



Anse Leroy, M.D

Unfortunately, we have lost Anse Leroy. After four months in hospital, she died on Saturday, April 30th 2011. Anse was a fiercely dedicated advocate for the Clubhouse model, both in theory and in practice.

Anse devoted most of her life to trying to improve life circumstances for people living with mental illness. She was instrumental in developing the first Clubhouse in Denmark, and then helped to establish four more Danish Clubhouses. Anse was active in initiating a wide variety of projects to assist people with mental illness, all of which were built on the fundamental Clubhouse principles of equality, relationships, togetherness and cooperation.

In recent years, Anse devoted most of time to establishing Clubhouses in Eastern Europe, in Poland, Kosovo and Albania. She was also involved in Clubhouse development in Norway and Sweden. Anse served on the ICCD Board of Directors since its inception, in 1994.

Anse dedicated her life to creating opportunities for people living with mental illness so that they might have meaningful and dignified lives. She was a tireless champion for human rights, always on the move. She felt at home in the presence of state leaders, business leaders, politicians and officials; but her preference was to surround herself with the countless Clubhouse members who always gathered around her for advice and guidance. Her home was always open to her friends, many of whom were men and women living with mental illness.

Many foreign Clubhouse visitors to Denmark have also found her door open, whether she was at home or not. If you were in Denmark and could not afford a hotel, you were always welcome in her apartment.

Despite her failing health in the last years, Anse was always there, ready to assist and advise or help with anything and everything - always with members at her side. She will be deeply missed by Clubhouse members and staff around the world.