

Lucke Bio

Lou Ann has an eclectic work and educational background. For over 15 years she's been a consultant for nonprofits, specializing in foundation funding and fund development in preparation for securing grants. She has worked with numerous PICO affiliates, beginning with Oakland Community Organizations in 2001. Lou Ann has also helped organizations strengthen teamwork and build internal unity by planning and facilitating workshops and retreats. She is a committed mediator, and has mediated hundreds of cases over the past 20 years. Her conflict intervention work began as a program trainer and director for a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program serving Alameda County and Contra Costa County, where youth charged with crimes and the victims of these crimes, and family members from both groups, participated in mediation conversations to learn about each other and heal the breaches created by crime and violence. She also worked on public school reform for many years in Oakland, which has informed her understanding of education and youth issues. She is committed to justice issues, challenging the many inequities in society that stop opportunity and growth. Her development of more inclusive and creative mediation training resulted in an invitation to participate in a national think tank to offer new ideas about mediation in which the people directly involved in conflict maintain much more control over both the mediation process and any outcomes that come from mediation sessions. This led to half time work in London for two years to build training capacity and mediation in a south London mediation organization. She has worked with a broad range of nonprofits – from small grassroots organizations to large, well established institutions – and strives to bring their own language and perspective to life in proposal submissions. She has a degree in music history from Mills College, and has raised three sons who are each creative artists/musicians. She particularly enjoys time with her grandchildren and family, and continues to pursue a lifelong interest in botany and gardening.