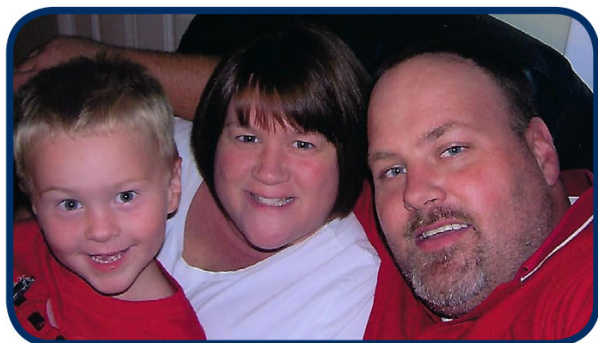


2019 WANSBORO AWARD RECIPIENTS



Bob & Kristen Miller with their son Ryan

“The Lord’s mercy is eternal;
eternal must be our confidence.”

-St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

“Confidence” is derived from the Latin “to trust,” and is a pillar of faith, hope, and love around the world. In Bloomfield Hills, it is literally carved into the cornerstone, declaring Academy of the Sacred Heart to be the House Built on Confidence. Katherine

Wansboro’s confidence in her students, her fellow RSCJ, and in the Heart of Jesus never waned. This year, we are pleased to present the award named in her honor to Bob and Kristen Miller, two people who are the very embodiment of confidence in God’s will and the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Kristen Miller has been an educator at Academy of the Sacred Heart for 22 years and is beloved by thousands of children, parents, and grandparents as the person trusted to care for the smallest and most vulnerable people in their lives. She has worked with Primary, Preschool, and toddler students, and was instrumental in the opening of Suzanne’s Nest, the place that is the home-away-from-home to Sacred Heart’s infants. Her husband Bob spent 18 years working as a driver and fabricator for Unique Fabricating. His love for hunting and all things outdoors was contagious, and the two of them spent many memorable evenings and weekends together doing these activities as their family began to grow.

Most importantly, Bob and Kristen are parents to their dearest angel Ryan. A well-known and spirited child during his time as a student at Academy of the Sacred Heart, Ryan grew to love the outdoors, fishing, and camping as much as his parents. He was the very picture of a happy, healthy, and active six-year-old boy. No one could have guessed he would soon begin a battle with Burkitt’s Lymphoma that he would fight valiantly until going home to God on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, wrapped in the love of his parents.

In Ryan’s memory, Bob and Kristen founded Ryan Rocks!!! Outdoor Adventures, a non-profit whose mission is to get kids with cancer into the outdoors where they can enjoy moments with their friends and family doing the things that Ryan also loved so much. Throughout the year, Academy of the Sacred Heart partners with Ryan Rocks!!! to help important causes selected by Bob and Kristen through events such as the Hip-Hop-Along and a Red Cross blood drive. Last year a room christened “Ryan’s Roost” was opened to accommodate toddlers in Sacred Heart’s rapidly growing Early Childhood Program, of which Kristen now serves as Director. Shortly after this celebratory moment, Bob began his own journey with cancer, leaving his job to focus full time on recovery and running Ryan Rocks!!! Outdoor Adventures.

The compassion, deep love, selflessness, and confidence in God that Bob and Kristen Miller have displayed through their journey is truly an “eloquent lesson to the world.” On behalf of the countless lives that are better because of their work, and in hope for the many more who will be fortunate enough to bask in their light, the Alumnae and Alumni Association is pleased to honor Bob and Kristen Miller with the 2019 Wansboro Award.

THE WANSBORO AWARD



Katherine S. Wansboro, RSCJ

In 1972, the Wansboro Award was initiated to honor individuals in the Sacred Heart family who by their lives and activities have demonstrated Confidence in the Heart of Jesus. The recipient of the award need not be a Sacred Heart alumna, as indeed Sister Wansboro was not, but the recipient must share with Sister Wansboro that strong commitment and dedication to the Heart of Jesus and Sacred Heart education.

After her graduation, Sister Wansboro needed a year to decide about her future. Being acquainted with the Kenwood Convent of the Sacred Heart for some time, she understood more deeply the spirit of the Society, believing it could bring to fruition all she was searching for in religious life: total consecration to the love of Christ. His love was her constant support during her more than 50 years as a Religious of the Sacred Heart.

As a religious, Sister Wansboro received an M.A. from Boston College and her undergraduate degree in Library Science from the State University of Albany. She frequently attended summer school to better prepare herself to meet the educational challenges in a changing world. As a teacher or coordinator of studies, Headmistress or Superior, she served in several houses in the Province, including Newton, Washington, D.C., Buffalo, Greenwich, Rochester and 91st Street. Her longest stay was in Michigan, where she spent 25 years, one at Grosse Pointe and 24 at Lawrence Avenue and Bloomfield Hills. She was Superior at Lawrence Avenue when the decision was made to establish a house in Bloomfield Hills. With only \$8,000 to buy land and build a new school, the task seemed impossible! It was clear to her that it could only be built on Confidence in the Heart of Jesus. It was through this Confidence that the project became a reality and Sister Wansboro became Superior of Bloomfield Hills, serving from 1958-1964.

Sister Wansboro insisted on excellence from her students. She endeavored to see that the Charity of Christ was the basis of all school activities. She worked behind the scenes by providing support and encouragement to her students and their families. She founded the Fathers' Club and the Janet Stuart Association to develop understanding between home and school. On August 2, 1990, Sister Katherine Wansboro celebrated her Diamond Jubilee as a Religious of the Sacred Heart. The Lord called Katherine Wansboro home on March 13, 1998.

This award is presented annually in the name of Katherine S. Wansboro, RSCJ, whose life exemplifies Confidence in the Heart of Jesus.

