

Staff Profile

Meet Bev Kramer

Tucked into Gesher's administrative suite is one of the school's most-dedicated and longest-serving employees. Account Manager Bev Kramer joined the Gesher staff in 1997 but got involved much before that.

"My first real involvement with Gesher began in 1989. My neighbors, Liz and Paul Frommer (2001 honorees), and Rabbi Jack Moline and his wife, Ann (2002 honorees), chaired Gesher's first official Guardian of the Bridge dinner. They encouraged us to attend and we have attended every dinner since then," Bev said. "From my involvement with Gesher, first as a supporter, next as a parent, and then as a staff member, I have had the unique privilege of knowing all of Gesher's founders, all four Heads of School, all honorees, all presidents, all faculty and staff and the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed in every imaginable way throughout the years to Gesher's growth and survival. I have followed Gesher to each of its locations and live the dream of occupying a spacious corner office in our very own building."



Bev's husband, Neal, served as fundraiser on Gesher's Board of Directors (1993-1996) and Bev chaired two Guardian of the Bridge dinners and one Auction Night too. Their two kids, Kevin and Lisa, attended Gesher.

"Our son was drawing pictures of snowmen with kippot and was resisting participation in the Christmas program at Saint Stephens, where he was attending the second grade," Bev said. "It was time for a change. There was no shortage of people urging us to switch to Gesher, among them the principal of Saint Stephens Lower School, who suggested that we needed a place for our son to explore and embrace his Jewish identity. What really tipped the scale for us was the realization that the school would prepare our children for their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in a manner that would seem almost effortless."

Bev, a fifth generation Chicagooan, was raised in an Episcopalian household of nine children. (She later converted to Judaism.) Bev received her bachelor's degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin during which she spent her junior year studying at the University of Arequipa, Peru, traveling to almost every country in South America and eventually working in Masaya, Nicaragua.

Neal is the owner/president of "World Famous Kramer Equipment Company" of Alexandria, which sells heavy hardware, tools, supplies and arborist equipment. The Kramers attend Agudas Achim Congregation.

"From the vantage of the business office, I have a deep appreciation for what it takes to run and grow a school," Bev said. "We are extremely fortunate to share a community with so many generous people who are committed to Jewish education."