

Jodi Peace works in the Southeast Michigan District Office of the Department of Environmental Quality in Warren. She has worked in the DEQ's Water Bureau for 14 years, helping to maintain our state's water quality and control the discharge of industrial and municipal wastewaters in Michigan. Her work day at the DEQ consists of conducting inspections, evaluating facility compliances with Clean Water Act requirements, and writing, reviewing, and approving reports.

When she is away from work, Jodi is committed to serving her community by teaching English as a second language. She has been teaching English to a Japanese student, Chaiki, for the last three years. Jodi also recently made a four-week trip to Beijing, China to help college students pass their English proficiency exam. All of the teaching Jodi has done is voluntary and unpaid.

Jodi began learning to teach English at the Community Literacy Council because she wanted to reach out to other cultures in her community and provide a service that would benefit others.

Chaiki applied for a tutor through the same program after moving to America, and has gained a better grasp of the English language after meeting with Jodi for one to two hour lessons almost every week for the past three years. The literacy training program offers participants free teaching lessons if they agree to tutor a student two hours a week for one year. Jodi said she was having such a good time teaching Chaiki that she continued their lessons long after her required tutoring sessions were over.

Jodi's trip to China allowed her to expand her interest of other cultures and fulfill her desire to help others. For three weeks, Jodi taught students at an "English Camp" for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon Monday through Friday. Her trip was supported entirely by donations from supportive family, friends, church members and DEQ staff.

Jodi hopes to return to China next summer to teach. In the meantime she will continue to tutor Chaiki and work to promote water quality at the DEQ