

moving traditions

training mentors and empowering teens to bring a Jewish vision of social responsibility and personal integrity to the challenges of adolescence

contact

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board chair

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2013 expenses

\$1,388,390

year founded

2005

Moving Traditions has been a catalyst for changing the way the Jewish community engages with and impacts teens and tweens and the adults who work with them. Through its cornerstone programs, Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing! and Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood, more than 12,000 boys and girls have confronted issues like academic pressure, social dynamics, body image, and sexuality, through hands-on activities and meaningful Jewish conversations. Through the safe spaces created by Moving Traditions, middle- and high-school students can overcome insecurities and connect their most pressing concerns with Jewish wisdom. The organization's resources and curricula, now used at more than 300 JCCs, synagogues, schools, camps, and other Jewish institutions, continue to evolve to meet the contemporary needs of Jewish tweens and teens. New material addresses the ever-growing problems of "sexting," online bullying, prescription drug abuse, and social networking ethics.

Moving Traditions works with diverse institutions of all affiliations to incorporate its approach to teen empowerment into a variety of educational programs, while also working to create positive systematic change within each agency around issues of gender and teens. Through Moving Traditions' training, the organization empowers hundreds of group leaders, including rabbis, lay leaders, teachers, and volunteers, to be better advocates for the needs of young participants at their Jewish institutions and to facilitate their own Rosh Hodesh and Shevet Achim groups.

Moving Traditions is a *Slingshot Standard Bearer* because: "Moving Traditions is among the most groundbreaking, innovative programs working with teens today," one evaluator notes. "[Its] approach integrates the immediate concerns of teens in [a] safe, peer-supported network and promotes conversations that instill Jewish values for life." Moving Traditions remains faithful to its organizational mission while also embracing change. The creation and expansion of its boys' program, the ability to adapt methods and curricula to remain current, and a proven and demonstrated impact on Jewish teens all show that Moving Traditions remains a leader in Jewish teen education and creates a growing national impact.