



KayamaMoms

*Creating Community and Support
for Jewish Single Mothers By Choice*

The Challenge

In the past decade, there has been an increase in the number of "older singles" within the Jewish community world-wide. At the same time, there exists in the majority of women a powerful and natural instinct to be a mother. The Torah shares this desire for children in the words of our foremother Rachel, "give me children or I shall die."

A woman who reaches the approximate age of thirty-five finds herself at a difficult crossroad. She must decide if she should risk the possibility of never having children due to increasing infertility with each passing year or take the bold step to become a single mother.

It is true that the decision to become a single mom for all women is not easy; for an observant woman it is even more difficult. The family-centered close-knit Traditional community encourages marrying at a young age and in these communities, women over thirty-five year often feel alienated. They are concerned that becoming a single Mom will only increase this sense of alienation.

For those who choose to undergo the process of becoming a single parent, either by a medical procedure or by adoption, the road can be long, lonely and fraught with complications.

Though single moms by choice frequently relate tremendous joy and satisfaction, they are often confronted with social and economic difficulties, and a lack of support from their families. Additionally, these women may lack a sense of belonging within their community.

The Vision

KayamaMoms, will provide tools and support to Jewish women who are reaching the eve of their fertility and are considering becoming single moms. Our board of advisors, which includes doctors, social workers and rabbis, will provide women with the knowledge and assistance they need to adopt or give birth to a baby. Women who are already single moms can be part of this supportive community, which will help them integrate more easily into Jewish communities in Israel and around the world.

The Plan

Our goals and upcoming programs include:

- Creating an empowering community for Shomer Shabbat families of single moms by choice
- Supplying clear & organized information, tools and support that will accompany women from the initial stages of making the decision, to conception, pregnancy/adoption and onwards
- Organizing seminars on a variety of topics including - pregnancy/adoption procedures, fertility for 35+ women, financial planning, parenting tips and more. Seminars will be conducted by doctors, Rabbis, educators, psychologists and experienced single moms.
- Creating support groups to assist and encourage throughout all stages of the process
- Arranging Shabbat retreats and vacations for single moms and their children
- Establishing advisory committees: Medical, Psychological, Rabbinic and others
- Developing an informative website that will provide practical information and serve to build community