Hillel San Antonio’s Search for Space
Alan J. Yancelson, Master of Arts Candidate
Human Dimensions of Organizations, The University of Texas at Austin

Introduction
Hillel, a campus-based Jewish organization, needs space in San Antonio. This study examines the advantages and disadvantages of owning and renting a space.

Methods
• In-depth interviews with 7 key Hillel directors throughout the country.
• Literary review of real estate advantages and disadvantages of owning compared to renting a space.

Results

Advantages of Renting
• Matt Rosenberg and Daniel Septimus from Texas A&M Hillel and UT Hillel, respectively, think their spaces are too big. Matt would rather rent from the university than own his building because of the high costs of $200,000 a year from running the building.

• Jay Lewis from the Hillel at Kansas University rents a space in a hip area in downtown Lawrence. He suggests renting is better to avoid costs and maintenance issues.

Advantages of Owning
• Jackie Tolley from the Hillel at San Diego State University says “owning a building gives students and enormous sense of pride for being Jewish, and it absolutely changes the experience for students”.

• Suzy Sostrin from the Hillel at OU thinks not having a building is really tough for students because they cannot find you in the middle of the day and pop in to hang out and study.

Conclusions
• “It is beneficial for Hillel to rent a space, and owning is not always a great option” - Jay Lewis, KU Hillel Director

• “Owning brings about several advantages such as pride in Hillel, a safe space to meet and hang out”- Margo Sack, Texas Hillel

• Owning a building is an asset.
• Renting is less expensive and more flexible.

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“Look at what student life is going to look like in seventy-three years, what their needs are going to be”.
~Suzy Sostrin, OU Hillel


Literature Cited

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