

## **Dearest Friends of The Diner-New and Old**

It is with mixed emotions and a heavy heart that I find myself preparing this notice. I have waited much too long, continuously putting it off, writing and rewriting, unable to condense everything that I want to say. So, I will do my best to be brief. Unfortunately, after ten years of serving Bloomington, we will be ceasing operation sometime before the end of July 2024. As with many small businesses who barely got through COVID-19, we just can't survive the astronomical inflation rates, ones that we all still see at the grocery stores.

Since opening our doors in March of 2014, we have taken immense pride in serving you all! From local Hoosiers and students, to rival teams and their fans, it has been an absolute honor to be here these last ten years!

Operating a restaurant is not for the faint of heart though, my friends. Behind the scenes, much is happening. Some good and some terrible. However, in the future when I look back on my time here at B-Town Diner, one thing above all else will stand out. And that's the sense of purpose I found in my ability to employ. To be more specific, over the years, we've tried to prioritize employing people in early recovery, as well as those just leaving incarceration.

As an advocate for people in recovery, I can sit well knowing that we used our ability to employ to the advantage of others, by offering numerous recovering people the stable employment that's so desperately needed when beginning such a difficult journey.

Has it been easy? No. Has it been worth it? YES! Should more employers consider this approach to employment? ABSOLUTLEY!!! The ability to employ is a powerful tool that can be of dual reward. You get the workers needed to run the business, ones who are mostly, at least in my experience, thankful and dedicated, hardworking and fun.

But you also have a hand in creating a safer, more productive community over time. Will it be a breeze? No way! But running a business is never a breeze is it? So, while the diner has seen many losses, past employees succumbing to the disease, there are those still out there, years later...prospering in life. Even if only one person succeeded, we've served our purpose and I'm honored to have been there for the ride!

To those still struggling or who want to give it a try, it's no easy feat! But don't give up, don't balk...you can do it! I promise you it gets easier overtime and it's all worth it in the end. Keep fighting, okay!

And finally, to everyone...we tried our best to stick around, we really did. But somehow, COVID turned B-Town Diner, what was once one of the best breakfast places in town, into a hidden gem. Unfortunately, hidden gems rarely survive. But we are happy to have gotten to serve you all this long and have appreciated all your love and support.

If you have time, stop in and see us before we go! We're still here, offering great food, awesome service, an amazing atmosphere, with an unbeatable price point!!

Cheers Bloomington, From Jason and Meranda!!!