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SEPTEMBER 2023



LEE IRWIN

Lee Irwin Uses Skills from One Career to Succeed in Another

top producer

Written by **Susan Marquez**
Photography by **Abe Draper Photography**

For many years, Lee Irwin made her living as a dental hygienist. It's the kind of job that put her up close and personal with her patients. "I loved it because I enjoy making people feel comfortable. I loved the one-on-one aspect of it as well."

Today, as an agent with Godfrey Realty Group, Lee is still working to make her clients comfortable. "It's surprising how the skills from one career have carried over to the other," she says.

A native of Lambert, in the Mississippi Delta, Lee went to Mississippi State University with the intent of being a nurse. "I was in pre-nursing, but the truth of the matter is that I wasn't sure I would be able to give somebody a shot," she laughs. (Ironically, her daughter has diabetes now so Lee quickly learned to administer her needed injections.) When it



came time to move to the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, Lee didn't want to leave MSU. "I called my dad, and he said I should take some business classes because I could use that no matter what I ended up doing." She got a degree in marketing and moved to Atlanta to live with her cousin who was already working there.

"I applied for different things, then a friend told me that Electronic Data Systems (EDS) was hiring. I applied for the job and began working in the front office before becoming a recruiter. I traveled around to different college campuses to talk to students about our career opportunities." When the company merged with the Jacksonville and Washington, D.C. offices, she was asked which of the two cities she'd like to move to. "I didn't want to go to either because I had just met the man who would become my husband, so I went to work for another recruiting firm in Atlanta."

Realizing she really didn't enjoy her work, Lee called her dad and told him she was considering going back to school to become a dental hygienist. "He agreed that was a good idea, so that's what I did." Lee met her husband, Delvan, in Atlanta, and the couple had their first child there. "We moved to



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