

Teresa Blair Interview  
By Tonya Taylor  
11-14-2007-Blair

November 14, 2007

PMD 660

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0:00- 4:00

- Introductions
- Previous locations
- Current location
- Decorations
- Customers hang decorations

4:00-

- Why Teresa opened a restaurant
- Transition from work to home
- Son is his walker

6:00-

- No family to continue restaurant
- Staff creates warmth and atmosphere
- Staff stays in touch even after years away
- Staff going to school, Teresa preparing them

9:00-

- Staff has been with her for 10 years or more
- Day starts now at 8am
- Before...12 years opened by 3:30am, left at 10pm.
- Waited tables since she was 13, customers followed her to her own restaurant
- People like her because she is non-judgmental
- Lost son last year...didn't work for 6-8 months
- Customers relate their stories of loss to Teresa as a way to make her feel better

14:00-

- "Restaurant family" sent cards after son's death
- Decent food, clean environment, neat, courteous waitress...without the atmosphere when Teresa was out.

16:00-

- Regular customers...making them special
- Lunch crowd diverse, but treated equally
- Sales, especially during Teresa's absence
- Gives herself 6 months to get business back up...three months in currently

19:30-

- Relationships suffer
- "They think Teresa's something"
- A good hug
- Who do you hug?

Teresa is the only hugger...selling nothing but food

23:00-

Customers who sit at the counter have special place

Customer "Sam" has a job...put up the flag

Teresa will "holler" across the room at employees when they aren't working

"See whose name is on the house"

"No, I'm not Teresa" and "The Queen Bee" T-shirts

29:00-

Current schedule for the restaurant dictated by faith and desire for staff to have the opportunity to go to church and for her to have time to be a mom to her 2<sup>nd</sup> set of boys

Baptized 2 of her staff in the last 10 years

Differences in the 2 sets of boys due to her being at home

33:00-

Families who come in as tradition

Passing the tradition from generation to generation

Teresa is 47 yrs old

Older boys had to work in restaurant

Judge Potter's courtroom

Community members watched out for the boys, and told on them

38:00-

Kim, started when she was 14

Drugs and drug-testing

Differences in drug and post-drug employees' lives

42:00-

Preparing her employees to live after she leaves the restaurant

Retirement plan...school teacher

Grandchildren

Thanksgiving day event

Special events for the community