Katherine Kratzer: I'm a people person

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"This is the only house, the only town I've ever known."

However, oftentimes there are other forces at work, Katherine says.

"Wherever God takes me," she says about her future. "God will work in mysterious ways and he'll find me a home."

Katherine's two jobs – at the McDonald's in Mifflintown, and as a Scentsy consultant – will help her support herself when she's done with school, she says, as well as assist her in planning for the future.

Although her parents have been helpful with her finances, she doesn't want to "put it all on (them)," she says.

She's also saving money so she won't have to take out loans.

"I do as much as I can to help out," she says, explaining that while living at home she pays for her own car repairs, car insurance and cellphone bill, among other expenses.

Katherine says her parents have been "wonderful."

"I don't know where I would be without them," she says, tearing up.

Katherine has worked for Scentsy since May or June 2011, she says, and has worked at McDonald's, off and on since 2008. She works eight-hour shifts there five days a week, she says, and hosts kids' night Wednesdays. On those evenings she sits with children in the lobby of the restaurant and plays games and does crafts with them.

A third job, she says, is "in the works."

Katherine says living at home while attending college has been a win-win situation for her.

She gets to work and save money, she says, while having the college experience.

"Going to HACC first is absolutely the way to go," she says.

Her first semester she took five classes, and her second semester she took four.

Her third semester, which she just completed, she took two.

Psychotherapy, Katherine explains, is using the knowledge of the human brain and body, and incorporating it into counseling services.

She says obtaining a bachelor's degree in psychotherapy will allow her to practice the service in just about any field, including in prisons and the military, and as a school psychologist or speech therapist. However, she won't be able to prescribe medications, she says, or make long-term diagnoses.

Katherine says she decided to get into this field because she loves people and enjoys helping them.

"I'm a people person," she says.

Friends often come to her for advice, she says, and she prides herself on being a "great listener" and knowing the right things to say.

"I'm the type of person you come to when something's wrong," she says, adding that she's calm, and easy to talk to and relate to.

"Psychotherapy," she says, "... gives you all that."

Katherine, a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in McAlisterville, says she plans to use her "gift" to the best of her abilities.

Another factor in Katherine's decision to practice psychotherapy, she says, is her best friend, who passed away from cancer in 2006.

"It was really hard," she says.

Katherine says she prayed to God every day for her friend while he was ill. When he died, she become angry, she says, and "broke away from the church."

She stopped praying.

Then, she had a dream about her friend, who encouraged her to "get back to praying."

"Not a day goes by that I don't think about him," Katherine says.

Noting her future line of work, Katherine explains that there are so many people who can be there for others during tough times, so "do not be afraid to ask for help."

"Going to HACC first is absolutely the way to go."

— *Katherine Kratzer*

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