

Meet the Staff of Children's Day Out Preschool!  
2009-2010

Children's Day Out Preschool has been a program of the LS United Methodist Church since 1978. While we are committed to continuously improving the curriculum to meet the changing needs of our families, the main purpose of meeting the children's developmental, social, and educational needs in a caring atmosphere has always remained the same. We are thankful for this opportunity to work with you and your child to make this a successful "first school" experience!

DARRA DRAHEIM Director, I am looking forward to returning as Director of CDO. I graduated from MU - Columbia with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Early Childhood education. I have previously taught Kindergarten, Sunday school, Bible school and taught third grade in Lee's Summit at Prairie View Elementary. I am a long time Lee's Summit resident, am married, and have two children, Jonathan and Elizabeth, both who attended CDOP in their younger years. I am dedicated to continuing the excellence of our program, and I appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your child.

KAREN GILLIAM, Assistant to the Director, Karen was a CDO "mom" for four years. She has a son, Ryan, and three grown daughters and two grandsons. Though Karen's educational background is in business, she has always enjoyed being around kids, and has loved being part of CDOP for over 10 years. In her spare time, Karen enjoys spending time with her husband, George and their children. Karen has taught Lambs, Zebras and Giraffes in CDOP, in addition to helping teach many age groups in her church.

AMANDA ALLEN, Lambs, is starting her first year at CDOP after participating in our preschool as an enthusiastic parent. She is married and is currently a stay at home mom of three (ages 1,3, and 5), all of whom will be attending CDOP this year. Amanda is a MU grad with a Bachelor's degree in Middle School Education and a Master's in Secondary Administration from UCM. She has a passion for teaching and looks forward to the joys and challenges of working with these little ones.

HEATHER ALVARADO, Zebras, is returning to our staff. She has a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. She moved to Kansas City in 1995 and to Lee's Summit in 1999. She has been working with children in some capacity since she was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She has taught VBS, worked as a camp counselor, been a pre-school teacher, and was the director of the Lee's Summit KinderCare. She decided to stay home with her children after the birth of her third child. She is married to Carlos and has 3 children—Sierra, Alyssa, and Samuel. She looks forward to meeting all of the new parents and children in her Zebras class!

MELISSA BALTEN, Zebras, Melissa is excited to be teaching the Zebras this year. She has previously worked with the Lambs and also has experience homeschooling and teaching Sunday school. She has two boys of her own, ages 4 and 6, and she is looking forward to a fun year!

KARLA BARNHILL, Zebras has a 1<sup>st</sup> grader, Aaron, who graduated from CDOP, and Owen, a Zebra this year at CDOP. She has a Master's Degree in Child Language for KU and spent many years working with children for language research. Karla is thrilled to be teaching and is looking forward to a great year!

JOCELYN BECKLEY, Giraffes, Jocelyn graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor's degree in Social Science with an emphasis in Industrial and Labor Relations. She worked in human resources before the birth of her older son in 2005. Jocelyn and her husband, Chris, have two sons Connor and Brandon, both of which are attending CDOP. She is a member of LSUMC and has taught Sunday school and VBS for various age groups. In her spare time, Jocelyn enjoys crafts and spending time with her family. We are delighted to have Jocelyn as part of our teaching staff.

LINDA BYRD, Zebras, My name is Linda Byrd. I count it a privilege to teach and nurture the young ones at CDO. I began substituting here at CDO last February, and enjoyed working in different classrooms at different age levels. I have also helped in children's classes at my church for several years. For a few years I enjoyed working as a "lunch lady", cashiering at a public school here in Lees Summit. I am married and have two wonderful children of my own. My daughter is 14 and my son is 12 and since my children are teens now, it is refreshing to "revisit" the younger years of the children at CDO. I look forward to a great year working with the children here again.

LINDY ELLIOTT, Giraffes, is married to Jeff and has two sons, Jace and Jesse. Lindy grew up in Harrisonville and graduated from SMSU (recently renamed Missouri State) with a teaching degree in dance. After eleven years of teaching dance, Lindy decided to "stay at home", and has enjoyed teaching Sunday school, VBS, and CDOP. She earned a Master's degree in teaching from Webster University in March 2007, which includes certification to teach gifted. She is looking forward to returning to our teaching staff!

PAT GALLAGHER Bears, Pat is a cherished member of our staff, and a very familiar face to many, since she has been here from the beginning of CDOP. She has two grown daughters, one grandson, and her daughter has a set of triplets.

AMY HACHINSKY, Giraffes, Amy is currently a "stay at home" mom with four boys. Amy has a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Texas A&M at Corpus Christi. Her last job was at a preschool before she started her family. Her husband was in the navy for 9 years and they lived on the east coast and in south Texas during that time. They are from the Kansas City area originally and wanted to come home when his time was up. She enjoys going to the movies, reading a good book and spending time with her family.

JAMIE HARREL, Zebras, Jamie was born and raised in the Kansas City area. She received her Bachelor's degree in Education from Southwest Missouri State University, and has many years of teaching experience. Jamie and her husband, Shawn, moved to Texas where she taught Kindergarten for 4 years. They then moved to Greenwood several years ago and she taught Pre-K and Kindergarten for the Raytown School District. Jamie and Shawn have two wonderful boys, Evan (a CDOP graduate) and Aaron (in the Giraffes class). She is excited to meet all of the wonderful CDOP families!

MELISSA HOLTHAUS, Giraffes, Melissa Holthaus graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a Bachelors degree in Anthropology and minor in American History. She worked for Aquila in Human Resources until the summer of 2005, when she became a full time stay at home mom. She comes from a large family and enjoys the raucous when all 21 family members get together. She lives in Lee's Summit with her husband, Aaron, her daughter, Lauren (a CDOP graduate) and her son, Logan,( who will attend CDOP this year). She's looking forward to a great year with the Giraffes.

NANCY LAMANNO, Zebras Nancy is returning to our staff after teaching as a substitute and as a Zebras teacher. She has lived in Lee's Summit for several years and has three children; Madelynne, Noah, and Jude. (Noah and Jude both attended CDOP). She is proud to be working at such a fine school, where she knows your children will learn and grow so much. She looks forward to meeting all the parents and working with your children.

AMY LOETHEN, Giraffes, We are happy to have Amy returning to teach Giraffes at CDOP. Her 2 youngest children attended our preschool and she has taught here for several years. She has also been a substitute for the Lee's Summit school district. Amy loves music and drama and enjoys teaching and directing for a large children's theater organization in Kansas City.

JENNIFER MILLER, ZEBRAS, Jennifer Miller grew up in Lenexa, Kansas and started her work with children in high school. She was employed as a Nanny for two children while she was attending JCCC, graduating with her associates in Liberal Arts and moving on to The University of Saint Mary; taking evening classes. She graduated with her Elementary Education degree in 2000. That same year she married her husband Matt and they moved to Lee's Summit in February 2001. Jennifer was a substitute teacher for the Shawnee Mission School District and was then hired to teach First Grade at Westview here in Lee's Summit August 2001. Jennifer and Matt have 3 boys, Jacob - a Giraffe at CDOP, Garrett - a Zebra at CDOP, and Nathan - 11 months old. Jennifer has greatly enjoyed being at home with her boys and now has been fortunate enough to get back into teaching. She is looking forward to a fantastic year, watching her students learn and grow.

JOYCE MILLER, Zebras, Joyce has lived in Lee's Summit for 20 years. She has been happily married to her husband Gary for 35 years. Together they have raised four children and have several wonderful grandchildren, many of whom have attended CDOP. In the past, Joyce worked as a dental assistant, enjoyed teaching Sunday school and being room mother, and has helped coordinate events for her church, schools, and other functions. Joyce is excited to work with the Zebras class and is looking forward to a great year!

LAURA NASTASI, Giraffes, Laura Nastasi, her husband and their four children reside in Lee's Summit. Laura previously has been an elementary classroom teacher in the L.S. school district. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and has a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction. Laura has taught Pre-K at CDOP since 2001.

ROBYN PADGET, Giraffes, is married to Doug and has two children, Madelyn (attended CDOP), and Connor (Giraffe). She has been a professional singer/entertainer since age 6 and earned a degree in K-12 Music Education from CMSU in 1995. After touring full-time with her family's musical group for many years, she decided to become a "stay-at-home" mom in 2001. She has recently starting performing again on a part-time basis. She has been an enthusiastic CDOP parent, loves children, and is very excited to be returning to teaching Giraffes!

TANYA RYAN, Giraffes, Tanya lives in Lee's Summit with her husband Kevin and their 3 children Gage, Cole and Carly, all of whom attended CDOP. Tanya graduated from CMSU in 1991 with a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Marketing. She loves being a "stay at home" mom, scrap booking and cooking. This will be Tanya's 5<sup>th</sup> year at CDOP and she is very excited to be returning to our staff!

TAMMY SIPP, Lambs, will be a familiar face to many, since she is a CDOP veteran who has previously taught several age groups within our program. Tammy is married and has a son, Joshua, who attended our preschool in his younger years.

MELISSA UNRUH, Giraffes, is married to Zach and has three young children, one a CDOP graduate and one in the Giraffes class. She has lived in Lee's Summit for several years and majored in Counseling Psychology at MU - Columbia. She worked for many years in Sales with the Southern Pacific Railroad. She is thankful to be a "stay-at-home" mom and enjoys volunteering, reading, and her time at the gym. Her volunteer work includes running the nursery and teaching Pre-K Sunday School at her church. She also volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for over 10 years. She is excited to be joining our teaching staff and looks forward to a great year at CDOP!

JENNY WARNER, Zebras, Jenny lives in Lee's Summit with her husband JD and their 3 children - Andrew, Lily, and Lucy - all of whom have attended CDOP. Prior to teaching at Children's Day Out Preschool, Jenny was the director of the children's ministry at her church. She loves working with children and is excited to begin her fifth year of teaching her Zebras class.

LESLIE WASSON, Giraffes, Leslie has lived in Lee's Summit for many years. She has four children, three boys and one daughter. Leslie's oldest son went to CDO in 1987, and all of her children have come here since then. Her hobbies include crafts, reading, swimming, and lots of activities with her children. Leslie has served for many years on staff at CDO; in the classroom, as a substitute teacher, and as an assistant to the director.