



Jane Hazelton

“Bridges to Growth, Jane speaking.”

For those of you who have called our office or stopped by to use our die cuts or borrow books, you undoubtedly know the voice of Jane Hazelton. Jane is retiring so we won't hear her chirpy, reliable voice at the office anymore. But after 16 years of service, we'll certainly remember her contributions to Bridges to Growth.

Jane has done everything at Bridges to Growth from reading to toddlers to incorporating drama events for children. Calling on her experience with writing, producing, directing and acting in skits and plays, Jane even incorporated drama into the programming at Bridges. “It was hard work, but I really enjoyed that,” she says.

Jane was an integral part of administrating the popular Committed to Kids Conference (in partnership with Christ Lutheran Learning Center), an annual learning opportunity for teachers, administrators and parents. This year's Conference, of course, was held online. “Although I am not a whiz at it at all, I have learned a lot about computers,” Jane says. “This year has

been memorable since we have had to operate in a different way because of COVID-19. We had to adapt our ways of doing things.”

Jane started as a volunteer and was hired on staff in 2004. “I never dreamed this would turn into such a long stay” Jane says. Over the last 16 years, Jane has also learned just how much effort childcare providers put in to educating children, promoting their healthy development and school readiness. She’s watched them dedicate tremendous time and commitment, always putting the children first.

Jane will miss working with these self-sacrificing educators and her co-workers. But perhaps she will miss the children the most. “They are so precious. Jane has seen children start out Bridges Growth as young children and who now are attending high school or college. Jane misses being with the children. “Because we have had to suspend in-person events and classes, I haven’t been able to see them,” Jane says.

What’s next for Jane with all the new free time? “My plans are to get accustomed to not working. I have worked for over 60 years of my life,” she says. Jane certainly deserves this long-awaited rest but is already considering volunteering at her church when we’re able to congregate freely. She’s even thinking about dabbling in drama again.

We’ll miss you, Jane. And whether you’re writing a script or planning a church event, we wish you all the best! We’ll miss you!

*Your friends at The Georgetown Project, Bridges to Growth*