



Moving Traditions—Rising to the Challenge to Meet the Needs of Jewish Youth

- ▶ Mental health, resilience, and wellbeing
- ▶ Safe spaces and engaging experiences—in person and online
- ▶ Exploring Jewish values, social-emotional learning, and society through a gender lens
- ▶ Advancing teen social justice activism
- ▶ Plug and play programs, experiments, and innovations—with more partners and collaborators



Moving Traditions has shown my community that all people need to do is open up their browser to be connected to one another with meaningful Jewish experiences.”

Jessica Kretzker, Education Director
Congregation Beth Israel, San Diego

Annual Report 2020–2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making it possible for Moving Traditions to innovate in the face of crisis.

Moving Traditions is rising to the challenge—with creativity, agility, and years of experience—to meet the needs of Jewish youth and Jewish communal partners.

Since we launched in 2005, Moving Traditions has been emboldening Jewish youth to thrive by connecting ancient Jewish wisdom to leading edge social-emotional learning and a progressive understanding of gender and society.

Our track record is paying off.

In the pandemic, Moving Traditions is being called on by increasing numbers of synagogues and other organizations to deliver our well-tested resources to preteens and teens in 6th to 12th grades and their families.

While Jewish youth today are experiencing isolation and stress, with our support—and with your support—many are also demonstrating resilience and meaningfully contributing to their families and to society.

Please give generously so that Moving Traditions can continue to bring meaning and connection to Jewish youth across the United States.

Warmly,

Rabbi Darcie Crystal
Board Chair

Deborah Meyer
Founder and CEO

CultureShift



Preparing Jewish camps to prevent sexual harassment and assault, and promote safety, respect and equity.

Moving Traditions trained **28** senior camp leaders from **19** camps at **2** train-the-trainer institutes. We created **12** video clips and a user guide to explore work-place harassment in informal education settings.



A Pathway to

B'nai Mitzvah Family Education

Exploring with **2000+** 6th and 7th graders and their parents at **75+** institutions the issues that arise as children enter the teen years, reimagining the celebration during the pandemic.

85% OF PARENTS REPORTED THAT:

“Today’s session helped me feel like I am a part of a Jewish community that supports me as a parent.”



Temple Sinai family in suburban Philadelphia explores the impact of turning 13.

Moving Online

Creating responsive curricula on the emerging issues that matter most to Jewish youth and their families, such as:

- ▶ *Reflection 2020: An Election Toolkit for Teens*
- ▶ *May Her Memory Be a Revolution: Grieving for RBG*
- ▶ *Racial Justice: Rage, Riots and Righteousness*
- ▶ *How to Connect When You Are Never Apart?*

Supporting 1,000+ Jewish parents and educators on teen sexuality, health and wellbeing, and other issues, in webinars with national experts such as Peggy Orenstein, author of *Boys & Sex*, and Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Kahn, co-authors of *Sexual Citizen: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power and Assault on Campus*.

Flourishing Jewish Teens

Teen Groups

Emboldening **2000+** 8th–12th grade teens in **210+** transformative Jewish peer communities: **Rosh Hodesh** for teen girls; **Shevet** for teen boys; and **Tzelem** for LGBTQ+ teens.

86% OF TEENS REPORTED THAT:

“I learned skills to help me tackle challenges or problems when things get hard or stressful.”

80% OF ALL TEENS REPORTED THAT:

“I developed a stronger connection to my Jewish identity.”

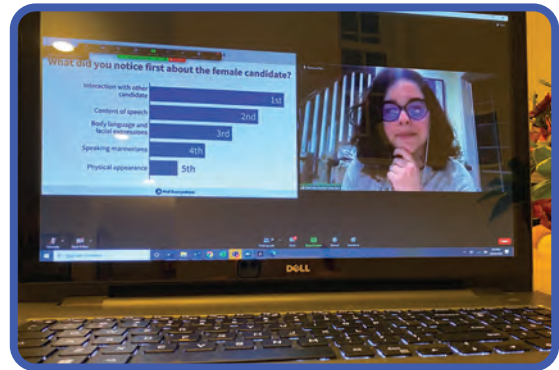


Training clergy and Jewish educators in interactive zoom webinars to make meaning and connection—online or in person, depending on the pandemic. In summer and fall 2020, through:

- 8** Carol Lowenstein Moving Traditions B’nai Mitzvah Training Institutes
- 2** National Training Conferences for Teen Group Leaders
- 268** clergy, educators and adult mentors prepared for 2020–21 program year

Kol Koleinu

Advancing social justice with **50** national feminist fellows in 10th–12th grade—offered in collaboration with URJ and USY—who deepen their knowledge, amplify their voices, exert leadership, and together with adult mentors develop projects to create tangible change.



Kol Koleinu Fellow Danielle Gruber conducts her social activism project, **Voting With a Feminist Lens: A Workshop by and for Teens.**



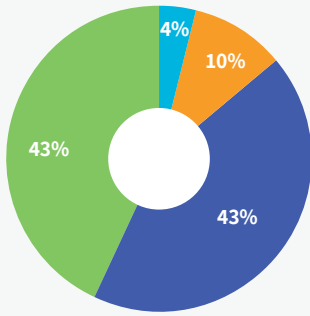
“Webifying” hundreds of pages of curricula—B’nai Mitzvah Family Education sessions and preteen classes, and Teen Group sessions, creating meaningful and vibrant online experiences.

Launching Heart to Heart, a five-session sampler of intimate conversations to help Jewish organizations—synagogues, JCCs, camps, day schools, and others—build health, wellbeing, social justice activism, and positive Jewish connection for socially isolated Jewish youth.



2019 Audited Financials

Sources of Income



Board support

▶ \$332,920

Individual support

▶ \$1,401,102

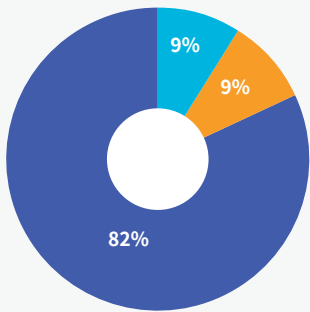
Foundation support

▶ \$1,392,207

Program fees, donations in-kind and interest

▶ \$143,041

Operating Expenditures



Programs

▶ \$2,498,011

Administrative

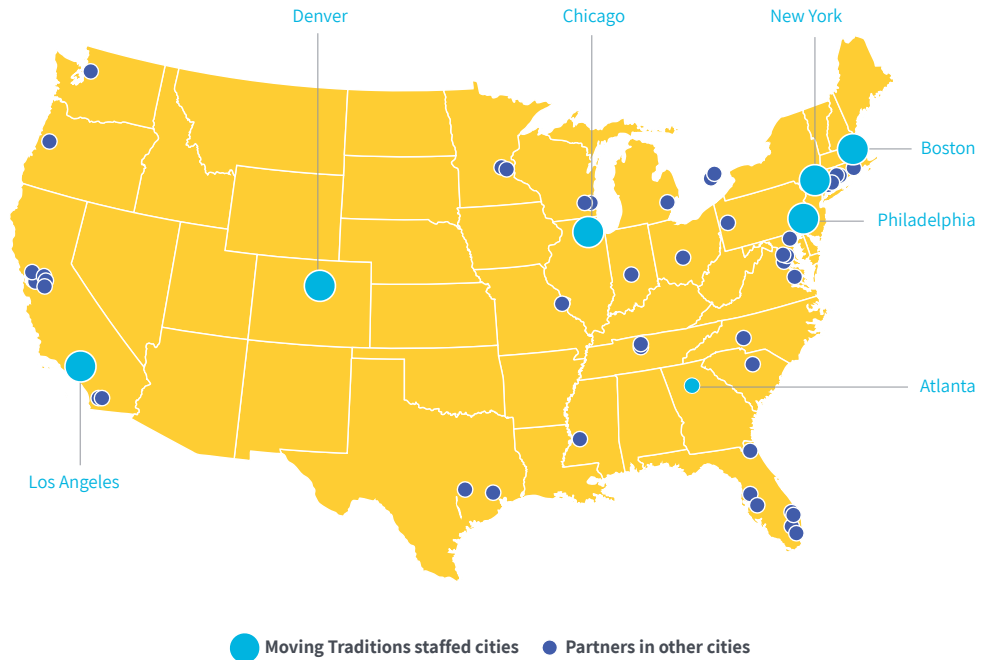
▶ \$278,701

Fundraising

▶ \$289,998

National Impact

Together with our partners across North America, Moving Traditions is helping more Jewish preteens and teens thrive with confidence, compassion, and a lifelong commitment to Jewish community.



Contributors

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

Anonymous (2)
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 The Covenant Foundation
 The Crown Family
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Mission

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