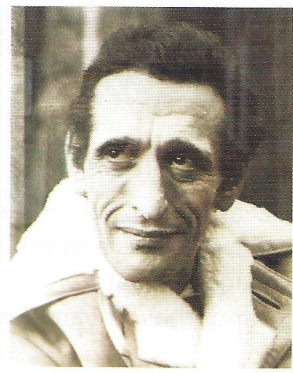




The Giver

THE ICONIC CLEVELANDER WHO HELPED BUILD THIS CITY WHILE QUIETLY PROPPING UP COUNTLESS PROJECTS AND PEOPLE SHOWS HOW TOUGHNESS AND LOVE CAN BETTER A COMMUNITY. **BY KRISTEN HAMPSHIRE**



Q Cleveland icon, a builder, a doer — a giver: That’s Sam Miller, with his characteristic grit and goodness. He’s tough. “You want to know something about being 95? It’s not for sissies,” he says, sitting in his Forest City office at Terminal Tower. Cleveland is Mr. Miller’s neighborhood. It’s where he grew up, poor, struggling, born from Jewish immigrants. He’d help his dad peddle rags only to be spit on and cursed at. “If we made \$1.50 one day, that was good,” he says.

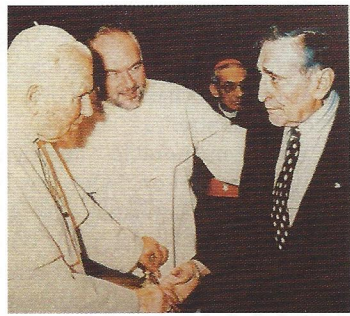
He’s compassionate with a deep heart for the underdog. “Anyone who says he is a self-made man is a fool,” Miller says. “And those who God wishes to destroy, he drives mad with power first.”

“He made it very clear to us at a young age that it’s not important what you have, it’s more important what you do with it,” says son Abraham Miller, who owns a small manufacturing business in Cleveland. Abraham is one of Miller’s four children.

Treating every person as a neighbor — caring for the community and, frankly,



Sam Miller's office at Forest City in Tower City Center is filled to the brim with photographs and mementos. Each item represents a piece of Miller's 95-year life and the countless people and projects he has helped throughout the years.



building the infrastructure for Cleveland communities — makes Miller a most unusual type of leader.

When help is needed, Miller always answers the call. In fact, he answers every call. "We don't allow anyone to say, 'Who is calling?' or 'What do you want?' Put them through. Put them through," he relates.

Miller remembers sitting in his old Brookpark Road office one Saturday when a guy walked in, dripping wet. "He said, 'You Sam Miller?' Yeah. 'Well, I'm the head of the Parma library and we need some money.'"

Miller agreed to back the library. Years later, Miller found himself in a "hot zoning battle," he says. He needed one more vote. "That guy stood up and said, 'I'll vote for you because when I needed something, you helped.' That's the way business is. But it has changed a lot. This is not the world I knew."

Miller supports Project Love, which is a character and values training organization and its mission is to empower people to "put their values into action and create a community of kindness, caring,

respect and civility," says executive director and CEO Stuart Muszynski.

Its mission aligns with the way Miller has always lived his life. "Anything that has anything to do with love...is important," Miller says of Project Love.

Helping is not about doing the big things. And Miller has done plenty of big things, most of which he does quietly. "I've given away millions," he says in a near mumble. He does not elaborate.

"There are many people Sam has helped because they didn't know where else to go — if it was a matter of food, clothing or education, Sam was always there, and he, most of the time, never took credit," says Richard Bogomolny, chairman and CEO of former First National Supermarkets Inc., which owned Pick-N-Pay and Finast Supermarkets. He recalls giving away 1,500 turkeys with Miller at U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes' Christmas parties for those who could not afford their own.

When Miller sees a community problem, he addresses it — whether education, safety or helping those in need. He grew up here, and he is a fierce yet often quiet protector of what's right.

"Sam Miller helped organize Cops and Kids during a time when people in the

"What I learned from my father is it's the little things that make a difference in people's lives. So take the time to speak with someone in person, write a note. Just make yourself available."

-Abraham Miller, son of Sam Miller and CEO, Graffiti Inc.

"I've seen how much he cares for all people, and he proves that with his actions, his words and his generosity.... Sam is fiercely loyal and, as a result, inspires the same loyalty in return.

I'll always remember near the completion of my interview for the [Medical Mutual] board when Sam looked at me and said, 'You know what I like about you? You treat this company's money as if it were your own.' That will forever go down as one of the top highlights of my career."

-Rick Chiricosta, chairman, president and CEO, Medical Mutual of Ohio

inner city were afraid of the police," Bogomolny says. "It made some significant headway, and it was Sam's idea."

Bishop Anthony Pilla speaks of Miller as a dear friend of 36 years. "Every Sunday, he would bring my mother bagels, and after they had prayed together, hand-in-hand, they would visit over bagels and cheese," he says.

"When you are with Sam, you can sense you are in the presence of a good man," Pilla says.

Miller's wife, Maria, remembers first meeting her husband. "I have never, ever encountered a man who has the mind that he has and who has such a feeling for other people."

The Millers have entertained guests at their home "from all walks of life," Maria shares. "It doesn't make any difference your position to Sam. If you are honest with Sam, there is nothing in this world he won't do for you. And I'm not talking about people he knows, I'm talking about strangers who walk in his office."

We'll never know exactly how many people Miller has helped over the years, and he prefers it that way. "He is brilliant, and compassionate," says Albert B. Ratner, co-chairman emeritus, Forest City Enterprises. The two have been in business together for more than 65 years. "He is willing to do things that others are not willing to do. He is willing to take action."

Rick Chiricosta, chairman, president and CEO of Medical Mutual of Ohio, would turn to Miller for guidance. "While I appreciated his input on business matters, it was his keen insight with respect to people that most helped me become the leader I am today," he says. "I've seen how much he cares for all people, and he proves that with his actions, his words and his generosity."

Muszynski says, "Sam has seen the best and worst of mankind. That is why he has embraced goodness as a cause."

Growing Up the Hard Way

Don't sugarcoat my story, Miller warns. "I was very tough," he says of business, of life.

Ratner says that Miller "has a set of baggage, and he lives with that baggage." He doesn't live in a fantasy world. "He lives in this world, and he is comfortable in it. He's loyal," Ratner says.

Miller shares a lesson learned from Gov. Jim Rhodes — Be humble. "I don't like talking about myself," Miller says.

He calls the story of his life "very common," though it has been a journey layered with hard-won successes and just plain hard times that many would not associate with the Sam Miller they read about as Cleveland's iconic developer.

He hired his secretary of 65 years, Eleanor Fanslau, when she was 17. "She has been both — my right and left," he says, holding up each hand.

When Miller was about 8 years old, he helped his father collect remnants from people's

trash. They sold the rags to gas stations, where they were used to clean off windshields. "I used to help my father peddle junk," he says. "Junk peddler. I got up at 4 a.m., went down to the stable, rented a horse, a wagon, got a bag of oats. For a dollar a day. The horse was cheap, of course, because he was blind."

He remembers his first day at Woodland Elementary in Cleveland. He didn't speak English. He raised his hand to excuse himself to the restroom. The teacher batted it down. He was sent home to his parents; they were told to study at the library. Miller could return to school once he could speak the language.

He wore shirts his mother sewed for him out of material salvaged from women's dresses. One day after school, he came home. "There was ma, on the tree lawn. Crying," he says. "I said, 'Ma, what happened?' She said, 'The sheriff was here. And this is what he left.' A Singer sewing machine. A kitchen table that was scarred. A couple of chairs and a bed."

They lost the house.

"My most memorable experiences were two," he goes on. "One was being arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for purse snatching." When a woman, dressed up, showed at school and the teacher lined up every student in the hallway, she picked out Miller. "They marched me down to the principal's office. That changed my life. That gave me a love for the police I had never known. You called the police, 'Sir.'"

The other memory he shares: When the teacher told the class to wear nice clothing to school the next day. "We are going to take a ride," she said. The class traveled to then Western Reserve College's dentistry school. "They pulled 13 teeth out of my mouth. It was rotten.

"Mr. Sam Miller is a true Clevelander. He comes from the neighborhood and he has risen to become one of the top businessmen in Cleveland. He has given back to Cleveland both as a businessman and a person."

-Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson

"We have a valued, special relationship.... Sam is an extremely charitable person, and he has had the community at heart ever since I have known him. He is extremely intelligent. The community should be proud to have a man like him around."

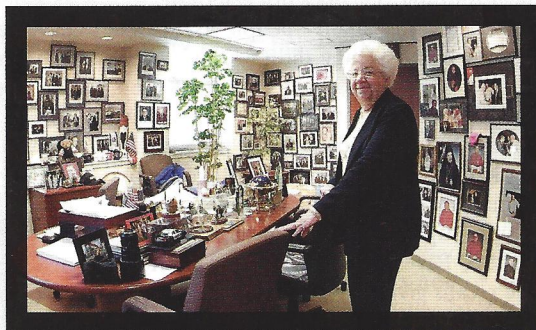
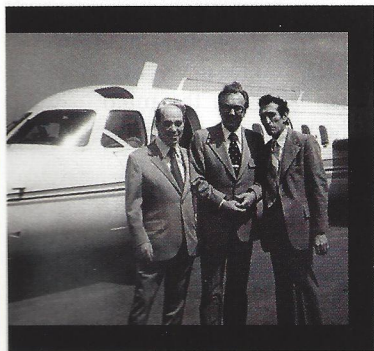
-Louis Fodor, friend of 68 years

"You're not supposed to know how many people Sam has helped. He's not a scorekeeper. Helping is just in his nature. And, you have to remember Sam in the business world — he was very much involved in the physical development of so much of Cleveland."

-Albert B. Ratner, co-chairman emeritus, Forest City Enterprises

"If you have Sam on your side, you're going to be OK. He's a real friend and he's always there for people. And, he's tough — he's a fighter."

-Richard Bogomolny, chairman and CEO of former First National Supermarkets Inc., which owned Pick-N-Pay and Finast Supermarkets.



Above: Eleanor Fanslau has been Sam Miller's secretary for the last 63 years. Miller credits her as being both his right and left hand throughout the years. **Left, right and below:** A glimpse at some of the people and places Miller has encountered during his career.



Very bad. I came home bloody, pretty well in shock. They wouldn't do that today. God only knows the lawsuits."

Miller values nothing more than education. It's the great equalizer. "The most important thing I would advise anyone — I don't care what their color is or religion — is to get an education."

Miller was given a scholarship to what is now Case Western Reserve University. The only B he got was one time when he entered the classroom and accidentally stumbled over a professor's guide dog. Eventually he received a scholarship to attend Harvard University.

His mother, supportive of his pursuit of knowledge, would read to him. "And I would read to her," he says. The

“Sam is just looking to do good deeds, and he is not looking for credit. He is thoughtful, concerned and uses his power to help others. He is such a great man. He always has a big-picture view, and he is never petty. If Sam is your friend or partner, that means a lot.”

-Gary Gross, partner, Gross Builders

admiration for his first role model is evident in the tender way Miller talks about her influence. Before leaving for Harvard, Miller had never left home. But he took a train from Terminal Tower and arrived at Harvard — late. He met his roommates.

"I had worn tennis shoes to get there..." he says, noting that he immediately discovered how very little he had. "I had nothing. It was a very traumatic experience because for the first time in all my life, I realized I was poor. Really poor."

“Sam Miller is tireless and dedicated to the values he believes in. He worked very hard to bring the Catholic community and the Jewish community together to collaborate in efforts to benefit the needy and less privileged, especially young people. He is a very well-informed and intelligent person who sees opportunities where other people cannot see them.”

-Bishop Anthony Pilla

And I didn't like it. I did not like it.”

Miller was a few days away from graduation when the Pearl Harbor attack happened. He enlisted in the Navy.

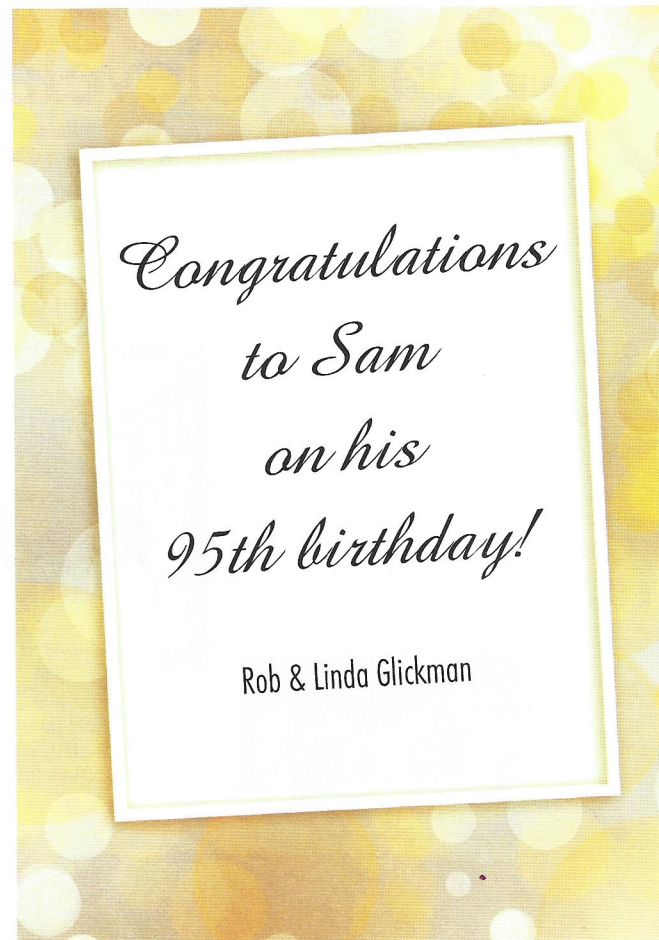
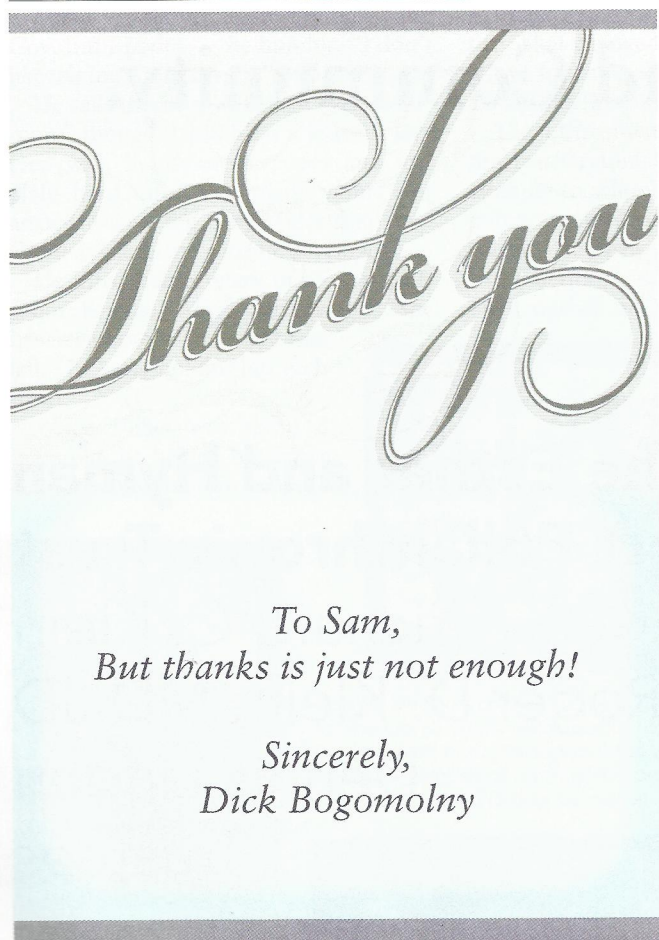
Miller served for 34 months in the Pacific. "I got in trouble with my superior officer," he says, sharing that he was caught drinking water from the same pail as a black man. Miller had no idea that was a problem.

After the service, Miller was released to a post in Cleveland for about six months, and he got a job at Forest City.

"And the rest is rags to riches," he says. "I love helping people because I know what it meant to me."

“Sam has a great understanding of the community and its needs. He has gone above and beyond to help Cleveland Clinic maintain relationships with government, business and community leaders. He's generous with his time and has helped in so many ways.”

-Toby M. Cosgrove, MD, president and CEO, Cleveland Clinic



“In my 46 years at *The Plain Dealer* and 56 years in this city, Sam is truly one of the great human beings that I’ve had the privilege of knowing.... A lot of people look upon Sam Miller as a very generous political broker. I view him as God’s broker for humanitarian causes.

Sam helps the firemen, Sam

helps the policemen, Sam doesn’t look at race, religion or creed. He helps minorities. He is the largest contributor to Catholic schools and education.

Years ago, when my mother was terminal with cancer and was at the Cleveland Clinic, Sam would just slip in at 6 or 6:30 a.m. to

visit. She would be sleeping under medication and he wouldn’t even wake her. He’d just stop by to see how she was and then he’d lecture the nursing staff about taking care of her.

He does so many things in a quiet way.”

-Alex Machaskee, former president and publisher of *The Plain Dealer*, president of Alex Machaskee & Associates

All We Need is Love

Miller has an affinity for children, for education, for propping up those who most need the help. “If we had more love...” he says. Miller received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland last year.

Miller points to the walls in his office that are plastered with photographs. There’s a wall for religion. One for Israel. A wall of characters. Politics.

Miller was the first businessperson in Cleveland to jump on board with Project Love, Muszynski says. The organization was six months old. Miller called a meeting with Muszynski. He had heard about Project Love from the late Rabbi Cohen

at Park Synagogue.

“He says, ‘You know, Muszynski, I heard about your program and your successes and that you believe we can transform our schools through the power of love.’” Muszynski nodded.

“Well, I think you’re crazy. But I’m going to help you.”

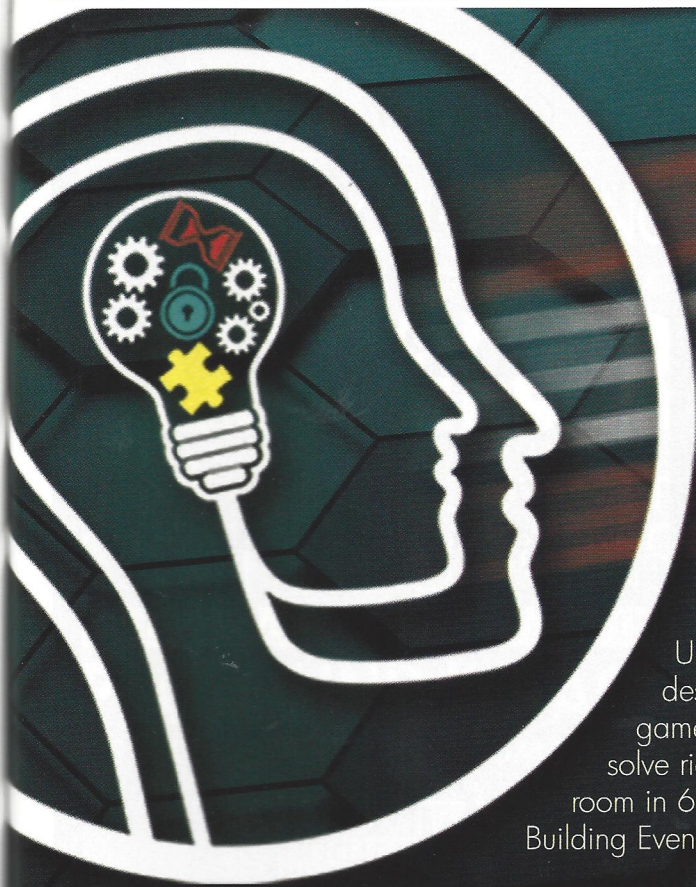
Miller made a few calls, rallied other business leaders and helped get the first Community Understanding Day underway. “Sam Miller will go out on a limb. He will challenge the community to do good — to do better — and to be there for people,” Muszynski says. “Sam is a catalyst.”

About 15 years ago, Miller approached

Project Love with an interest in creating an event with honorees — the Sam Miller Celebration of Goodness Awards. He told Muszynski, “I want to give an award to people who are simply and unselfishly putting their goodness into the community because I want Cleveland to be a community of goodness.”

The award itself is a catalyst.

“I can’t tell you how many people we hear from every year who come to the Celebration of Goodness [event] and see that award and recognize they could be a little bit better in the treatment of fellow men and women,” Muszynski relates. “That they could invest a little more goodness in the community.”



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Leading by Example

THE CELEBRATION OF GOODNESS HONOREES WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR CAREERS TO CREATING A THRIVING, HEALTHY AND SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD IN NORTHEAST OHIO REFLECT ON THE INFLUENCE OF SAM MILLER AND PROJECT LOVE.

BY KRISTEN HAMPSHIRE

Bruce Akers

"I'm a strong believer that we have a great community — and the only way to keep it great and growing is to get involved," says Bruce Akers, former mayor of Pepper Pike and retired senior vice president for civic affairs at KeyBank. "Nothing gets accomplished on the sidelines."

He was on Pepper Pike's city council for 16 years prior to becoming its mayor. Then he went on to spend two decades leading the community. As a strong proponent of regional cooperation, he and two other mayors formed the Citizens Committee for

County Reform to draw up adoption of a Charter form of government. He was co-chair in getting that adopted. Within the charter, it said that two years later there would be a Charter Review Commission, which he chaired.

Today, Akers is involved in Salvation Army, as a 46-year board member and past chairman. "Their [mission] is a total commitment to helping the less fortunate," he says of the organization.

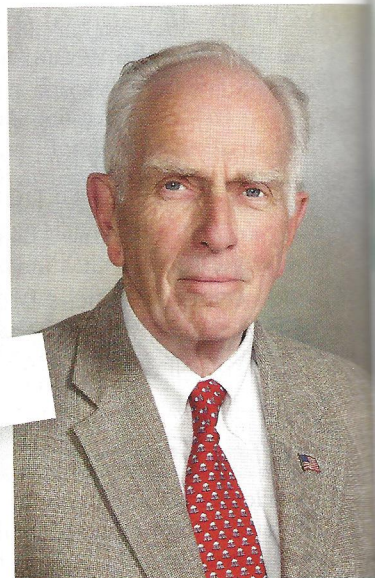
And, he started working with City Year in 1996 when it came to Cleveland, and served as its vice chairman of the board. The organization

improves the morals, attendance and performance of students attending Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Akers has led the life of a mentor, community advocate and volunteer. "With all the challenges and issues facing our youth today, it is important to have programs like Project Love, which is working so effectively with students in our schools to teach such values as kindness, caring, respect, civility and success."

Of Sam Miller, Akers

admires the man who came from a humble background and has found success through giving. Akers recalls first meeting Miller in the 1970s. "He has taken his successes and contributed it back to the community, and we are very fortunate," he says. "He is a leader with immense impact even while he tries to remain behind the scenes."



The Mayor



Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND

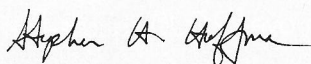
Celebrates Sam Miller

You are the epitome of goodness in every way. Thank you for all that you do.

Mazel tov!

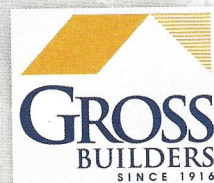
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Congratulations to
Sam Miller
on his
95th Birthday!

You are a great man
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Dr. Akram Boutros

Three years ago, Akram Boutros, MD, came to Cleveland to serve as the MetroHealth System's president and chief executive officer. The New Yorker brought with him more than 20 years of leadership experience in a range of hospital settings, most recently president of the health care consulting firm BusinessFirst Health-care Solutions.

"What I love about Cleveland is how resilient people are," Boutros says. "I love the potential."

He has immersed himself in the city, serving on the boards of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, United Way of Greater Cleveland, the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation and Cleveland Ballet. He was chair of the American Heart Association 2015 Cleveland Heart Ball, the most successful in the city's history.



The Doctor

Six months after assuming his role at MetroHealth, Boutros paid a visit to Sam Miller. "I had heard a great deal about his involvement in the community, his longevity

and his business acumen," he relates.

What he experienced during that meeting he'll never forget — the memorabilia and photographs on Miller's

walls and his forward, investigative style. He wanted to know: What do you intend to do for Cleveland?

And Miller shared a story that stuck with Boutros. "He said, 'You know the greatest gift my parents ever gave me?' I said, 'No. What was that?' He said, 'Nothing. My parents left me with nothing, and that was a great gift. I had to earn everything. They gave me love and care, but from a material perspective, they gave me absolutely nothing.'"

Additionally, Boutros appreciates the pure, basic principles of Project Love. "Love, care and kindness in business are words that have been long relegated as 'bad,' but it's quite the opposite," he says. "In today's day and age, wonderful leaders love what they do, they love the people they work with and trust them."

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Thank you for all you do to make our community a healthier place to live and work.



Bill Considine

As one of the longest serving hospital CEOs in the United States, Bill Considine has served as the chief executive officer and president of Akron Children's Hospital since 1979.

"We were founded by a group of women volunteers when they opened a two-room day nursery and put three promises on the wall," Considine explains.

"One promise was to treat every child that comes through these doors as if he or she were our own. Two is to treat others the way we want to be treated. And the third promise was to never turn away a child for any reason."

In 1890, when racial tensions in town were strong, this was a brave and impactful promise. "The doors were open to all children," Considine says. "I tell that story because those three promises



are tied to the spirit of Sam Miller. Every child he encounters he treats as one of his own."

Considine met Miller in the mid-1980s while chairing Mayor Don Plusquellic's Task Force for Youth-on-Youth

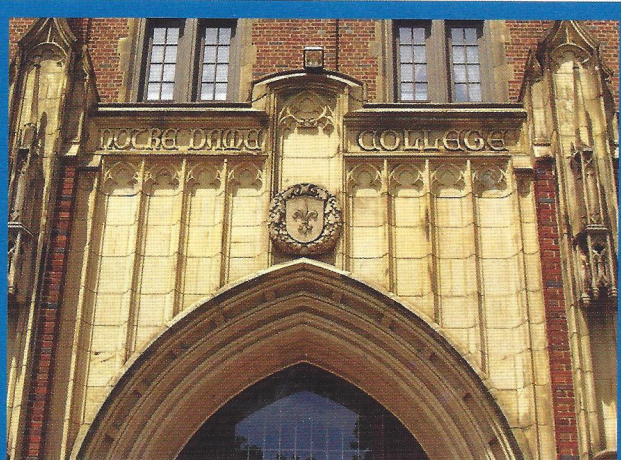
Violence. "There is a justice about Sam," he says. "If he sees an injustice, he is not afraid to get people involved and do something about it."

When Considine was asked to take this community leadership role, he reflected on

other business leaders who stepped out of their comfort zones to do good. "This was the right thing to do," he says, "and that's the kind of thing Sam would have done."

"During his wonderful life journey of now 95 years, [Sam] has touched and enriched so many lives. His name is synonymous with community," he adds.

Considine feels privileged to work at Children's, a "humble organization" that saw 944,000 children last year through its programs. He has overseen exponential growth of the hospital while staying involved in educational and cultural organizations. Aside from medical association appointments, he is the former chairman of Akron Tomorrow and the current chair of Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron. He's also a spokesman on pediatric issues, health care reform and health care business trends.



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Your impact on the lives of so many is immeasurable

As a leader and role model for the business community

As a philanthropist

As a Trustee, advisor and advocate for our College

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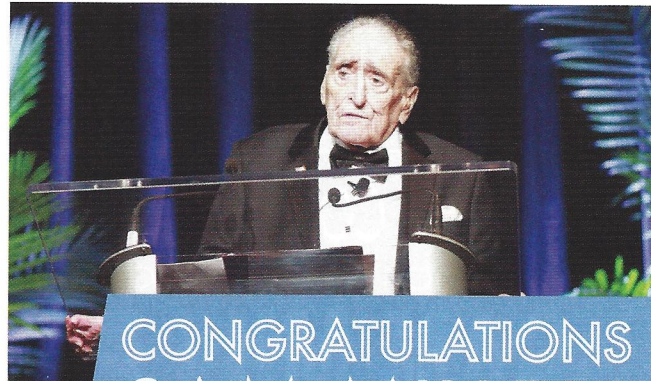
Bruce Akers, Akram Boudros, M.D.,

Bill Considine and Calvin D. Williams



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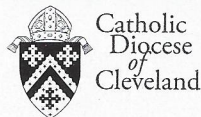
**CONGRATULATIONS
SAM MILLER!**

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GOOD VALUES AND EDUCATION.**

ABOVE: SAM MILLER RECEIVING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND, OCTOBER 2015.



**THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD G. LENNON
BISHOP OF CLEVELAND**

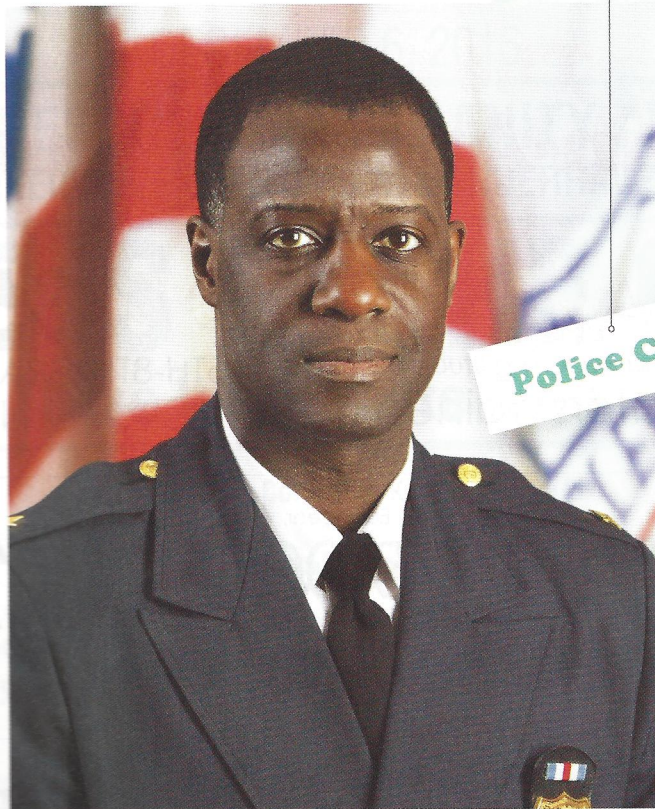
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Chief Calvin Williams

Known as a responsive commander with a deep commitment and caring for Cleveland, Chief Calvin Williams' police career has involved almost every aspect of the division. He graduated from the Cleveland Police Academy in 1986 and began working detail at Tower City Center. There, he was put in charge of security. And, he met Sam Miller.

Eventually he became the lead police supervisor for the mall's security, employed by Forest City and its loss prevention office at Tower City.

"Mr. Miller has a big heart for safety forces," Williams says of the humble leader, who was a founding member and helped start the Cleveland Police Foundation, as well as a great supporter of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. "He does what he can to support public safety in



Northeast Ohio."

Williams went on to serve as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit

and was promoted to sergeant in 1997. He was assigned to the First District as a supervisor on basic patrol

before becoming a supervisor in the SWAT unit. Then, he led the Fourth District vice unit and became its supervisor, with a role of directing undercover operations to arrest violent felons.

In 2005, Williams became a liaison between Cleveland Police and the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. In 2006, he became Third District commander, and was later tapped to serve as deputy chief of field operations. He managed three-quarters of the police force. He was named chief of police in 2014.

Project Love embodies the message he sends to officers. "We need to be professionals," Williams says. "We need to treat people respectfully, and that boils down to being human. Just treating people in a kind fashion goes a long way."

Celebrating a life of generosity, inclusion, and community support.

Happy 95th birthday, Sam Miller.



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project love
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Happy Birthday
Sam Miller

&

Congratulations
Bill Considine
& Akram Boutros


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Sam Miller

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