Jewish Teens and #metoo
Safety, Respect & Consent

Responding to #metoo and its backlash, Moving Traditions is leading a cultural shift to break patterns and ensure the next generation does not repeat the devastating abuses. We’re . . .

- Talking honestly with teens about sex, intimacy, consent and the Jewish values that can guide healthy decision-making; and
- Helping teens resist abusive language and behavior being modeled by adults in every sector of our society, including in Jewish life.

And teens are grateful.

“We learn to trust each other and to go against society’s stereotypes about Jews and men, so I feel comfortable sharing the thoughts rushing through my head.”
– 9th grade Shevet Participant, Chicago

Ground-Breaking Jewish Sexuality Education

Our healthy sexuality curriculum is integrated into Moving Traditions’ school-year teen groups, Rosh Hodesh, Shevet, and Tzelem, and is the foundation for our summer camp training.

Moving Traditions offers the only Jewish program helping teen boys examine messages about masculinity and sexuality with a positive frame. Led by Jewish men, Shevet helps teen boys challenge and support other boys.

Through our educational partnerships, Moving Traditions is empowering teens of all genders to:

- Unpack gender norms that reinforce unhealthy ideals of masculinity and femininity.
- Identify and resist sexualization and objectification.
- Experience how Jewish wisdom can help form their values around sexual decision-making.
- Act as upstanders, standing up to peers to reduce harassment and assault.
- Recognize that sexuality is about intimacy, relationship, and pleasure—not power.
- Use Jewish values to work for justice and respect within the Jewish community and the wider world.
Teen Well-being and Jewish Identity

Moving Traditions launched the pathway to teen engagement in 2018-2019. By addressing the joys and challenges of middle and high school in safe Jewish spaces created by Moving Traditions and our partners—more teens are growing up confident, compassionate, and connected to Jewish life.

Train Adults to Mentor Youth

Clergy, Jewish educators, and other adults
Connecting Jewish wisdom, teen challenges, and a gender critique to lead Moving Traditions programs and to work with teens at camps

New B’nai Mitzvah Program

6th-7th graders and their parents
Exploring Jewish wisdom and interpersonal issues connected to becoming and parenting a teen, as part of this rite of passage

Renewed Rosh Hodesh, Shevet & Tzelem

8th-12th grade monthly teen groups
Addressing teen joys and challenges, now with renewed Jewish curricula on self, gender, power, and healthy sexuality for teens of all genders

Kol Koleinu Feminist Fellowship & More

11th-12th grade pilots
Experiments in leadership and social action in collaboration with teens, the URJ, and others

1,600 adults have been trained to facilitate Moving Traditions’ Jewish curricula on self, gender, power, and sexuality for teen groups of all genders
It is wonderful to have a safe environment to openly discuss normally taboo topics, such as body image and sexuality, through a religious and a social lens.

— 12th grade Rosh Hodesh Participant, Boston

“I feel like I am part of a community. My family hasn’t felt this connected since our kids started Jewish pre-school.”
— B’nai Mitzvah Program participant, Philadelphia

“Being in Tzelem helps me think about how I want to be perceived in the world and how I can do this through religious and gender identity.”
— 11th grade Tzelem Participant, Los Angeles

“I enjoy learning with people as passionate as I am.”
— 12th grade Kol Koleinu Participant, New York
Our Mission

Moving Traditions emboldens teens by fostering self-discovery, challenging sexism, and inspiring a commitment to Jewish life and learning.

National Impact

Together with our partners across North America, Moving Traditions is helping more Jewish pre-teens and teens grow into adulthood with confidence, compassion, and a lifelong commitment to Jewish community.

2017 Audited Financials

Sources of Income

Operating Expenditures

Leveraged $4.3 million in Funds

Board of Directors

Contributors

We deeply appreciate the generous support from the many individual contributors to Moving Traditions and from the following institutions:

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- Anonymous
- Anonymous
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