



建橋者-基督教華人社區服務中心

American Chinese Christian Educational & Social Services, Inc.

*Families thriving in God's love,  
building bridges across  
cultures, communities,  
generations*

## **A Year in Review: What I Learned at ACCESS**

Vivian Liu

June 2020

***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)***

In the summer of 2019, while changing career paths and looking for a part-time job, having really no idea where God was leading me in life, I came upon the After-School Enrichment Teacher position at ACCESS.

As a Christian, whose previous field of work was in the very secular sciences, this job intrigued me as I never had the inclination or opportunity to work at a faith-based organization that openly shares the Christian faith with others.

I honestly did not know what to expect of my time at ACCESS, feeling initial hesitation but also excitement to work and share my faith with the Asian-American immigrant community in Boston, which I have a heart for as an Asian-American myself. Looking back now, I can see how this was all part of God's plan for me and for this after school program, as I have learned lifetime lessons and gained invaluable experiences, which I would trade for nothing.

Although I came to ACCESS to “teach” the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class, I learned more from my students than probably them from me. Amidst daily lesson planning and maintaining classroom order, I developed personal relationships with my students and noticed that each of them are their own unique individual with their personal strengths and weaknesses. They each bring about different challenges but also equal amounts of joy to the classroom.

As I watched the ACCESS kids play during recess, interact with one another, and participate in activities, I can ascertain that every child is made in the image of God: full of wonder, creativity, selflessness, forgiveness, and kindness. Despite the pandemic and all the routine changes, I applaud our students' resilience and ability to adapt and remain optimistic, inspiring me to look at the world with more wonder, appreciation, gratitude, and hope.

Ultimately, the younger generation is our future generation, and how we teach them will affect the kind of society we would like to build for ourselves. My time at ACCESS has shown me how kids are more mature, sensitive, aware, and smarter than we adults may think. It is important to treat each child with respect & dignity; to communicate with honesty and sincerity; to discipline firmly but with love; to speak words that build up instead of shame and discourage; and to share with them Biblical values.



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A wonderful part of ACCESS is that each child's growth is taken seriously by the staff and their respective families. Academics is not the sole focus at ACCESS, but also the holistic well-being of each student. Their creative minds and unique personalities are not suppressed or denied, but instead nurtured and challenged. They learn not just how to solve math problems and write sentences, but also how to not give up in the face of mistakes and challenges. With such strong support systems found at ACCESS, at school, and at home, I believe that the ACCESS children will grow up to be incredible individuals, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for them.

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***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful servants of God's grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)***

During my time at ACCESS, I experienced firsthand how 1 Peter 4:10 is lived out in our current society. Every staff member and volunteer is encouraged and given opportunities to use their individual talents given by God to serve the students, families, and the local community at Tai-Tung Village.

Whether it's translating information for parents who don't know English, fostering relationships and bridging cultural gaps between parents and students, sharing previous teaching experiences with newer teachers, preparing holiday events for families, carefully preparing snacks and cleaning the classroom for the students' safety, holding technology, language, and Bible classes, offering engaging art and dance classes for the elderly in Tai-Tung Village, and checking in on families during the pandemic and delivering supplies, I have met many wonderful and selfless individuals at ACCESS who put in 100% effort or more to serve the ACCESS community.

Of course, this also includes the amazing parents who are always willing to help out at ACCESS. They are open to communicating with teachers about their children, share awesome food at holiday events, donate books and supplies, and sacrifice their time by volunteering in the family room helping students sign-out at the end of a usual program day.

ACCESS is like one big family. Although not perfect, it is still an extreme blessing to work in an open and supportive environment such as this, where individuals are able to voice their opinions, communicate honestly, and share their faith and beliefs, Christian or not. Each person continuously strives to improve and utilize their individual skills to not self-serve, but to serve others, a quality where you will not find in many places elsewhere.

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Finally, I have seen God's divine providence and work at ACCESS this past year. Issues have arisen beyond the control of ACCESS, such as unexpected staff changes and fundraising challenges, but all needs have been met or exceeded by God's grace.

With my one year at ACCESS, I recognize how enrichment programs and activities for all age groups will forever be important for our immigrant communities to thrive in such a diverse country. They aid in bridging cultural gaps in families with mixed generations and simultaneously provide crucial safe spaces and enrichment opportunities for children to bond and learn about a new culture, while appreciating their own.

Even if I end up on a different career path in the future that may or may not involve child education, I am grateful for the experiences and invaluable lessons I gained over the past year from my students and co-workers. I will personally find ways to continue to support programs such as ACCESS, whether with my time or financially, and stay involved in working or mentoring children.

As ACCESS has been a great blessing to me, I want to end with this blessing for our families, staff, volunteers, and ACCESS friends for the upcoming summer, months, and years. Despite the difficult times many of us are experiencing now, may we all be able to find moments of hope, peace, and comfort.

*“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.”*

*(Numbers 6:24-26)*



## 一年回顾：我在建桥者的心得体会

Vivian Liu

2020年6月

“耶和華說：我知道我向你們所懷的意念是賜平安的意念，不是降災禍的意念，要叫你們末後有指望”（耶利米書 29:11）

2019年夏天，在改變職業生涯和尋找兼職工作的過程中，我真的不知道上帝在我的生活中將我帶向何方。然而我却到了建桥者課外活動項目老師的崗位上。

作為一名基督徒，我以前的工作領域是世俗的科學領域，所以這項工作吸引了我，因為除了教會之外，我從未有興趣或機會在公開分享基督教信仰的機構工作。

老實說，我不知道自己在建桥者期間的期望是什麼，我感到猶豫和不安，同時也很興奮能為在波士頓的亞裔移民社區提供幫助和分享自己的信仰，作為亞裔這也是我的心願。現在回首，我看到這都是上帝對我和課外活動項目計劃的一部分，因為我已經學到了終生不可替代的功課並獲得了寶貴的经验。

儘管我來建桥者“教”四年級和五年級的学生，但我却从学生那里学到的东西多于他们从我那里学到的。在日常课程计划和保持课堂秩序的过程中，我逐渐与学生建立了人际关系，并注意到他们每个人都是具有自己优点和缺点的独特个体。他们各自带来不同的挑战，但也给课堂带来同等的欢乐。

当我看到建桥者的孩子们在休息时玩耍，彼此互动并参加活动时，我可以确定每个孩子都是按照上帝的形象造的：充满惊奇，创造力，无私，宽恕和善良。尽管发生了瘟疫和所有日常生活的变化，但我还是赞扬我们学生的应变能力以及适应和乐观的能力，这激发了我以更多的惊奇，欣赏，感激和希望看待世界。



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归根结底，年轻一代是我们的未来，而我们如何教导和养育他们将影响我们希望为自己建立的社会类型。我在建桥者的时间向我展示了孩子们比我们想象的更加成熟，敏感，有意识和更加聪明。用尊重和尊严对待每个孩子很重要；诚实真诚地沟通；用爱坚守纪律；说建造人的话，而不是让人感到羞耻和沮丧；并与他们分享圣经的价值观。

建桥者的卓越出众之处在于每个孩子的成长都受到同工及其各自家庭的重视。学业不是建桥者关注的唯一焦点，而是每个学生的整体福祉。他们的创造力和个性不被压抑或回避，而是给予培养和挑战。他们不仅学习如何解决数学问题和练习造句，还学习如何在遇到错误和挑战时不放弃。我相信，有建桥者，学校和家庭中如此强大的支持体系，建桥者的孩子将成长为令人难以置信的个体，我迫不及待想要看到上帝为他们所预备的。

**“各人要照所得的恩赐彼此服事，作神百般恩赐的好管家”。（彼得前书 4: 10）**

在建桥者期间，我亲身经历了彼得一书 4:10 在当今社会中的真实写照。无论是为不懂英语的父母翻译消息和信息，建立父母之间的关系并弥合父母与学生之间的文化鸿沟，为新老师分享以前的教学经验，为家庭准备节庆活动，为学生精心准备小吃和为他们的安全打扫教室，举办技术课，开办语言课和圣经课，在大同村为老年人提供引人入胜的艺术和舞蹈课，以及在瘟疫期间关怀家庭和运送物资，我在建桥者遇到了许多优秀和无私的人，他们付出百分之百或者更多的努力为建桥者的社区服务。

在建桥者，每个工作人员和志愿者都会受到鼓励，并有机会利用上帝恩典所赐的才能为大同村的学生，家庭和当地社区服务。当然，这也包括始终愿意参与并在建桥者提供帮助的父母。他们与老师积极地交流有关孩子的信息，在节庆活动中分享美味的食物，捐赠书籍和用品，还通过帮助学生在结束常规课程后，牺牲自己的时间来做志愿者。



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建桥者这就像一个大家庭。尽管并不完美，但在这样一个开放和扶持的环境中工作仍然是一种极大的祝福。在这种环境中，无论是否信奉基督教，个人能够表达自己的意见，诚实地交流并分享自己的信仰，每个人都在不断努力提高和利用自己的技能，不是为了自我服务，而是为他人服务，这是你在其它很多地方找不到的品质。

最后，我在过去的一年中在建桥者见证上帝的属天供应和工作。建桥者的问题已经超出其控制范围，例如人员变更和筹款挑战等，但是上帝的恩典已满足所有需求或超过所求所需。

在建桥者的一年中，我认识到针对所有年龄段的课余丰富项目和活动对于我们移民社区在如此多元化的国家中蓬勃发展永远具有重要意义。他们帮助弥合了几代人家庭之间的文化鸿沟，同时为儿童提供了重要的安全空间和丰富发展的机会，使他们能够结识新文化并了解新文化。

即使我将来有可能会或者没有可能涉及儿童教育而走上一条不同的职业道路，但我还是要感谢我在过去一年中从我的学生和同事那里获得的经验和宝贵的教训。我本人将找到方法，无论是在时间上还是在经济上，继续支持诸如建桥者的项目，并继续参与工作或指导儿童和青少年。

愿耶和華賜福給你，保護你

愿耶和華使他的臉光照你，賜恩給你。

愿耶和華向你仰臉，賜你平安。

民数记 6: 24-26