

# JODI GROSSBLATT SAUNDERS

## EXPERIENCE

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### **THE ANSWER CLASS, Columbia, MD**

#### **Co-Founder and President, 2004-current**

- Oversee all operations of regional, community-focused test prep and college admissions support business serving more than 10K students
- Administer all aspects of relationship-building with 30 Maryland high school partners
- Donated \$275+ to partner high schools
- Manage and mentor 30+ teachers, tutors, and mentors
- Manage small marketing team to promote the importance of affordable college preparation
- Grow business from creation to serving over 950 students per year

### **HOWARD COUNTY TEEN INTERFAITH INITIATIVE, Columbia, MD**

#### **Founder, 2016-2021**

- Founded youth-led teen interfaith group, bringing together 9th-12th grade students from various faith backgrounds to learn about one another as individuals and as members of a faith community, to engage in community service initiatives, and to develop leadership skills.
- Coordinated monthly programs with youth and youth leaders from Beth Shalom Congregation, Dar al-Taqwa, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia (UUCC), and St. John Baptist Church. PATH also provided organizing expertise, helping teens learn how to work in a diverse community to achieve a shared goal.
- Teens visited each other's faith institutions, learning about the host's customs and traditions, and shared food together, including an Iftar meal and a Shabbat dinner.
- Each year, teens selected which community issues they wanted to address as an interfaith teen group. Activities included a food drive for Grassroots, participating as a "team" for the Howard County Suicide Prevention Walk, and providing oral testimony to the Howard County BOE about the importance of mental health supports in the public schools.

### **SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, MD**

#### **Graduate Teaching Assistant 1996-2000**

- Solo taught two sections of undergraduate speech communication courses each semester of Master's program
- Received high scores on student evaluations
- Taught upper-level communication courses based on teaching performance in introductory-level courses
- Received UMD Excellence in Teaching Award

### **NYC & DC NON-PROFIT WORK**

#### **Communication & Grantwriting Assistant & Researcher, 1994-2000**

- Researched potential grant opportunities for Stand for Children, a growing non-profit. Added to grant proposals to ensure funding for child safety and growth initiatives.
- Conducted interviews, analyzed data, and presented findings to Washington Waldorf School Board to understand parent dissatisfaction.
- Served as Communications Associate and Grant Assistant at Ms. Foundation for Women. Managed famed Take Our Daughters to Work Day program for over 1,000 schools and organizations. Supported the development of communication materials for the nationwide project.

## ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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**COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS, Columbia, MD, Past Howard County Interfaith Dialogue Leader**

**BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION, Columbia, MD, Past Religious School Board President, General Volunteer**

**JEWISH FEDERATION OF HOWARD COUNTY, Columbia, MD, Past Bet Yeladim Liaison to JFHC Board**

## EDUCATION

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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, School of Communication, College Park, MD**

**M.S. in Speech Communication + PhD coursework**

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston, IL**

**B.S., Communication Studies, Summa Cum Laude**