

February 2020 – Jane Burke

Congratulations to our February Volunteer of the Month, Jane Burke! Jane has been a Kilometer Kids Coach with Impact Racing for the past two years. This spring marks the start of their third season. Using the Kilometer Kids curriculum provided by Atlanta Track Club, Jane and her fellow coach David Dodd introduce running to a new generation of athletes.

Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What brings you back?

Impact Racing's first event was the Anthem Peachtree Junior. The event was very organized and fun. We loved that there were three different race distances, so each runner we brought could compete in a way that matched their age/ability. It was great to have the track and field events set up after the race with plenty of volunteers to instruct our athletes. Our kids loved the T-shirts and the swag they were able to earn/collect after the race.

Do you have a favorite Atlanta Track Club event?

My favorite Atlanta Track Club event will always be the AJC Peachtree Road Race. I started running the race in 1985 and ran it for 18 years in a row. Sadly, my knees do not allow for my participation any more.



What is your best memory from volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?

My favorite volunteer memory with the Club would be watching our run club kids finish the Mercedes Benz Stadium 5K/Walk Like MADD. I love to see their expressions when they enter the arena through the tunnel (through the helmet where the Falcons enter) and see themselves on the Jumbotron. We bring kids with us that have never been out of our county. It is a big deal for them to run through part of the city of Atlanta and then get to finish on the 50-yard line of the stadium.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What brings you back?

I love volunteering with the Club because it is a well-oiled machine! Every event we have ever attended with Impact Running has been very organized and fully staffed with friendly volunteers. The Kilometer Kids curriculum we use with our run club helps us to stay organized during our practices and it helps us to keep the kids running in many unique and creative ways other than just running laps.

Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club?

I volunteer in several areas in my church and community. I am the site coordinator for Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box at my church. I am also the site coordinator for the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship program at our church. I help lead/teach at a community women's Bible study in our city and my husband and I volunteer to lead a small group Bible study in our home on Sunday afternoons.

What do you do for a living?

I taught high school science for 21 years and coached basketball, softball, and track for many years during that time. I am currently taking a break from the classroom and homeschooling my youngest daughter through her middle school years.

Do you have any words of advice or wisdom for any new Atlanta Track Club volunteers?

My main advice to new coaches/volunteers getting ready to start a program with kids is to not try and reinvent the wheel. Atlanta Track club has curriculum, events, training, and opportunities for you to earn money for your club. Get to know the Track Club and they will be the very best resource for your club that you could imagine!

