



Cynthia Lazar

Cynthia Lazar was one of the founders of DJDS (Downtown Jewish Day School), she helped raise a lot of the school's money and helped put it together. A few of the reasons she wanted to make a school were; none of the other Jewish day schools were downtown (the closest one was near Eglinton), another reason was to include Jewish education in all subjects, the last reason was to have specialized education for her son. Making the school took a lot of hard work and effort; there was even a time when she had to put her house on the line because of money loss. She also couldn't sleep some nights from stress. When the school first opened there were 10 students, 3 teachers and 3 classes. The teachers switched between classes throughout the day. She's happy the school is still around and still growing.

Joan Schoenfeld

Joan started her involvement in 1997 as a member of the Planning Committee. She was briefly a member of the Founding Committee until she was asked to be the Director—part-time because she was also the Principal of the Community School. In 2001 Joan became the full time director of the DJCS and had to stop being Principal of PPDJDS. One of the things that she loves about the school is that there are many wonderful and caring people. Joan appreciated that the vision of the DJCS was grounded in the nurturing environment provided by the Bloor JCC's beloved nursery school program, where many of the founding parents sent their kids. The school's vision, as an inclusive, pluralistic community school that is a reflection of the Downtown Toronto Jewish community that it serves is very much consistent with her own personal vision of Jewish education.



