

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, and
generations*

My ACCESS Message & What ACCESS Means to me

By Susan Lodzsun

My journey with ACCESS began exactly six and a half years ago in the spring of 2013. At that time, I was seriously considering relocating to Boston from Connecticut, to be closer to my son, as well as take a different direction with my career. Little did I know at that time, how my life and my faith would be so wonderfully fulfilled, that I would be beginning a wonderful new chapter in my life that I had never expected.

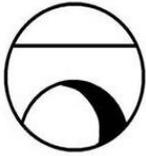
It was not as easy as I thought, when I initially began exploring my options to seek and begin a new phase in my career. I had been in the field of early childhood and elementary education for over thirty years at that point. Many doors stayed closed for me, and I started to have doubts that this was possible at this stage of my life to make this kind of change.

It was that spring I decided to slow down with my job hunt, and consider a more temporary option, in other words to “try something out” during a summer break from my teaching position in Connecticut.

My goal had always been to transition from the public sector to a private, preferably Christian faith-based program, where I could freely and openly express my faith and share God’s message to others, outside of church and preferably in an educational setting. I had always been very active in my church and with teaching in our faith formation classes. But I was seeking more. I was seeking more than just sharing the “good news” on a Sunday morning.

It was that spring that I was exploring one of the many Christian-based employment websites, that I noticed the posting for the Executive Director position for ACCESS. Clearly, I did not meet the qualifications for the position but I certainly was very curious about the ACCESS program in general, and went on to learn more about the program. Fortunately at that very moment, the program was beginning to recruit for teachers for the Summer Enrichment Program.

I did not speak Chinese, however had always been very interested in Asian culture, art, music and dance. In my studies, I always had great respect for the history and the culture and the people. I had even passed on that interest to my son as he grew, which



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, and
generations*

resulted with him majoring in East Asian Languages and Culture his first three years at UMASS. However, I knew God was guiding me and directing me on the right path!

I was so amazed at the immediate response I received to my application from Ms. Liang, Director of Children and Families, and our phone conversation solidified my desire and interest in the position as a summer teacher.

And that is how my journey moved forward, the summer of 2013!

I began as summer enrichment teacher, returned for a second summer the following year and I am so proud and happy that I am still with ACCESS today as a more permanent part of this wonderful ACCESS team and program.

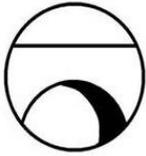
As I mentioned previously, I have always worked in the public sector. I had never been afforded or permitted to share my faith openly or publicly, especially with my students. To not be able to share such an important part of my life, to openly live my faith, was very oppressive for me for many years, and it was becoming increasingly more difficult even with coworkers and colleagues.

My experience here at ACCESS is exactly the opposite of those experiences in my previous life. At ACCESS we are so appreciated and valued for who we are as Christians, for bringing forth and sharing our love and faith in Jesus Christ. I have been so blessed to be given the opportunity to inspire and educate the young children in my care every day that I am with them at ACCESS, with His message. And I continue to feel so blessed to be working with so many amazing individuals at ACCESS at every level.

Somewhere, I saw written (I believe it may have been Billy Graham) and have always held true to this quote:

“As Christians we are called to share God’s word and truth.”

I truly believe God called on me, and guided me that spring day of April 2013, and placed that message in my heart.



建橋者于我的意义 来自建橋者教师苏珊的见证

我与建橋者的联系可以追溯到六年半前的春天。在 2013 年，为了更靠近我的儿子，也为了调整我的事业方向，我很认真的考虑从康州搬来波士顿居住。然而那时的我并不知道，我的生活以及信仰将会得到如此的升华，我将由此展开一段我未曾体会过的全新的生活篇章。

我开始逐渐摸索我的潜在选项并探求和开启我事业的新阶段，然而这并不像我想象的那样简单。在那时，我已经在早期教育领域默默耕耘三十几载，然而我深知仍有许多我未知的领域，我开始怀疑是否有可能在这一阶段实现如此的转变。

在那个春天，我决定放慢我找工作的脚步，开始留意更多的临时工作，换句话说，我决定在暑假“跳出自己的舒适圈”，挑战我在康州的教师岗位以外的可能性。

我的目标已经从公共教育领域转变为更好私人的以基督信仰为主的项目，在教堂以外的地方，我可以更加自由的表达我的信仰以及传播福音。我过去在教堂以及信仰栽培课堂上非常活跃，但我仍在寻找更多的机会，找寻除了在周日早上以外分享好消息的机会。

在那个春天，当我正在浏览基督教相关的工作网站时，建橋者的执行主任岗位映入眼帘。显然，我并没有满足这个岗位的相关要求，但我十分好奇建橋者是个怎样的机构，并且非常乐于去了解他们的项目。非常幸运的是，建橋者当时正好开始招聘暑期项目的教师。

我并不会讲中文，但是一直对亚洲文化，艺术，音乐及舞蹈抱有热情。在我的研究领域，我始终对历史，文化及人文保持极大的尊重。我甚至将这种热情倾注在我儿子的成长过程中，直接导致他在 **UMASS** 的头三年将东亚语言和文化作为他的专业。然而我知道这一切在冥冥中被神主宰并指引我走向这条道路。



在申请建桥者的工作后，我非常惊喜的立即收到了儿童和家庭项目主任梁女士的回复，我们电话畅聊了我对于暑假教师的兴趣及渴望。

在 2013 年的夏天，我的旅程开始了。我成为了建桥者的暑假教师，并且在第二年夏天继续这个工作，现在我非常自豪并且开心今天我仍旧在建桥者，并且永久地成为建桥者这个大家庭的一员。

如我上文所述，我一直在公共教育领域工作。我从未有机会坦诚布公地传播福音，特别是对我的学生。对于没有办法分享我生命中如此重要的部分，去公开我的信仰，一直使我感到压抑多年，甚至我越来越难以与同事共事。

我在建桥者的经验却与之前的生活截然不同，在这里，我们如此感激并且珍视作为基督徒的我们可以共同前进，分享喜乐与对耶稣的信仰。在耶稣的庇佑下，我终于得以有机会可以启迪和教育我在建桥者每天照顾的孩子们并且传播耶稣的福音。而我始终感激神的庇佑，让我得以和这么多不同的生命个体在建桥者共事。

我在某处看到了这段文字（我相信可能是比利 格雷尔说的）并坚信这个说法：

“作为基督徒，我们蒙神呼召来分享神的话语和真理”。

我坚信上帝在 2013 年四月的那个春天感召和引领了我并将这句话耕植我心。