

## Meet the Staff of Children's Day Out Preschool!

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.

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 CDO. She has two grown daughters, one grandson, and her daughter has a set of triplets!

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 background is in business, she has always enjoyed being close to children, and is looking forward to this opportunity. 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.

PAM REILLY, Giraffes, Pam Reilly graduated from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration-Marketing degree. She worked in the business world up until they moved here to the Lee's Summit area several years ago from Virginia. Jim and Pam have two boys, Josh and Sean. Her family attends LSUMC and she taught Sunday school and VBS for many age groups. Pam worked as a volunteer in her son's elementary classroom, and enjoyed watching the children learning. She looks forward to the opportunity of working with her students and their parents. Pam has previously taught the Zebras and Giraffes class at CDO.

LISA DAUGHERTY, Giraffes, is married and has four children, Megan, Madison, Zachary, and Zane. She has been involved in CDO as a parent, and teaching CDO Bears and Giraffes. Lisa has a teaching degree and has taught Kindergarten, first, and second grades at Meadow Lane. She has obviously a great deal of experience in child care, and has been involved in teaching Bible school and Sunday school. She enjoys being a "stay at home" mom in addition to volunteering in the elementary schools.

CHRIS CAMPO, Giraffes, Chris is married and has two daughters, Casey and Sydney. Chris previously worked in management positions, and comes to us with childcare experience, and many years of teaching at our preschool. She was an enthusiastic, supportive CDO parent and teacher and so we are pleased to welcome her back to CDOP!

LAURA NASTASI, Giraffes, Laura was born and raised in Kansas City and graduated from MU-Columbia. She taught 4th grade in the L.S. school district for 5 years. She received her master's degree from UMKC in Curriculum and Instruction. She has been a "stay at home" mom since 1993 with her four children, 3 boys and one girl. She did some private tutoring from her home, and taught at the Mother's Day Out in Greenwood before teaching Zebras and Giraffes at CDOP. She looks forward to the new school year at CDO!

RUTHANN RELIHAN, Giraffes, is returning to our staff, after teaching both Zebras and Giraffes classes in the past. She was born and raised in Pennsylvania, and moved to Lee's Summit with her husband, Dan, several years ago. They have 3 boys, Michael, Nicholas, and Matthew. The two older boys attended CDOP. Ruthann taught pre-school to 3-4 year olds, and a Pre-K class at Appletree Academy. She also taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade religious education class. She loves being a "sports" mom, and spending time with her family.

GINGER SHULL, Giraffes, Ginger has lived in Lee's Summit all of her life. She is married to Gregg and has two daughters, Mallory and Maggie who both attended CDOP in their younger years. She graduated from SMSU with a business education degree. Ginger is a "veteran" member of our staff, with many years of classroom experience. In her spare time she loves to do counted cross-stitch and to read. We are excited to welcome Ginger back!

LESLIE WASSON, Zebras, 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.

JULIE BROOCKERD, Giraffes. Julie is married, and has two daughters, Hannah and Sophie. Julie has a B.S. in elementary education and completed her Masters in Education in 2001. She has taught second and fifth grade prior to becoming a "stay at home" mom. She enjoys working with children and watching them learn. We are pleased to welcome Julie back to our staff.

SAMMYE BILLESBACH, Zebras, is married and has three children. We are happy to welcome Sammye back to our staff. Her youngest, Douglas, is enrolled in our program. Before children, Sammye was a manager in the "corporate" world. She will be a familiar face to many, as she used to be the LSUMC church secretary. She is interested in music, and played the flute in the Lee's Summit Symphony. She is looking forward to meeting and working with the children and families of CDOP.

SHEILA THOMPSON, Giraffes. Sheila is returning to our staff after teaching Zebras and Giraffes. Sheila is married to Brent and they have two boys, Drew and Trey. Sheila has an Associates degree in Arts focusing on Education. She taught preschool for 5 years before deciding to be a "stay at home" mom. She has been a Children's Ministry coordinator and Sunday school teacher for several years. Sheila has always been a supportive and enthusiastic CDOP parent and a great addition to our staff!

JANANN COOK, Zebras. Janann is married and has three children. She graduated from

UMKC, and taught school age children at Aspen Children's Center before working with the Lee's Summit school district as a site coordinator for before and after school care. We are excited to welcome back such a knowledgeable and friendly teacher to our staff!

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 most recently 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 worked in a mother's day out in Greenwood previously, and is very excited to be working here this year and for many years to come. She looks forward to meeting all of the new parents and children in her Zebras class!

LINDY ELLIOTT, Zebras, 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!

CATHY OLSON, Giraffes, is married to Tim, who works for EMC and does a lot of traveling. Cathy has a master's degree in Speech Pathology from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. She has four children, Emily- who attends the St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, and Max. Both of her oldest children were adopted from St. Petersburg, Russia. Jackson attends Woodland Elementary. Her youngest, Tess, is in second grade and was adopted from Minsk, Belarus. Cathy previously taught our Zebras class.

JORDAN POTTER, Zebras, is married to Carl and they have 3 wonderful children. Michael and Elli are twins in our Bears class, and Cole is in our Lambs class. She previously worked for the Lee's Summit school district for 6 years and decided to stay home when she had her family. She loves working with children and was ready to go back to work when she had something that her children could also benefit from. She looks forward to returning to our Children's Day Out program!

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.

TANYA RYAN, Giraffes, Tanya is married to Kevin. (who owns Governor Stumpy's Grill House in the Waldo area) They have three children, Gage, Cole, and Carly, (both enrolled in CDOP). She has lived in the Lee's Summit area for four years and has a Bachelors of Business Administration, Marketing, and Public Relations from CMSU. Tanya worked for Sprint in the Marketing Department. She loves being a "stay at home" mom, scrap booking, and cooking. She is excited to be returning to our staff!

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 third year of teaching her Zebras class.

TIFFANY DAVIS, Zebras, We are pleased to welcome Tiffany to our staff. She worked for the Lee's Summit School District for six years. She has been a "stay at home" mom with her daughter Julia, and runs an "at home" day care on the days she is not teaching preschool. Tiffany lives in downtown Lee's Summit with her daughter, husband Alan, and her two cats and a dog.

ROBYN PADGET, Giraffes, is married to Doug and has two children, Madelyn (attended CDOP), and Connor (Zebra). 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 teaching Giraffes!

KAREN BENNER, Giraffes, Karen grew up in St. Louis, but now lives in Lee's Summit with her husband, Mike and their two daughters, Erin and Melanie. She completed her speech pathology degree at CMSU and began working with geriatrics. The last eight years she has been working for a private practice serving children with autism as well as children with early speech –language delays. Although she continued working when her youngest daughter was born, she was also a "stay at home" mom. We are excited to welcome both Karen and Melanie to our preschool.

JOYCE MILLER, Zebras, We are pleased to welcome Joyce to our staff. She is not only a grandmother of our former students, but the mother of Jenny Warner. CDOP is an obviously important part of her busy life!

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 7 years teaching experience. Jamie and her husband, Shawn, moved to Texas where she taught Kindergarten for 4 years. They then moved to Greenwood 3 years ago and she taught Pre-K and Kindergarten for the Raytown School District. Jamie and Shawn have two wonderful boys, Evan (4) and Aaron (2) , who will join her at CDOP this year. She is excited to meet all of the wonderful CDOP families!