

Recognized as a Hero for Children, Denise Ilitch Likens Child Advocacy to “the Highest Calling”

Michigan’s Children’s Event Honors Those Who Work for Kids

June 6, 2016 – Roundly regarded for her bold vision and sterling business acumen, business leader and philanthropist Denise Ilitch was honored for her other great success, as a champion for the children of Michigan.

Ilitch was honored at Michigan’s Children Heroes Night at the MGM Grand-Detroit among a bevy of friends, family and advocates for children, including her good friend, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, a long-time Board member of Michigan’s Children.



“She’s been an integral part of this community for more than 30 years, not only as a business leader, but as one of the strongest, most tireless advocates for woman and children that I know,” Dingell said in her opening remarks.

Ilitch is president of Ilitch Enterprises, LLC and co-owner of 220 Restaurant Hospitality. She previously served as president of Ilitch Holdings, Inc., which manages such entities as Little Caesar Enterprises, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers and Olympia Entertainment. A devoted community servant, she has been a supporter of numerous charitable causes.

“Making a difference has been what Denise has always done since the day I met her,” Dingell added. “And I know that Michigan and this country are undoubtedly better off.”

Ilitch addressed the group of area business, civic, philanthropic, and service leaders by saying she was humbled and proud to be recognized as the 2016 Heroes Night Honoree.

“As I look around the room and see so many of my friends who do the same work, I’m not used to being in a room where everyone shares the same values that I do about children, family and education,” Ilitch said. “It makes this honor so much more important.”

Singling out audience members, Ilitch likened child advocacy to “God’s work. I think it’s the highest calling. Thank you for what you all do.”

Heroes Night is a traditional event of Michigan’s Children that celebrates individuals and organizations whose community involvement and contributions make a positive impact on the lives of children and families.



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