



SLINGSHOT
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**Named One of North America's
Most Innovative Jewish Not-For-Profits**

***Institute for Curriculum Services Selected to Receive Capacity Building
Grant from Slingshot Fund in Recognition of Innovative Accomplishments***

(San Francisco, CA) – October 18, 2011 – The Institute for Curriculum Services: National Resource Center for Accurate Jewish Content in Schools (ICS) has been named one of the nation's 50 most innovative Jewish not-for-profits in *Slingshot* '11-'12, a resource guide for Jewish innovation. ICS was selected for this list for the third year in a row because ICS is the only organization in the United States that is strategically promoting accurate instructional materials and instruction on Jews, Judaism, and Israel for American K-12 students.

This year, ICS was one of only seven organizations to receive a capacity building grant from the Slingshot Fund. Inspired five years ago by *Slingshot*, a group of next-generation philanthropists launched the Slingshot Fund, a collective giving mechanism to support innovative Jewish life. The Slingshot Fund has contributed more than \$1.8 million to innovative Jewish not-for-profits.

Slingshot is used by philanthropists, volunteers, not-for-profit executives, and program participants to identify trailblazing organizations grappling with concerns in Jewish life such as identity, community, and tradition. ICS was chosen by a panel of 36 foundation professionals from across North America. Featured organizations are selected from hundreds of nominees across North America. Finalists are chosen based on their strength in four areas: innovation, impact, leadership, and organizational efficiency.

To improve education about Jews, Judaism, and Israel for all students including Jewish students (most of whom attend public schools), the Institute for Curriculum Services focuses on textbooks and teacher training. Since its inception in late 2005, by working directly with social studies textbook publishers, ICS has obtained over 5,000 corrections to content relating to Jews, Judaism and Israel in hundreds of textbooks used around the country. Prior to the establishment of ICS, no Jewish organization had comprehensively addressed what millions of American students learn on these subjects in public schools. In addition to its textbook reviews and work with publishers, ICS also develops curriculum on Jewish and Israel-related topics and offers teacher training at social studies conferences, enabling teachers to present more accurate information to their students. This year, ICS launched the National Teacher Training Initiative in partnership with local Jewish communities from throughout the country who will now attend their states' social studies conferences and broaden ICS's reach to educators.

ICS Director of Program Development and National Outreach, Aliza Cramer Elias stated, "It is a great honor to be recognized for a third straight year for our unique and innovative work, which

directly impacts what Jewish and non-Jewish students learn about Jews, Judaism, and Israel in this country. Receiving a Slingshot Fund unrestricted grant is a tremendous help to our organization. It raises our profile in the funding community, which is critical to growing our capacity and ensuring that more American students receive an accurate education on Judaism and Israel.”

According to Will Schneider, Executive Director of Slingshot, “*Slingshot* celebrates the relative peace and prosperity that Jews enjoy in the United States and Canada while highlighting those organizations that work to ensure that Jewish life isn’t left behind as the world moves forward. *Slingshot* ‘11-‘12 is an inspirational look at a Jewish community that is adapting to changing needs in Jewish life. We had more applications than ever this year, with a wider variety of missions. In order to be selected by our evaluators, innovations and their impact had to resonate more than ever.”

Jonathan Raiffe, the Chairman of Slingshot shared, “The Slingshot guide makes a statement to the Jewish community and beyond that next gen funders embrace change, innovation, and evaluation when meeting the needs of our community. Slingshot promotes organizations that hold themselves accountable to all their stakeholders and up to the same scrutiny as for-profit organizations, while pushing the boundaries of how to solve the most pressing issues. Slingshot is about making a statement as to what we believe are the greatest needs and what organizations are doing the best job to fulfill those needs. Organizations that receive grants from Slingshot clearly identify an unmet need and offer proven models and solutions that can have a far-reaching impact.”

Slingshot ‘11/‘12 was released on October 18, 2011. The community will meet on March 14 in New York City at the annual Slingshot Day, where over 250 not-for-profit leaders, foundation professionals, and funders of all ages will engage in candid conversations about philanthropy and innovation.

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 seventh 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.

About ICS

The Institute for Curriculum Services: National Resource Center for Accurate Jewish Content in Schools was launched in 2005 and is an independently funded national project of the Jewish Community Relations Council in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. Supported by direct grants and donations, ICS is dedicated to promoting accurate instructional materials and instruction on Jews, Judaism, and Israel. Its work impacts millions of American students and will ultimately impact millions more children in American public schools and millions of others in private schools, who learn about Jews, Judaism, and Israel in social studies classes. More information can be found at www.icsresources.org.