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## PRESS RELEASE

### AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE MAKES HISTORY WITH LATEST FOUR-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR AND LISTING IN 'SLINGSHOT: 07-08'

New York; Oct. 17, 2007—American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international development organization dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among all people of the developing world, today announced that it is one of only two non-profit organizations in the country to receive seven consecutive four-star ratings from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of more than 5,300 charities.

The organization also announced that, for the third straight year, it has been named one of North America's most innovative Jewish nonprofits in *Slingshot*, an annual guidebook compiled and published by 21/64, a division of The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies. AJWS' work includes grantmaking to dynamic grassroots organizations in 36 countries, a volunteer program that sends dozens of volunteers into the field each year and a growing advocacy initiative that has become one of the most outspoken voices calling for an end to the genocide in Sudan.

"According to the World Bank, one billion people earn less than \$1 a day," the *Slingshot* write-up reads. "AJWS is the premier international development organization enabling Jews to help thousands in Africa, Asia and the Americas move beyond their daily struggle for food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and access to education.... For those who believe in 'grassroots community development as a lever for change,' no Jewish organization is more successful in building the capacity of NGOs than AJWS."

Charity Navigator bases its annual ratings on a complex formula that examines an organization's efficiency and capacity in seven key areas and produces an overall rating of one to four stars.

"As the non-profit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard earned dollars," said Trent Stamp, President of Charity Navigator, in a letter he wrote to AJWS. "Less than 1 percent of the charities we've rated have received at least seven consecutive four-star evaluations, indicating that American Jewish World Service outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible."

Ruth W. Messinger, President of AJWS, said: "The recognition that we are getting for our work is an endorsement of the talented people serving on our board, our professional staff and our legion of volunteers. Moreover, it speaks to the importance of our purpose and the widespread support we are receiving. People believe that Judaism has an important role in improving the quality of life

for everybody; our message strikes a universal chord and we are proud to have become the Jewish community's vehicle for action."

### **About AJWS**

*American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community. ([www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org))*

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