

Someone you should know

Griselda Sanchez began her career at McDonald's working as a crew member in a locally owned restaurant in Wheeling in 1991. She was just 14 years old.

Griselda's father wanted a better career for his daughter, and he secured a secretarial position working Monday through Friday. Griselda was an extremely hard worker and continued to work at McDonald's part time on the weekends because she enjoyed the teamwork and the excitement of the fast-paced environment at McDonald's.

At the time, there were not many Hispanic employees on the team, but Griselda did not let that intimidate her. When she turned 16, Griselda was able to work in the kitchen and she learned all the areas of the restaurant with enthusiasm and a passion for the business. After leaving her secretarial position, Griselda became the opening manager of the restaurant and enjoyed the dynamic work environment and learning new things every day.

In 1996, while opening her restaurant each day, Griselda began to attend college with aspirations of becoming a nurse. At 19, Griselda placed her college education and her dreams of being in the medical field on hold while she welcomed her first daughter. McDonald's offered Griselda a flexible schedule that allowed her to care for her child and continue a career path in Restaurant Management. Griselda welcomed her second daughter with her husband and continued to work at McDonald's with the help of her husband and McDonald's flexible scheduling.

Only two years later, and with two young daughters, Griselda had achieved the level of Assistant Manager and supported all 6 of the McDonald's Restaurants within the organization. In her new position, Griselda struggled with the language barrier. She proactively sought out ESL classes and was able to strengthen her English language skills and communicate more effectively with her team.

By 2000, Griselda had gained sufficient experience in the restaurant and with her improved English language skills, she achieved the level of General Manager and was responsible for leading her own restaurant. In 2003 Griselda won the Ray Kroc Award, this award recognizes and rewards hardworking restaurant managers who deliver superior results in team performance and operational excellence. Griselda continued to learn more about the business and develop and train those around her which led to her promotion to Area Supervisor of a 5-store organization in 2016. In 2017, Griselda and her restaurant team joined Bear Family Restaurants where she continues to perform at an exceptional level and is always interested in continuing to grow and learn and support her peers and teams as they grow and learn.

Griselda often credits her grandmother Francisca for her success. Although her grandmother lived in Mexico and continues to live there, Griselda cherishes the time that she spent visiting her grandmother during the summer. During those times, Griselda enjoyed listening to her grandmother's stories and being inspired by her grandmother's kindness.

Griselda is incredibly proud of her Hispanic heritage and attributes her passion for volunteerism to her grandmother who has demonstrated an inspiring commitment to her community. Griselda recalls a recent visit



GRISELDA SANCHEZ

to her grandmother in Mexico when Griselda's grandmother hurriedly brought her into the village. Griselda describes chasing after her 90-year-old grandmother as she rushed to arrive at her destination – a small home. Within the home, there was a woman nearly the same age as Griselda's grandmother.

The woman is nearly blind and was unable to administer her own eye drops to help her see. Griselda's grandmother explained to her that she had been helping her friend put her eye drops in nearly every day despite her own age and challenges with mobility. Griselda was so proud that her grandmother cares so much about those around her and takes responsibility for those who need help.

This experience inspired Griselda to become more involved in her own community. Griselda and her husband, Marcelo are both volunteers for the Wheeling Police Citizens Patrol and volunteer weekly in addition to being on call for some emergency traffic situations.

Soon after Griselda began working for the Bear Family, she was inspired by the organization's commitment to Serve with Significance within our communities. The Bear Family is passionate about giving back and challenges their General Managers, Supervisors, Directors and Office Staff to volunteer 40 hours per year. Team members that volunteer are compensated for their time through additional time off or added pay at the end of the year. Griselda was ecstatic to learn that the Bear Family was supportive of her volunteerism and that the team she joined was just as excited and committed to their communities as she was! Griselda took time with each



GRISELDA SANCHEZ - on the left, appears with Lourdes Lopez, Bear Family Restaurant Area Supervisor, and the Hamburglar at the Bear Family Restaurants Grand Re-Opening Celebration in Rockford, IL

of her team members to discover what they were passionate about and finding volunteering opportunities for each of them that they found fulfilling. Soon, Griselda began volunteering at an animal shelter. During her days off and every Thursday, she walks and feed the animals and cleans their cages. Eventually she was asked by the animal shelter if she could volunteer her time on Sundays as well, helping answer the phones in the afternoon.

In 2018 Griselda won the Bear Family Volunteer of the Year Award for her over 100 hours served in her community. Griselda continues to lead Bear Family Restaurants with her impressive 500 hours of lifetime volunteer service since she joined the Bear Family in 2017.

Griselda is a strong, compassionate, and caring woman and very much of this she attributes to her grandmother, Francisca for her influence and commitment to those around her. Griselda is proud to be part of a family that gives so much back and is truly passionate about working hard both in the restaurants and in the community saying that the most rewarding part of what she does is seeing the positive impact that her work has on her team at work, her neighbors in the community and the animals that she helps.