

# WOMEN IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

**Cindy Kree**  
**King David High School Victory Park 2004**



## What did you study?

I studied a Bachelor of Social Work (2010) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (2016)

## What work do you do and why did you choose this path?

I am currently the Executive Director of the Union of Jewish Women. After qualifying as a social worker, I worked in correctional services and court, and saw the need for preventative measures in a community, such as education and empowerment. I was blessed to have volunteered previously for UJW, and when the opportunity arose to move across, I never looked back. My role has changed over the years, daily I do what love. I empower and provide social relief, from Kosher Mobile Meals, to our Alexandra Aftercare. I know that the work I do, will have ripple. I do believe that although I chose this career, the path my career has taken, chose me.

## How has this been impacted by Coronavirus?

The Coronavirus has impacted us just as it has impacted everyone. As an organisation we have worked harder now than we ever have. The biggest impact has been the realisation and communal support for feeding and education, which we have been able to assist thousands

of individuals. As a communal organisation we have worked directly with all our beneficiaries in the past, and especially with our elderly beneficiaries, we have had to adapt.

## How have you innovated to overcome life challenges?

My life has had its ups and downs, and I am privileged and honoured to be where I am, but I cannot say it was easy. I have had a community backing me, and without that, I wouldn't be where I am.

## What challenges have you faced as a woman?

The biggest challenge as a woman, is the ultimate working mother's guilt. At work, I worry about my children, at home I worry about my work. I have faced judgement from others about where my priorities are, from a working perspective as well as a social perspective.

## What King David experiences or Jewish values motivate you?

As a King Davidian Alumna, and now having my own child in the King David system, the ethos of chesed and kindness has always spoken to my heart, and always serves as a reminder to be kind and giving to others.

## What drives you to make an impact?

When I go into Alex, and I see the line of people waiting for a meal, and children with broken shoes and broken clothes, and I give that one child a pair of shoes, I know that with some small action I can do, I can change a life. I have that power. My favourite inspiration and story I live by is the Starfish Story, look it up, it puts things into impact.

## What do you relax?

To relax, I spend time with my family, mucking around and having fun. I am blessed to have a wonderful husband who supports me in all my ventures, we have a smart and caring 8-year-old (Ariel) who teaches us new things every day. And our vivacious and delicious twins, Ayli and Benji who will be 2 soon.

## My words to live by:

Life isn't measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the number of moments that take your breath away.