Staff Bios ... focus on Middles classrooms

Jan Inouye is both a mentor teacher for our littles/middles programs and a lead in the Swallow room. While an undergraduate in sociology at UO, she worked as a student assistant in our programs, staying with CCDC after she graduated. As she said, "I enjoyed it so much I didn't leave."

Now, after 23 years with CCDC, Jan says that the center has become more of an extended family for her than a workplace. Three of her four children came here as infants, and two have worked for CCDC.

Jan stays busy in the classroom, focusing her curriculum on social skills, building trust, and role playing. She teaches the children the language they need to work out problems with peers and she also encourages them to see other children's perspectives. As a mentor teacher, she supervises the programs and problem solves, as well as leading the weekly trainings for our student staff.

Jan enjoys spending time with family, reading, working in her garden, and trips to the beach.

Kathy Sherman moved to Eugene in 1986 to attend UO, where she studied sociology, psychology, and women's studies while working as a student assistant in our programs. She continued working with the middles age group after graduation as well, celebrating her 20th year at CCDC this January. She is currently a lead in the Swallow room.

Kathy says that her favorite part of the day is being greeted by the kids when she arrives at school. She likes that her job gives her the opportunity to play with children instead of doing paper work. As she said, "You can learn a lot from a two year old." She focuses her teaching on social skills, facilitating sharing, and helping the kids to become independent.

Kathy lives in the woods in Cheshire, where she has spent the last two years building a house and looks forward to moving in soon. She enjoys cooking, reading, and gardening.

After working at Moss Street for a year as a substitute teacher, and getting familiar with all our children in the various age groups, she is eager to settle in as a teacher of two-year-olds for the new year. Originally from Santa Barbara, CA, she moved to Arcata CA, to obtain her BA in Child Development, Elementary Education, at Humboldt State and also received her teaching credential in Elementary Education.

She and her husband moved to Eugene last year in order to allow him to pursue his Masters in music. On July 14th, their first child, Nicole, was born, and Lisa is so happy to be a new parent.

Although Lisa has worked with infants through college students in her 8 years of experience, she enjoys working with two-year olds because everything in the world is new to them. She says “I take great pleasure and joy in seeing them discover the world around them. Also, I enjoy seeing them grow throughout the year; starting with diapers and steadily learning how to use the potty. I also love to interact with children of this age because they just love to play and it’s through this play that they learn and can be taught while having fun.”

When not at work, Lisa camps, sews, dances, gardens, listens to music, plays with their dog, and also enjoys surfing. When asked what she would like Moss Street families to know about her, she replied, “It has been my greatest passion in life to work with children and their families. I have known since I was 15 that I wanted to be a teacher, and have worked very hard since that time to achieve this goal. Now, having started a family of my own, I couldn’t be happier with my life. I look forward to the upcoming year and all the joy that accompanies me when I teach and work with children and their families.”