

## Darren Miller

President, JM Construction, Inc.

*(Member since 2014)*



*Shelly and Darren Miller*

Darren Miller will take the mantle of President of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee for the 2020-21 term. RCM Leadership has implemented a succession plan that nominates presidents of this club two terms out, meaning President Steve Chevalier's term is 2019-20; Darren Miller 2020-21 and Todd Bentley has agreed to assume the presidency for the 2021-22 term.

Darren's professional life centers on a presidency of another kind. JM Construction is a family business started by Darren's father, Jerry, in 1984. Sadly, Darren's father was killed in a plane crash in 2004. Darren had been groomed to lead this boutique construction

consulting business almost from the cradle; however, the loss of his father, mentor and best friend, was difficult to bear and required Darren to dig in and figure out how to manage this design/build enterprise.

Darren worked alongside his father in high school and college where he studied architecture, earning both his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Like his father who was also an architect, interior architectural design and the aesthetics of construction have always been of interest to Darren. Darren worked for an architectural firm for four years before joining JM.

JM Construction handles commercial projects as well as high-end residential. Generally, the residential assignments come from executives connected to the commercial projects the company manages. The firm has done a good deal of work for the Erin Hills Golf Course. In addition to the design/build component, JM Construction, and Darren specifically, has developed commercial real estate. He owns property in the Harbor District along with other real estate holdings. About 60% of JM Construction's business centers on construction, and 40% is real estate.

Born in Denver and an only child, Darren's parents moved to Wisconsin when he was five years old. His mother is a Wisconsin native. The family lived in Sheboygan with his father commuting to Milwaukee to run the business.

In 2001, Darren married his wife, Shelly, who teaches dental hygiene at MATC and works part time in a dental office in Mequon. They have two children, a son Harrison, 16, and daughter Delaney, 12 (going

on 25). Harrison is at Marquette University High School and Delaney attends Webster Middle School in Cedarburg, where the family lives.

The Miller family enjoys camping, hiking, downhill skiing, boating and generally any outdoor activity. When Darren has rare time to himself he enjoys fly-fishing.

Darren's life plan has always been to devote one-third of his time to family; one-third to business pursuits and one-third to volunteering. His volunteer activities often include his family as well.

Past President Rick White reached out to Darren to join the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. Darren has always viewed RCM as a place where members get timely and relevant local, national and global information. He also saw firsthand how RCM members are connected to important and interesting professional and philanthropic projects. He sees RCM members doing really great work and Rotary provides people leverage on so many civic choices. "Rotary is a hub and its reach is far beyond weekly meetings," said Darren.

Darren serves on his parish council, has coached his son's LaCrosse team and is on the board of the Milwaukee Excellence Charter School. He was also named one of the 40 Leaders Under 40 by the Milwaukee Business Journal.

Darren's vitality and vision are wonderful assets for the Rotary Club of Milwaukee's present and future.



**Editor's Note:**

*We feature the popular Rotary People of Action series bi-monthly. The week of May 31<sup>st</sup> we will profile Elizabeth (Beth) Fetterley Heller. Rotary People of Action is written by RCM Board Member (and its Sargent at Arms) Barbara Velez.*

