



Eshel, Inc.

Creating inclusive Orthodox communities for LGBT Jews and their families by providing resources, trainings, and community building events.

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2010

board chair(s)

Shlomo Ashkinazy

2014 expenses

\$159,121

Eshel, Inc. uses community organizing principles to combat homophobia in the Orthodox Jewish community. Due to Eshel's work, Orthodox parents have begun to stand up for their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children, and Orthodox LGBT Jews are increasingly able to live meaningful lives without hiding their religious, sexual, or gender identities. Other organizations, several listed here in *Slingshot*, work to increase inclusivity of LGBT Jews within different sections of the Jewish community, but no other organization has made these specific efforts in the Orthodox world. Eshel understands the unique sensitivities of the Orthodox community and advocates for greater inclusivity of LGBT Jews with these considerations in mind.

Eshel runs weekend gatherings for LGBT Orthodox Jews that create community and allow participants to celebrate Shabbat in a way that integrates their religious and LGBT identities. Eshel also trains its participants to speak out and advocate for LGBT Orthodox Jews, while overseeing a speakers' bureau to help LGBT Orthodox Jews and their families learn to share their stories. Eshel also operates family groups and retreats for parents to learn how to better support their children and pave the way for the children to return to their communities after they have been rejected. Eshel reshapes the role of LGBT Jews in the Orthodox community and provides hope for a better future for the women, men, and teens that it serves.

“ This is an historic moment to address issues related to inclusion in the Orthodox community, and Eshel is expertly leading this charge.