



# SLINGSHOT

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## **Mayyim Hayyim Named One of North America's Most Innovative Jewish Nonprofits**

### ***Mayyim Hayyim Selected to Receive Capacity Building Grant from Slingshot Fund in Recognition of Innovative Accomplishments***

(Newton, MA) - October 13, 2009 – Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center (Mayyim Hayyim) has been named one of the nation's 50 most innovative Jewish nonprofits, in Slingshot '09-'10, a resource guide for Jewish innovation. Slingshot, now in its fifth year, features organizations, leaders, and programs that have taken an innovative approach to addressing age-old concerns of identity and community in Jewish life today. In its fifth consecutive time being named in Slingshot, Mayyim Hayyim made the cut this year after an extensive evaluation process overseen by several dozen foundation professionals.

Also, Mayyim Hayyim was one of only ten organizations from *Slingshot '08/'09* to receive a capacity building grant from the Slingshot Fund. Inspired by the guidebook, a group of next-generation donors launched The Slingshot Fund, a collective giving mechanism to support the future of innovative Jewish life in North America. Now in its third year, Slingshot has already contributed over \$1 million to innovative Jewish nonprofits.

Mayyim Hayyim is a resource for learning, spiritual discovery, and creativity where women and men of all ages can celebrate milestones like weddings and becoming bar/bat mitzvah with ritual immersion; where conversion to Judaism is accorded the honor and dignity it deserves; where survivors of trauma, illness or loss find solace; and where women can explore the ritual of monthly immersion on their own terms. A busy center of community life, Mayyim Hayyim provides 1400 immersions and nearly 90 education programs every year, art exhibits in our gallery, national consultation services, and meaningful volunteer opportunities and training.

"Mayyim Hayyim is a perfect example of vibrant, inclusive and accessible Jewish life in the 21st century" says Aliza Kline, Mayyim Hayyim Founding Executive Director.

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The ten Slingshot Fund grantees embody the spirit of innovation, and resonate with the next-generation's vision of Jewish life in North America. Danielle Foreman, a 2009 Slingshot Fund Investor shared, "My experience on Slingshot has opened my eyes to a new and inspiring world of Jewish philanthropy. I had been searching for ways to get involved in the Jewish community and make an impact on a broader scale."

"The ten grantees represent everything the Slingshot Fund investors look for: having a real impact on Jewish life in North America, and making it applicable for the next generation," explained Will Schneider, Director of Slingshot.

*Slingshot '09/'10* will be unveiled on October 15 at the second annual Slingshot Day launch event in Manhattan. Over the years, Slingshot's role in the national and international community has increased dramatically, which is evidence of the growing community of innovative nonprofits and the funders who support them.

### **About *Slingshot***

*Slingshot* was created by a team of young funders as a guidebook to help funders of all ages diversify their giving portfolios with the most innovative and effective organizations and programs in North America. This guide contains information about each organization's origin, mission, strategy, impact and budget, as well as details about its unique character. Now in its fifth edition, *Slingshot* has proven to be a catalyst for next generation funding and offers a telling snapshot of shifting trends in North America's Jewish community. The book, published annually, is available in hard copy and as a free download at [www.slingshotfund.org](http://www.slingshotfund.org).

### **About Mayyim Hayyim**

Mayyim Hayyim is an intimate center for spirituality, learning, celebration and community, an international model of Jewish creativity and vitality. Ritual immersion in a mikveh - a gathering of living water - marks a change in status. People immerse at Mayyim Hayyim to celebrate moments of joy, to heal after times of sorrow or illness, or to commemorate transitions and changes.

Mayyim Hayyim makes mikveh accessible and meaningful for the full diversity of our people for the first time in Jewish history. A local treasure and an international model since 2004, Jews from around the US and Israel routinely stop at Mayyim Hayyim to tour, learn, and immerse. And whoever calls, or walks through our doors, or sends an email receives a thoughtful response and a warm welcome.

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