



# Success Story



**When George and Ruth Culver bought their first restaurant in 1961,** they brought with them the family values they cherished prior to entering the food services industry. As a farmer, George worked long days inspecting and grading dairy farms for the Wisconsin Dairies Cooperative while his wife, Ruth, stayed home and raised their three children. To this day, hospitality and hard work are values that define the culture at Culver's Restaurant in Fort Collins. Walk into any one of the chain's nearly 650 locations and you will immediately notice a bustling staff who are never too busy to stop and greet you with a smile.

The Culver's story is very similar to that of Diane Lee. Diane grew up on a farm just outside of Bismarck, North Dakota with two brothers and four sisters, learning the value of hard work from a very early age. In 2006, she found her way to Colorado and in 2013 was finally paired with her job coach, Carol Aschenbrenner. "When I first met Diane, I knew she needed a job that was going to challenge her and keep her busy," said Carol. As soon as Carol set foot inside Culver's nearly four and a half years ago, she knew it was going to be the ideal environment for Diane. The busy atmosphere, coupled with the personal touch that is unique in today's world of endless fast food chains, meshed perfectly with Diane's work ethic and ear-to-ear smile.

## **"Great people have always been the key ingredient to our success."**

Owner Jason Stentz said it perfectly when he stated, "Diane has been great. She really takes pride in her work and loves to engage with our guests." General Manager Danny Hobbs provided further evidence of her work ethic when he shared the story of one day walking out of the kitchen area to find Diane vacuuming and cleaning tables...at the same time!

In addition to working hard, Diane never forgets to take time to stop and talk to guests. Those that frequent Culver's know Diane by name and her warm smile can light up the entire dining room. When asked what she likes most about her job, she stated, "I like the work." Then, after a short pause and with a shy smile, she added, "And I really like the people.

While her supervisors say Diane has been a great addition to the Culver's team, the job has been just as good for Diane. Since starting at Culver's in September 2013, Diane has exhibited major changes that have been evident to both Jason and Carol. Jason has noticed that she has become much more focused on her tasks and comfortable around guests while Carol has seen a more confident person emerge after gaining personal and financial freedom through her work.

On the Culver's website it says, "Great people have always been the key ingredient to our success." Thanks to Diane's loyalty and hard work, it is safe to say that the Culver's located right here in Fort Collins is going to be successful for years to come.