



Annual Impact Report FY24–25

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

2,213

**PARTICIPATED
IN OUR
PROGRAMS &
SERVICES**

65,983

**REACHED
ONLINE**

Eshel continues to be the leading resource, voice, and network for LGBTQ+ people and Orthodox communities alike to navigate their identities, embrace one another, and create a brighter Jewish future through inclusion. Using our pillars of community, advocacy, support, and education we continue to save lives and move Orthodoxy forward.

In 2024-2025, we strengthened our resources and programming to provide more for traditional LGBTQ+ Jews than ever before and celebrate with those who are living their authentic selves. Every new program participant and newsletter subscriber reached this year helps spread the message of belonging to their shuls, schools, and community institutions. Read below to learn more about the impact you are making in Orthodox communities around the country, and Israel.

Building National & Local Communities

4,303

COMMUNITY BUILDING
CONNECTIONS

848

PARTICIPANTS JOINED
COMMUNITY AT **31** IN PERSON
GATHERINGS AND RETREATS

↗ **30%**
INCREASE SINCE FY24

890

LGBTQ+ PEOPLE AND PARENTS
MET FOR SUPPORT IN **13**
RECURRING ONLINE MEETUPS

↗ **30%**
INCREASE SINCE FY24

475

WARMLINE CALLS
40 calls/month

↗ **46%**
INCREASE SINCE FY24

3,812

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

↗ **25%**
INCREASE SINCE FY24



771

MEMBERS IN **12**
WHATSAPP GROUPS

↗ **38%**
INCREASE SINCE FY24

“ There is something magical about being around other Jewish queers, there’s power in identification, and it was so beautiful to be able to feel like I belong. Thank you so much for giving me the chance to expand my community of friends, and support. I’m a different person for having been [with Eshel] this weekend, and I’m forever changed. ”

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This year, Eshel volunteers led **8** recurring meetups in 6 cities and Israel, including two new groups in Silver Spring, MD for Parents, and in Atlanta, GA for LGBTQ+.



SPOTLIGHT !

South Florida Shabbaton

Eshel was proud to host a Shabbaton in Hollywood, FL with **48** community members from Hollywood, Boca, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale. The growing Orthodox community and shifting political landscape in Florida leaves LGBTQ+ Orthodox Jews particularly vulnerable.

READ MORE in *The Miami Herald*.



Community Organizational Partnerships

Eshel continued to deepen our relationships with organizations serving overlapping needs and populations as Eshel. We are especially grateful to **A Wider Bridge, I Was Supposed to Have a Baby, JOFA, JQY, International Rabbinic Fellowship (IRF), Jewish Fertility Foundation, Jewish Community Mental Health Initiative, Keshet, PORAT, Sephardic Mizrahi Q Network, UJAPride, Uri L'Tzedek, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Yeshivat Maharat**, and more! By partnering with these important community voices, we have connected with hundreds of LGBTQ+ Jews, allies, and supporters that are outside of our usual network.

Advocating for our Belonging

SPOTLIGHT !



Orthodox Allies Training Project

The Orthodox Allies Training project held three sessions this year in Detroit, Boca, and at the Prizmah Day School conference with a total of **127** participants. Attendees workshopped standing up for LGBTQ+ inclusion, and learned how to start conversations with their friends and local leaders to impact change in their schools, shuls, and shabbos tables.

THE WELCOMING SHULS PROJECT: 300 Shul Rabbis Reached!

Of the shuls and Rabbis who agreed to be part of the project, **89** are from REITS/YU, **76** lead Chabad communities, **43** are YCT or Yeshivat Maharat Musmachim, and the remainder are from various Yeshivot in the USA, Israel or elsewhere. This number represents a bit more than **10%** of the total shuls and identified Orthodox shul communities. We also work with individuals and families looking for the right shul and community for them. [LEARN MORE HERE.](#)

// Thank you for everything. After we talked something inspired me - I became Shomer Shabbat again and keep Kosher. I love my community, have so many choices of shuls, and friends who welcome and include me. Thank you for all of your help. I am so happy here! //

THE WELCOMING SCHOOLS PROJECT

Eshel connected with over **40** yeshiva and community day schools this year to support LGBTQ+ students and families. In addition to presenting at the Prizmah conference, we also supported school and family individual cases, and have connected to over **100** educators who are “making space for difference.”

Supporting Mental Health & Well-Being

1,365

ESHEL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONNECTED WITH OUR SUPPORT SERVICES TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG ORTHODOX LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WARMLINE & LONG TERM COUNSELING

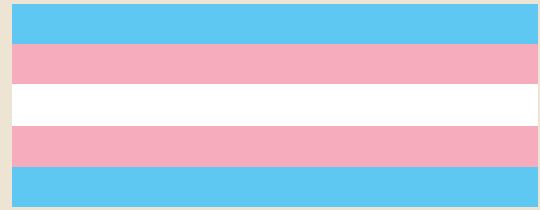
Our counselors and mentors connected with **475 participants, an average of 40/month** to provide emotional support and direct them to the appropriate services, both within Eshel and through external referrals.

// The first time I joined an Eshel Zoom support group, I couldn't even turn my camera on. Some two years later, thanks to Eshel's warm embrace, guidance and love, I've found self-acceptance and strength, connection and community; more than I ever knew possible! I'm no longer hiding—and I know now, I'm not alone. **//**

8 NATIONAL PHONE-IN/ZOOM SUPPORT GROUPS

Eshel enabled **890 meetup members** access to our support services from the US, Canada, Israel and beyond.

SPOTLIGHT !



Trans Resource Guide

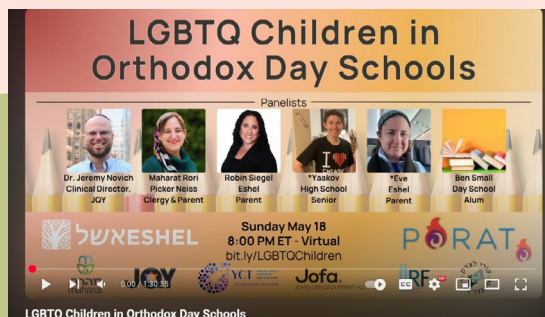
In response to the current administration's attacks on the transgender community, many trans people and their families have turned to Eshel with fear and uncertainty. To support them, we've compiled resources on policy changes, legal and medical access, mental health support, and relocation. **VIEW MORE.**

Antisemitism Survey

Eshel and A Wider Bridge surveyed **328** Jewish and LGBTQ+ individuals to discover staggering rates of antisemitism since the Israel-Gaza war began. In addition to learning 90% of Jews were being harassed online, we also discovered a shift in LGBTQ+ Jews searching for more Jewish spaces and asked the community to step up and support them. **READ THE SURVEY.**

Educating Orthodox Leaders & Allies

SPOTLIGHT !



Recording of Panel Discussion Available Now

LGBTQ+ Children in Orthodox Day Schools

At the end of May, Eshel brought together 3 Eshel parents, 2 yeshiva day school students and alumni, and six partner organizations to bring a special panel to over 300 registered participants.

[WATCH THE PROGRAM HERE.](#)

Belonging in the Classroom

Eshel partnered with ElevatEd for a professional development workshop with 30 Jewish educators on practical ways to promote LGBTQ+ inclusion in the classrooms.

COMMUNITY VISITS

Eshel staff members have been invited by allies and Jewish communities around the US and Israel to share our work and message of inclusion to more than **1,050** people in communities, shuls, and gatherings in:

- DENVER, CO
- HARTFORD, CT
- SKOKIE, IL
- CAMBRIDGE, SHARON, AND BOSTON, MA
- BALTIMORE, MD
- NYC AND ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY
- OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
- PHILADELPHIA, PA
- SHALSHELET SHIVYONI, CAPITAL CAMPS, PA
- PROVIDENCE, RI
- AUSTIN AND HOUSTON, TX

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

As Yeshiva University struggled with their decision to allow the YU Hareni Club to openly support LGBTQ+ students on campus, Eshel supported students by speaking in Washington Heights, marching with them at parades, continuing to connect directly to Rabbis and administrators about inclusive Orthodoxy, making sure our voices and their voices remain visible and valuable. [READ MORE.](#)

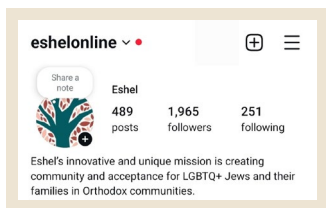
MAKE SPACE FOR DIFFERENCE

Eshel distributed 118 "Make Space for Difference" stickers to shul and community Rabbis, and 64 stickers to teachers and administrators at more than 30 yeshiva and community day schools as we began building a network of Jewish educators committed to LGBTQ+ belonging. [LEARN MORE.](#)

Eshel Out Loud

23,265 BLOG VISITORS

Eshel published **23** Divrei Torah and Blog Posts



ONLINE

Eshel's social media grew this year thanks to new supporters and followers:

f **37,318**
IMPRESSIONS

INCREASE SINCE FY24

↗ 109%

4,453
INTERACTIONS

↗ 177%

@ **34,323**
IMPRESSIONS

↗ 149%

5,911
INTERACTIONS

↗ 100%

in **4,544**
EST. FEBRUARY 2025



IN PRINT

Eshel was proud to be featured in major news publications and in multiple local outlets to spread the word of our work including *The Associated Press*, *eJewishPhilanthropy*,

The Miami Herald, *The Jewish Link*, *Religion News Service*, and more.

ESHEL CONNECTS

Eshel was proud to have a visible presence in the following spaces, enabling us to develop and strengthen relationships with partners, funders, and allies.

Jewish Federations of North America conference this fall to be part of the conversations surrounding national Jewish priorities with over **1,000** leaders.

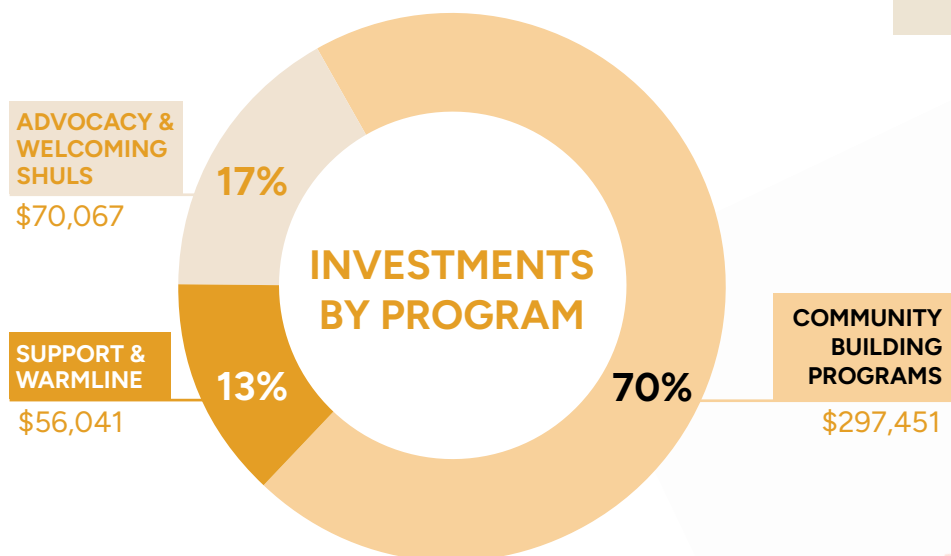
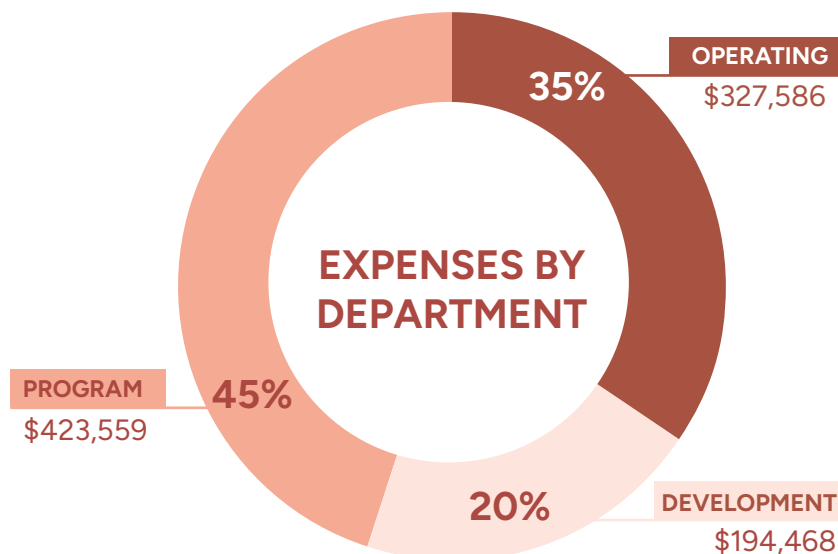
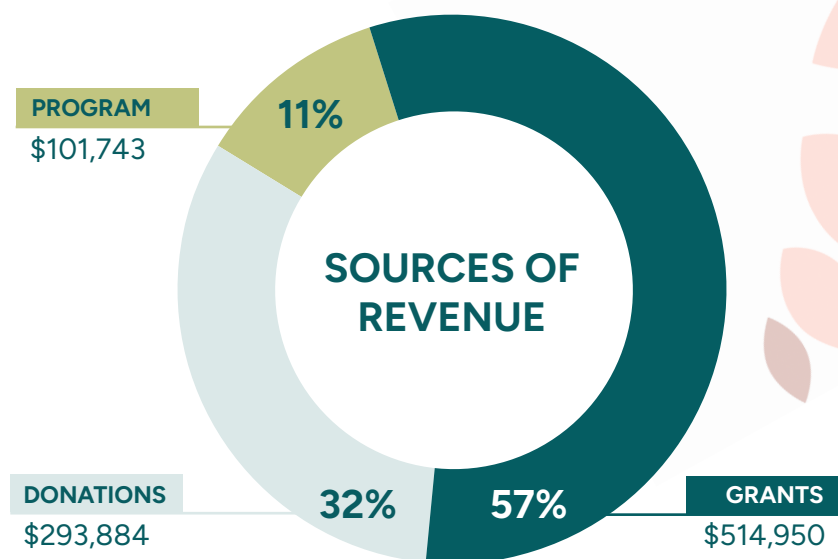
Prizmah Day School Conference with over **200** day schools present, and **25** schools in our session on LGBTQ+ students in Orthodox Day Schools.

JPRO Conference to co-lead the LGBTQ+ affinity group for over **50** Jewish queer professionals and network with more than **1,200** professionals.

JFNA LGBTQ+ Leaders Mission to Israel with close to **100** LGBTQ+ leaders from the US to connect with peers doing work on the ground in Israel.

FY25 Financials

Thank You



THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Anonymous
Aviv Foundation
Micah Philanthropies
Charles and Lynn
Schusterman
Family
Philanthropies
SRE Network
Upstart
UJA-Federation of
New York

Thank You

THANK YOU TO OUR VISIONAIRIES

ZAHAV (Gold) \$25,000+

Anonymous

KESSEF (Silver) \$10,000+

Anonymous

Elaine Chapnik & Felicity Arengo

Deborah Ziskin & William Berson

Tova Bulow

Susan & Leonard Fuld

Kyla & Mitchell Schneider

T'CHELET (Turquoise) \$5,000+

Anonymous

Anonymous Allies

Judith & Mark Benjamin

Peninah (Taragin) & Greg Gershman

Michael Goldman and Family

Simon S. Kaminetsky

Yocheved and Nathan Lindenbaum

Miriam & Ira Parness

Alyson & Tzvi Small

ARGAMAN (Purple) \$3,600+

Julie Sissman & Phil Richter

Shalom Weberman

ODEM (Ruby) \$2,500+

Miriam & Jeffrey Benkoe

Ossie & Harry z"l Hanauer

Arielle & Aton Teitelbaum

Fred & Susie Toczek

SHANI (Crimson) \$1,800+

Shlomo Ashkinazy &

Michael Gomillion

Judy & Fred Gluckman

Jessica & Richard Langer

Frederick Hertz

Richard Kahn

Regene z"l & Kenneth Prager

Ari Susswein

FRIENDS OF ESHEL \$1,000+

Deborah Kovsky & Yoni Apap

Dana Friedman

Yaakov K

Keith Krivitsky

Bracha & Avy Weberman



THANK YOU
TO OUR
BOARD & STAFF