

Hillside Golf and Dining, owned by Donald and Donna Kirsch, has been the place to be in Wesley for 14 years not. Club member or not, Hillside has given people the opportunity to take a break and enjoy a round of golf, an evening dinner or just a casual drink with family and friends.

This goal didn't come all too easy for the Kirsch's though. Donald was informed by a banker in Britt that the previous owner of Hill side Golf had sold it but that sale fell through. He thought Donald should pursue it due to being a prominent member of the club that wanted to see it stay open. So they want to go look at it and soon found there was a lot to do. They thought about it for a little while but it didn't take long for them to decide to buy. Donna described it as a "spur of the moment" decision. At the time Donald worked at Hormel and Donna worked at Winnebago. It is now a team effort to keep Hillside operation with Donald working on the grounds with Travis Wingert and Donna primarily in the kitchen. These 3 take on most of the work but they have 28 part-time employees to help. Most of the part-time help comes from the Britt area, primarily the Britt school students. "The management style is relaxed at most times" Donna states. She also said she "usually gives them a meal every night and if there is any prime rib left at the end of the night I'll let them have it. They seem to like that as a perk!"

How do the economic environments impact your business?

"Like I said it depends on the people." "All the little towns are losing their people, the post offices, the grocery stores, the schools, and their churches. When you don't have those things you're running out of people and they don't want to stay around here, no jobs for them like they can get in the bigger cities. A lot of them come back after they have made their money to raise their families and that's a good thing. But you have a lot of people that were members and now they are getting older and their health isn't as good we are losing members that way and we got to find the new ones. It's hard when they are all moving away."

Why do your customers come to you?

"I think they come to us because we are local and we are a comfortable atmosphere, it's not cliky, it's somewhere you can come and if you're here by yourself you will run into someone you know and can talk to, it is not segregated at all, it's just a friendly atmosphere."

If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be?

"Be willing to change, in order to compete with other people you have to get a specialty of your own, and run with that, be willing to change it up at any time because it will get old. Get good help the service needs to be friendly and a lot of smiles. Don't get discouraged if you're not really busy one night because you might be busy the next night there are other places out there."

Anything you would like to tell your customers?

"Thank-You for supporting us for the last 14 years and we are looking forward to another season."

Hillside is open for their Mother's Day Special on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Must make a reservation call 515-679-4262

Three Meat Buffet

Veggies/Mashed Potatoes and Gravy/Stuffing/Bread/Salad

And a Dessert Bar

\$13.95 for Adults

\$4.95 4-10

Free 3 and under

Golf Membership is \$360.00 for a Family and \$280.00 for a Single for unlimited golfing.

Hours of Operation during Golf Season for dinner are Wednesday Night through Saturday Night 5:30 PM Till 10:00 PM