

moving traditions

contact

Deborah Meyer

board chair

Sally Gottesman

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 young girls and the women who work with them. Through its cornerstone program, Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing!, 11,000 girls have confronted issues of academic pressure, friend dynamics, body image, and sexuality, all through a Jewish lens. Within the safe space created by Moving Traditions, middle and high school-aged girls can overcome insecurities and connect the dots between their most pressing concerns and 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.

More than 1,100 group leaders, women including rabbis, lay leaders, teachers, and volunteers, help these teens and tweens navigate the challenges of emerging womanhood. Through Moving Traditions' training and by facilitating their own Rosh Hodesh groups, group leaders become empowered to address girls' issues at their own Jewish institutions more broadly. Moving Traditions works with diverse institutions of all affiliations to incorporate its approach into a variety of educational programs. Working closely with each Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing! group, Moving Traditions invests heavily in each group leader and works to create positive systematic change within each agency around gender issues for young girls.

"Moving Traditions is among the most ground-breaking, innovative programs working with Jewish teens," writes one reviewer. "[The organization's] approach and methodology integrate the immediate concerns of teens with a safe peer support network seamlessly integrated into a Jewish values framework." Another evaluator comments on the impact Moving Traditions makes on its leaders: "[It has] a veritable army of enthusiastic facilitators who really feel like they are making a difference in the life of Jewish teens."