

Herman and LaDonna Meinders *Enhancing the Myriad Gardens*

Herman and LaDonna Meinders have much in common: rural upbringings and a shared love for Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University.

A native of Pipestone, Minn., Herman moved to Oklahoma City soon after graduating from high school and attended OCU before venturing out on his own. LaDonna grew up on a farm near Loyal, Okla., in Kingfisher County. She attended Oklahoma City University, graduating with a bachelor of music degree in 1958. The couple married in 1986.

Herman's well-documented climb from a traveling salesman to the owner of the world's largest floral directory service, American Floral Services (AFS) is impressive and a study in tenacity and good business sense. He sold the Oklahoma City-based company in 1994. That same year, the couple established The Meinders Foundation through which they provide funding for favorite projects.

"We have been very blessed and believe it is a privilege to be able to share our resources," Herman says. "We give to organizations that we believe will have the greatest impact and positively change the lives of others."

In 1995, the Meinders made their first gift to the Myriad Gardens to create the Meinders Garden. Located on the northeast corner of the Myriad Gardens, the Meinders Garden accounts for 25 percent of the outdoor garden areas. In 2013, the couple made a significant gift to enhance the Meinders Garden with the addition of a terrace adds another source of rental revenue for the Myriad Gardens as it will be a much sought after location for intimate weddings. The area also features boulders from the couple's ranch in eastern Oklahoma. The couple established a permanent endowment fund to provide for future maintenance of Meinders Garden.

Herman and LaDonna Meinders are joined by Maureen Heffernan, executive director of the Myriad Gardens Foundation. They are standing in the Meinders Garden, located on the northeast corner of the Myriad Gardens. The Meinders established an endowment fund for the maintenance of Meinders Garden that is undergoing enhancements including the addition of a terrace.

Photo by Brandon Snider

