

"One of the longest meetings we ever had with The Miller Foundation board was whether we should get involved with such a project, knowing it would involve substantial resources and time," said Arthur Angood, a member of the exploratory committee and then-chairman of The Miller Foundation board. Helping establish a four-year college would be the foundation's "biggest project – absolutely – by far," said Angood, who continues to serve as a foundation trustee and was the founding president of the new college.

Angood said the foundation board knew that KCC would be an exceptionally strong partner for the project. In seeking another funding partner, the board turned to the Binda Foundation.

"Elizabeth (Binda) fully endorsed the idea and agreed to put her foundation's assets into the project," Angood said.

"Bob Miller Sr. was a genuine guy and the best part about him was he really believed in Battle Creek...He lived what he believed. It really is a love story of a community...I've never met anybody, anywhere, who expressed openly caring for a community like him."

Paul Ohm,
Robert B. Miller College president and
Miller Foundation trustee

The concept of establishing a private college in partnership with a public community college, and owned by a private foundation, was unique in Michigan. No one was quite certain what kind of challenges would arise in pursuing such a plan.

But when the opportunity arose to acquire an existing articles of incorporation for a college, Miller Foundation trustees recognized that it would eliminate a tremendous state bureaucratic hurdle in creating a college. On Dec. 7, 2000, the board voted unanimously to purchase the articles of incorporation from the Kendall College of Art and Design, which was being absorbed by Ferris State University. Later that month a Private School Development Corporation (PSDC) was incorporated to hold the college charter.

Years of preparatory work followed before Robert B. Miller College opened its doors to students, offering two summer classes in June 2005. Fifteen students enrolled. That September, an official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held and fall semester classes began with an enrollment of 106 students.

The college reached another huge milestone in February 2008 when it achieved accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Today, Miller College offers baccalaureate programs in business, education, nursing and applied sciences. One of its primary goals is to serve the needs of nontraditional students who are seeking to earn bachelor's degrees, often while working full-time and raising families.

Robert B. Miller died in 1999, never knowing that Battle Creek one day would be home to a four-year college bearing his name. His oldest son and successor as publisher of the Battle Creek *Enquirer*, Robert B. Miller Jr., was a strong backer of the college, seeing it as not only a tremendous community asset but a fitting tribute to his father's

2005 Ribbon cutting ceremony for Robert B. Miller College.



Robert B. Miller College

SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES — Supporters of a local four-year college for years argued that Battle Creek's economic future hinged on a better educated work force. Despite a strong community college and partnerships with nearby colleges and universities, there was no opportunity for local residents to earn baccalaureate degrees without traveling out of town. It was an especially difficult goal for non-traditional adult students, who often had family and job commitments. As the 21st century dawned, The Miller Foundation took a giant step forward, partnering with Kellogg Community College and economic development interests to first research and eventually establish a four-year educational institution. Robert B. Miller College opened its doors in 2005. Today, Robert B. Miller College offers baccalaureate programs in business, education, nursing and applied sciences, with a special emphasis on serving the needs of nontraditional students.

dedication to the Battle Creek community. Bob Miller Jr. died in 2007 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Bob Miller Jr.'s brother, Allen Miller, continues to serve on The Miller Foundation board.

"I think Dad would be very proud of Miller College," Al Miller said. "Dad was devoted to Battle Creek, so if it was in any way possible to make a significant contribution to the community, he would."

The foundation that Robert B. Miller established 50 years ago will ensure that those significant contributions continue well into the 21st century.

THE MILLER FOUNDATION

donations & grants 1963-2013

Access Vision	\$27,000.00	Community Inclusive Recreation	\$174,125.00	Michigan Colleges Foundation	\$343,000.00
Alano Club	\$55,000.00	Council of Michigan Foundations	\$50,280.00	Midnight at the Creek	\$18,000.00
American Red Cross of Boise	\$25,000.00	Economic Development Forum	\$40,000.00	Miller College	\$3,274,553.00
American Red Cross of Calhoun County	\$114,412.44	Emily Andrus Senior Residence	\$26,900.00	Morrison Center for the Performing Arts	\$50,000.00
Art Center of Battle Creek	\$170,500.00	Family and Children Services	\$99,600.00	Neighborhoods Inc.	\$1,913,524.00
Arts & Industry Council	\$513,092.00	Family Health Center of BC	\$230,000.00	New Level Sports, Inc.	\$80,800.00
Battle Creek Area Chamber Foundation	\$54,000.00	Family Y Center of BC	\$879,714.00	NonProfit Alliance	\$98,000.00
Battle Creek Civic Theatre	\$28,600.00	First Congregational Church of BC	\$106,625.00	NorthPointe Woods	\$56,000.00
Battle Creek Community Foundation	\$1,032,866.00	Food Bank of SCM	\$183,200.00	Oakhill Cemetery	\$20,000.00
Battle Creek Day Care	\$54,500.00	Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan	\$175,790.00	Olivet College	\$59,840.00
Battle Creek Downtown Development Authority	\$1,890,430.52	Good Samaritan Hospice Care	\$41,500.00	One Economy Corporation	\$30,000.00
Battle Creek Health System	\$349,100.00	Goodwill Industries	\$74,748.00	Planned Parenthood	\$50,000.00
Battle Creek Math and Science Center	\$313,000.00	Guardian Finance & Advocacy Services	\$60,500.00	Project 20/20	\$30,000.00
Battle Creek Public Schools	\$458,659.49	Habitat for Humanity	\$229,700.00	SAFE Place	\$166,570.00
Battle Creek Unlimited	\$377,142.00	Hands On BC	\$56,425.00	Second's New Vision and Outreach Ministries	\$92,784.50
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$69,942.00	Heritage Battle Creek	\$238,916.85	Sherman Lake YMCA	\$50,000.00
Binder Park Zoo	\$1,156,941.35	Hockey International, Inc.	\$65,000.00	SNAP Preschool	\$55,800.00
Boy Scouts of America	\$50,500.00	Humane Society	\$267,154.80	Southwest Michigan Rehab Hospital	\$58,850.00
Brass Band of Battle Creek	\$67,000.00	Interlochen Center for the Arts	\$50,000.00	Starr Commonwealth	\$29,485.00
Burnham Brook	\$134,000.00	Junior Achievement	\$205,304.78	STRIVE	\$60,000.00
Calhoun Area Millenium Partnerships, LLC	\$200,000.00	Kambly Living Center	\$27,775.00	Substance Abuse Council	\$46,435.00
Calhoun Intermediate School District	\$127,000.00	Kellogg Cereal City USA	\$373,000.00	The Haven of Rest Ministries, Inc.	\$197,715.00
Cereal City Development Corp	\$384,647.00	Kellogg Community College	\$1,190,705.00	The Music Center	\$498,786.68
Charitable Union	\$133,973.50	Kellogg Community College Foundation	\$82,680.00	The Salvation Army	\$40,750.00
City of Albion	\$25,000.00	Kingman Museum	\$227,500.00	United Way of Battle Creek	\$1,239,021.59
City of Battle Creek	\$978,117.17	Lakeview Community Schools	\$50,000.00	Up With People	\$14,399.74
CityLinc Ministries	\$41,241.24	Legal Services of SCM	\$218,500.00	Urban Help, Inc.	\$35,870.00
Community Action	\$133,649.80	Leila Arboretum Society	\$365,150.00	Urban League	\$111,217.42
Community HealthCare Connection	\$50,000.00	Marian Burch Center	\$33,200.00	Washington Heights Community Ministries	\$41,900.00
				Willard Library	\$76,256.56
				Woman's Co-op	\$35,150.00
				Youth for Understanding	\$140,900.00
				Other Grants Under \$25,000 Totaling	\$871,227.90
				TOTAL	\$24,726,144.33

» total over \$24 million »



Bob Sr. with father Albert at groundbreaking of the Enquirer.



Louise Miller with son Bob Sr.

board of trustees history

Original Board 1963 – 1965

Joseph F. Deeb
Henry C. Hawk
Katherine M. Johnston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Roger N. Turner

1966 – 1973

Sidney B. Bennett
Hobart A. Chipman
Katherine M. Johnston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Roger N. Turner

1974

Sidney B. Bennett
Katherine M. Johnston
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Roger N. Turner
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1975 - 1976

Arthur W. Angood
Sidney B. Bennett
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1977

Arthur W. Angood
Joyce Barton
Sidney B. Bennett
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1978 – 1979

Arthur W. Angood
Sidney B. Bennett
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1980

Arthur W. Angood
Sidney B. Bennett
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Olive T. Miller
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1981 - 1983

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Gary E. Costley
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Olive T. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1984 – 1988

Arthur W. Angood
Sidney B. Bennett
Barbara L. Comai
Gary E. Costley
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
Dale G. Griffin
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Olive T. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1989 – 1991

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Gary E. Costley
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
Dale G. Griffin
W. James McQuiston
Olive T. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1992 – 1995

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Gary E. Costley
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Olive T. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Arnold VanZanten
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1996

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Gary E. Costley
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Dr. Paul R. Ohm
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1997-1998

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Gary E. Costley
Rebecca A. Engelhardt
Robert E. Hincey
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Dr. Paul R. Ohm
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

1999

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Rebecca Englehardt
Rance L. Leaders
W. James McQuiston
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Dr. Paul R. Ohm
Gloria J. Robertson,
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

2000-2003

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Rance L. Leaders
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Dr. Paul R. Ohm
Gloria J. Robertson
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.

2004 - 2007

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Dr. Greg D. Dotson
John J. Gallagher
Rance L. Leaders
Allen L. Miller
Robert B. Miller, Jr.
Dr. Paul R. Ohm
Gloria J. Robertson

2008-2013

Arthur W. Angood
Barbara L. Comai
Dr. Greg D. Dotson
John J. Gallagher
Rance L. Leaders
Allen L. Miller
Dr. Paul R. Ohm
Gloria J. Robertson

2013 board of trustees



Standing (left to right): Dr. Paul R. Ohm, Barbara L. Comai, John J. Gallagher, Rance L. Leaders, Dr. Arthur W. Angood. Seated (left to right): Gloria J. Robertson, Sara Wallace (Executive Director), Allen L. Miller, Dr. Greg D. Dotson.

CIO/Executive Directors
(1963-2013)

Robert B. Miller, Sr.
Dr. Arthur W. Angood
Fred M. Woodruff, Jr.
Diane Thompson
Sara Wallace





"An open door to
ideas always lets in
more sunshine."

Robert B. Miller, Sr.





50
Years Strong
THE MILLER FOUNDATION

310 WahWahTaySee Way, Battle Creek, MI 49015
Phone 269-964-3542 • Fax 269-964-8455
www.themillerfoundation.org