

The Spring Hillian

Ad Majoram Dei Gloriam | February 9, 2012 | Volume 94 Issue 3

The woman behind the smile: Rochelle Rogers

By James MAUGHN
Contributor

It's easy to overlook the hard work and effort put in daily by people in the food service industry. Rochelle Rogers works at the Spring Hill Golf Course almost every day. She serves students and guests with a smile and a friendly demeanor, despite the hardships she's faced concerning her daughter's health. When doctors say your 10 month old daughter has spinal meningitis and will most likely be incapacitated for the rest of her life, the flood of emotions are enough to crush anyone's spirits. Rochelle Rogers stood tall when she received the news. She wiped away her tears and said to the doctors, "You are going to do whatever you can, but God is going to do the rest."

These are the words of a mother who feared for the well-being of her daughter, but kept her emotions in check in the

wake of the horrific news with an optimistic outlook.

Rochelle's cheerful and optimistic attitude can be seen in the "quote of the day," she writes on the menu every morning. Her favorite quote to share with customers is "Smile, I love you." Rochelle's faith and trust in God paid off, bringing some good news in spite of their initial hardship. Doctors revealed that her daughter, Shamyra, was going to live, but she would be deaf for the rest of her life. It would seem natural for devastating news like this to bring any mother extreme grief, but Rochelle relies on the support that God lends her and says, "I don't do anything without the help of God." That is certainly true; she put her faith in God and prayed for the best.

Rochelle has worked for Aramark dining services for eight years, during which time the most famous guest she's served has been the mayor of Mobile.

However, her favorite people to serve are the students of Spring Hill College. Her love of Spring Hill students comes from her love of the school as a graduate of Spring Hill. While she graduated with a degree in Retail Sales, her true passion was cooking. Retail simply didn't satisfy her passion of preparing food and pleasing people. Rochelle's cheerful disposition comes across not only with her attention to detail in her cooking, but also in the genuine conversations she has with students and guests. She can remember the names of many of her customers and also their favorite orders. Rochelle's motto for cooking is "Cook with Love," and that is apparent each day as she greets customers with a wide smile and cheerful introduction.

Just as Rochelle has maintained her passion for cooking, she has also held on to her love of cartoons. Rochelle is an avid watcher of Cartoon Network and is

as she puts it, "glued to it." She made it known that her favorite show is the cartoon classic, Bugs Bunny. When Rochelle has people over who try to change the channel, she tells them her TV stays on Cartoon Network and there are other TVs in the house they can watch if they don't like it.

Putting on a smile and being openly outgoing to total strangers is something that Rochelle prides herself on. She explained how easy it is to be friendly to people, and that you never know if one offhand comment will turn someone's day around for the better. She certainly brings joy to the regular golfers who are greeted by name. They all smile and exchange small talk with her as she brightens their day. We should all take a page out of Miss Rochelle's book and realize that sometimes a nice comment or a simple smile can change someone's whole day in a way you never expected.