



## DSP in the Spotlight: Lee Ann, Community Living

At Community Living **Lee Ann** is viewed as a person who possesses maturity, leadership, and a genuine love and compassion for the people they served. She is dependable, conscientious and a true team player attributes that are deeply valued in the work of direct support. SPEAK is pleased to introduce to our readers, Lee Ann Hess.

**What is your full name?**

Lee Ann Hess

**Where did you live when you were born?**

The west end of Louisville, Kentucky.

**Where did you attend high school?**

Butler High in Shively of Louisville, Ky.

**How old were you when you got married?**

Nineteen years old.

**If you have children, how many children do you have?**

Three adult children, ages 26, 29 and 30. I also have a five year old grandson.

**What was your first job?**

Winn Dixie Grocery Store in Shively of Louisville, Ky.

**Have you ever had a pet? If so, what was it?**

I have had many pets, mostly orphaned animals in the neighborhood, mostly cats and dogs. I was the one that took in the ones no one else wanted. My children also had many stray animals such as kittens and puppies. They also had chickens, rabbits, turtles, fish and birds. We took care of the stays until we could find homes for them or we would keep them if there were no homes.

**What is your favorite television show?**

I love the show LOST. I think it is the best program that has come around in a long time. I look forward for its return this season. CSI Las Vegas is another favorite, but the character of Grissom is leaving the series and I do not know if I will like it without him on the show.

**What is your favorite color?**

I have many favorite colors. There is nothing prettier than a sunset or sunrise with many colors constantly changing.

**What are your interests, hobbies and/ or activities that you participate in when you are not working?**

I love to work in the yard and watch things grow. I love to take care of plants. I also like to cook, especially for my family on special occasions. I try to get my family together on birthdays and make sure there is a cake made for the birthday person. Everyone needs to have a cake on their birthday. I love music too.

**How long have you worked at Community Living?**

I have worked at Community Living since May of 2008.



**Why did you become a DSP?**

I became a DCA because I am interested in making a difference in some ones life and helping someone who needs help.

**What do you like about the work that you do?**

Helping someone who needs help. Knowing that when I leave my job that the clients I have worked with have gotten the best care possible.

**What is your philosophy toward the work you do?**

God loves us all, we are all children of God, no one any better or worse.

We all need to help each other in this world. The strong need to help the weak. Everyone needs a voice, and those that can not speak for themselves need to have someone to speak for them.

**What motivates you to do your best on the job?**

I am motivated by helping someone who needs help. I try to care for an individual as if it was my sister or my child or my parent. How would I take care of them if they had a disability?

**What are your greatest strengths?**

I feel that I am dependable, a good friend and will be there when needed.

**What is your life message?**

God put us here for a reason and that is to love one another and help each other in the good times and the bad.

**Let's take money out of the equation and say that you don't need for any-**

**thing. What would you focus on doing if you could do whatever you wanted in this world, as it exists now?**

I would speak for the people who can not speak for themselves. Give them a voice. I would open up shelters for the homeless people and homeless animals. I would make sure they had all their needs met. I would help people in what ever way they needed it, and I would help animals too.

**If you could ask one question of people you meet, what would you ask them?**

Do you believe in God, and Jesus Christ as your personal friend and Savior? Without God in our lives we have nothing.

**What do you want to contribute to others?**

I want to be a good person and be good to all others I meet in my life. I would like people to have a good feeling when they leave me.

**What do you want from others?**

I want respect from others. I want to be able to be who I am with out judgment. I want them to be there for me when I need them.

**How have you handled challenges in your life?**

With the help of God and many others I have overcome great obstacles in my life. I think the key is to live one day at a time and trust God. I can only do what is humanly possible and God will handle the rest.

**What do you want from life?**

I want peace in my life and in my heart. I want to be happy and I want to love and be loved by many.