




30 Shining Light Ministries of 2009

By Rodney L. Pitzer, CFE

MinistryWatch.com desires to see overall giving to Biblical Christian values increase and as such we developed this format to highlight a sampling of ministries which are exemplary. The following 30 ministries represent some of the "best ministries".

Identifying a diversity of the best ministries is challenging given the selfless work that so many do for the cause of Christ. No one is able to give to every ministry that one values as we are not possessed of unlimited resources. It is best to make an assessment of our options and make discerning decisions. MinistryWatch.com's assessment looked at the following seven areas when considering this list of 30:

(1) Transparency, (2) Truth Claims, (3) Values, (4) Sectors/Functions, (5) Resourcefulness, (6) Red Flag Issues, and (7) Consultation.

A fuller explanation of our evaluation criteria is on page five. A foundational premise was to shine a figurative light on those ministries that were "Christian" more than in name only. Ministries were chosen that were not just marketing to Christians as a market segment for "Christian donor money", but ministries that had theological underpinnings and Biblical values that determined their actions. Organizations that relied more on a secular motivation and means were excluded as well as those "ministries" that seem to view the organization as their own vehicle as a business to make money rather than a love to maximize ministry to others and to let their light shine for the glory of God. 

MinistryWatch.com's 2009 List of 30 Shining Light Ministries

AnGel Ministries

Audio Scripture Ministries

Awana

Cadence International

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Children's Hunger Fund

Children's Medical Ministries

Christian Freedom International

Christian Medical & Dental Associations

Compassion International

Crown Financial Ministries

endPoverty.org

EvanTell

Free Wheelchair Mission

JAARS

Joni and Friends

Kingsway Charities

Life Centers

Living Water International

Medical Teams International

Mercy Ships

Military Community Youth Ministries

New Tribes Mission

Prison Fellowship

Probe

The Rutherford Institute

Trans World Radio

Village Missions

The Voice of the Martyrs

Wycliffe Bible Translators

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Christian Growth

AnGel Ministries

5115 Hollyridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 787-6606 / www.angelministries.org

AnGeL Ministries is committed to giving out messages of Biblical exposition so that God's Word is personal and relevant to ordinary people. The ministry's name is derived from the initials of Anne Graham Lotz (AGL) and is especially fitting as an angel's Biblical role is to go only where the Lord sends and to proclaim only the word of the Lord. AnGeL Ministries serves as the umbrella organization for the diverse ministry of Anne Graham Lotz - including her many books, DVDs and speaking engagements as well as special events like Just Give Me Jesus and Pursuing MORE of Jesus.

Evangelism Support

Audio Scripture Ministries

760 Waverly Rd, Holland, MI 49423
(616) 396-5291 / www.ASMToday.org

Audio Scripture Ministries (ASM) strives for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world via production and distribution of communications media. ASM is committed to seeing that all translated New Testaments available in print form are also recorded and made available in audio form. ASM believe that there remains a foundational, essential, unfinished task in world mission today. They believe that task is to provide the translated Scriptures in audio form for all who cannot read and for ministries among ethnic peoples in multi-lingual settings.

Leadership Training

Awana

1 East Bode Rd., Streamwood, IL 60107-6658
(630) 213-2000 / www.awana.org

Awana is an international, Bible-centered children's ministry and youth ministry providing local churches with weekly clubs, programs and training. Their goal is to equip churches and parents worldwide to raise spiritual champions who know, love and serve Christ using integrated programs for ages 2 to 18, resources for Bible-based parenting and discipleship, child and family evangelism and specialized volunteer training. The acronym Awana comes from the first letters of **Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed** as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15.

Fellowship Evangelism

Cadence International

PO Box 1268, Englewood, CO 80150
(800) 396-6680 / www.cadence.org

An evangelical mission agency serving all branches of the U.S. military in America and overseas with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Cadence ministers not only to military personnel, but to their spouses and dependents as well. Cadence has more than 200 missionaries who work in more than 50 locations worldwide. Its ministry serves the military community through hospitality (home type environment with hospitality houses), evangelism, discipleship, friendship, and teaching.

Evangelism

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

PO Box 348, Warrenton, MO, 63383-0348
(636) 456-4321 / www.cefonline.com

CEF evangelizes boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciples them in the Word of God and establishes them in a Bible believing church for Christian living. Some of its evangelism tools include the Wordless Books and Gospel Gloves. Some of its ministries include, Good News Clubs (at public schools), 5-Day Clubs during the summer, Literature Based Ministries, Mailbox Club Ministries, Camp Good News, and Internet Ministries like Wonderzone.com.

Relief and Development

Children's Hunger Fund (CHF)

12820 Pierce St., Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 899-5122 / www.chfus.org

CHF alleviates the suffering in children around the world. Whether it is hunger, malnutrition, poor medical care, abandonment or abuse, CHF works to provide products to assist in the care of children. CHF delivers food, clothing, medicines, medical supplies, personal hygiene items and other relief materials through a monitored distribution network in the cities and countries where they send aid. They have an impressive ability for attracting noncash contributions and they translate this into specific assistance to individuals.

Relief and Development

Children's Medical Ministries (CMM)

PO Box 3382, Crofton, MD 21114-1114
(301) 261-3211 / www.childmed.org

CMM is a compassionate humanitarian service organization that has more than 700 volunteer health care professionals committed to serving the indigent and oppressed children and their families in the National Capital/ Baltimore areas, seven states, and in more than 30 overseas countries. They provide food, shelter, clothes, medicine, wheelchairs, and prosthesis and healthcare programs. CMM was founded by Col. Bill Collins and his wife, Erma, in 1988 as a nonprofit, nondenominational, all volunteer ministry.

Advocacy

Christian Freedom International (CFI)

215 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(800) 323-2273 / www.christianfreedom.org

CFI works to increase the American perspective and attention on those who suffer persecution for the Christian faith around the world. Its objectives are to obtain firsthand evidence of human rights violations and present that evidence to policymakers in Washington, D.C.; to mobilize Christians in prayer for the victims of persecution and repression; assess humanitarian need and provide such assistance as the organization's resources permit and launch letter writing and petition campaigns on behalf of persecuted Christians.

Christian Growth

Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA)

PO Box 7500, Bristol, TN 37621
(888) 230-2637 / www.cmda.org

CMDA is a group of health professionals who hope to change, influence and mentor Christian spiritual belief from the perspective of the health care field. Its mission is to "change hearts in healthcare". CMDA addresses policies on health care issues; conducts overseas evangelism projects through its mission arm (Global Health Outreach); coordinates a network of Christian doctors for fellowship and professional growth; sponsors student ministries in medical and dental schools; distributes educational and inspirational resources and many other related ministry activities.

Relief and Development

Compassion International (CI)

12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80997
(800) 336-7676 / www.compassion.com

Compassion International is an evangelical Christian child development ministry addressing the needs of children around the world. CI focuses on the needs of children spiritually, physically, economically and socially. CI's programs provide tangible benefits such as education, health monitoring and food when necessary, as well as developmental opportunities that can include formal schooling, skills training, health education, presenting of the Gospel, and motivation to acquire meaningful social skills.

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Christian Growth	<p><u>Crown Financial Ministries</u> PO Box 100, Gainesville, GA 30503-0100 (800) 722-1976 / www.crown.org</p> <p>Crown teaches biblical principles of finance and money management. It also trains others to teach these principles and provides counseling and assistance to those in need. Its public image is through its radio programs which present biblical truths relating to stewardship, ethics, practical money management, and God's ability to meet financial needs (25-minute daily program, "Money Matters", 3 minute program "How to Manage Your Money", and "A Money Minute"). But it also conducts small group studies, seminars and other programs.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><u>endPoverty.org</u> 7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814 (800) 936-2253 / www.endpoverty.org</p> <p>endPoverty.org: Formerly Enterprise Development International, demonstrates God's love by enabling the poor to free themselves from poverty. They do this by (1) offering business training to low-income persons who have the potential and the desire to become self-supporting; (2) providing small loans to poor entrepreneurs who have viable business ideas but need capital; and (3) serving as mentors to clients through personal and professional encouragement.</p>
Christian Growth	<p><u>EvanTell</u> PO Box 741417, Dallas, TX 75374-1417 (800) 947-7359 / www.evantell.org</p> <p>EvanTell conducts conferences to reach non-Christians and seminars to instruct believers in evangelism, and materials to equip believers to evangelize. EvanTell's vision is to reach millions of people throughout the world with a clear, biblical presentation of the gospel of grace, through evangelistic outreaches and training believers in personal evangelism and evangelistic speaking.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><u>Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM)</u> 9341 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618 (800) 733-0858 / www.freewheelchairmission.org</p> <p>FWM provides free wheelchairs to the poor, crippled and disabled persons living in developing third-world countries. FWM believes that when Jesus Christ lived in this world, He had special love for the sick and crippled. They try to share the same concern now for the poor, especially those with physical immobility. The chairs are distributed free to those in need, regardless of one's religious affiliation if any.</p>
Evangelism Support	<p><u>JAARS</u> PO Box 248, Waxhaw, NC 28173 (800) 890-0628 / www.jaars.org</p> <p>JAARS provides quality technical support services and resources to speed Bible translation for all people. The JAARS vision is that the worldwide Bible translation movement will benefit from strategic technical logistic support that is dependable and accessible. JAARS shares the vision of the Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) and SIL family of organizations, focusing on technical and logistical support needs.</p>

Fellowship Evangelism	<p><u>Joni and Friends</u> PO Box 3333, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-3333 (818) 707-5664 / www.joniandfriends.org</p> <p>Joni and Friends was founded by Mrs. Tada as an outreach ministry to the disabled community. Given Mrs. Tada's own experience, one should not be surprised to find that Joni and Friends does not view persons with disabilities as simply objects of ministry, but as potential ministers of the Gospel. Persons with disabilities have special needs which the Christian community should understand and address. JAF works across the country and around the world to bring the Gospel message, practical help, and heartfelt encouragement to the disabled.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><u>Kingsway Charities</u> 1119 Commonwealth Avenue, Bristol, VA 24201 (800) 321-9234 / www.kingswaycharities.org</p> <p>Kingsway Charities is a Christian organization improving the lives of the sick and suffering worldwide by providing life-sustaining resources so they will know God's love and compassion. It provides medicine and medical supplies to medical missionaries working in third world and developing countries.</p>
Advocacy	<p><u>Life Centers</u> 8902 Vincennes Circle, Suite A, Indianapolis, IN 46268 (317) 280-2635 / www.lifecenters.com</p> <p>Life Centers helps women in unexpected pregnancy situations in a special way to share Christ's compassion, love, and hope. Life Centers affirms the value of life in this way by providing a network of care that includes counseling, healing support, and resources that explain the truth about life. In addition, it is a member of Care Net.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><u>Living Water International (LWI)</u> P.O. Box 35496, Houston, TX 77235-5496 (877) 594-4426 / www.water.cc</p> <p>LWI provides needed clean water and medical attention, along with the Living Water of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone satisfies the deepest thirst. LWI's services are provided in developing countries. Locals are trained to operate, maintain and service community water systems. The goal is to provide services by establishing independent nonprofit organizations in the country being served. LWI also offers limited medical assistance and training in health and hygiene. Through its drill camp near Houston, LWI trains volunteers to operate portable drilling rigs.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><u>Medical Teams International</u> PO Box 10, Portland, OR 97207-0010 (800) 959-4325 / www.nwmedicalteams.org</p> <p>Medical Teams International's first line of service is primarily that of a humanitarian world responder service (a type of 911 call on an international scale). They send volunteer medical personnel for crisis situations, not only mobilizing retired doctors and nurses, but current medical professionals. Secondly, they distribute humanitarian aid. In addition, they operate mobile dental clinic units in the United States for the working poor. They do not sell their services but are totally supported by donations. This is pure Christian charitable work of helping those who are truly in need.</p>

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Relief and Development

Mercy Ships

P.O. Box 2020, Garden Valley, TX 75771-2020
(800) 772-7447 / www.mercyships.org

Mercy Ships utilizes ocean-going hospital ships to bring medical care and community development to the world's poorest peoples. Surgeons perform thousands of operations to remove tumors, correct cleft lips and palates, give sight to the blind, repair fistulas, and perform a wide range of orthopaedic operations. Medical and dental teams visit prearranged sites and establish field clinics. They carry out vaccination programs, dental care, minor operations, and medical screening. Mercy Ships supports the training of local doctors and nurses, and educating the local people.

Fellowship Evangelism

Military Community Youth Ministries (MCYM)

P.O. Box 2486, Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(800) 832-9098 / www.mcy.org

MCYM is a chapel based, community focused outreach (known as Club Beyond) to bring Good News of Jesus Christ to middle and high school aged dependents of Americans serving in, or in connection with the Armed Forces of the United States of American (both overseas and in the U.S.) The term outreach ministry refers to the focus of the ministry to young people not currently involved in a chapel youth program. They intend to "win a hearing" with these teens, share the love of Christ with them through staff role modeling, and disciple them into the chapel or church.

Foreign Missions

New Tribes Mission (NTM)

1000 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 323-3430 / www.ntm.org

New Tribes Mission works as a team in the evangelization of unreached tribal people, the translation of the Scripture into tribal languages and the planting of indigenous New Testament churches. NTM's activities include Bible institutes, primary training institutes, and a language and linguistics institute. NTM seeks people groups that have never heard the gospel. NTM is very systematic in its approach. They have learned through many avenues and have taken the time to write down and teach others in practical methods.

Christian Growth

Prison Fellowship (PF)

44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, VA 20176
(877) 478-0100 / www.prisonfellowship.org

PF assists the Church in its ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims, and their families, and to promote biblical standards of justice in the criminal justice system. PF recruits, trains, and mobilizes volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds and denominations to participate in a broad array of in-prison and community ministries. In addition, it is well known for the Angel Tree Christmas project to provide gifts to prisoners children. PF also provides commentary on cultural and religious issues communicated primarily via PF's Breakpoint radio and print commentaries.

Christian Growth

Probe

1900 Firman Dr., Suite 100, Richardson, TX 75081
(972) 480-0240 / www.Probe.org

Probe presents the Gospel to communities, nationally and internationally, by providing life-long opportunities to integrate faith and learning through balanced, biblically-based scholarship, educating people how to love God with their minds and equipping them to engage their culture for Christ. Probe outreaches include (1) National and international youth and adult Mind Games Conferences, (2) Radio program, (3) Website resource with more than 1,500 articles, streaming radio and podcast, (4) Ongoing research to address today's issues through Christian scholarship.

Advocacy

The Rutherford Institute

PO Box 7482, Charlottesville, VA, 22906-7482
(434) 978-3888 / www.rutherford.org

An organization that defends people who are persecuted or oppressed without charging them for such services. The Institute's mission is twofold: (1) to provide legal services in the defense of religious and civil liberties and (2) to educate the public on important issues affecting their constitutional freedoms.

Foreign Missions

Trans World Radio (TWR)

P.O. Box 8700 Cary, NC 27512
(800) 456-7897 / www.twr.org

TWR proclaims the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in areas of the world where other forms of Christian witness may not be possible. TWR also eagerly supports the work of evangelism and Christian nurturing in other countries, working in harmony with Christian missionaries and evangelical churches worldwide. Its media broadcasts the Gospel in more than 225 languages and dialects to more than 160 countries. Programs air from 2,000 worldwide outlets, including 14 major international sites, satellite, Internet, and local AM and FM stations.

Evangelism

Village Missions

696 E. Ellendale Avenue, PO Box 197, Dallas, OR 97338-1097
(503) 623-4107 / www.village-missions.org

Village Missions exists to glorify Jesus Christ by developing spiritually vital churches in rural North America. They focus efforts where there is no evangelical church or where it is in danger of ceasing. They find and place pastors, provide the financial support, and provide regional leadership to help pastors and their local church boards achieve long-term ministry. The objective is to reach the entire community; therefore, denominational issues are avoided. The aim is to provide a Christ-centered community church program involving the entire population of a local community.

Advocacy

The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)

P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005
(877) 337-0302 / www.persecution.com

The Voice of the Martyrs is an interdenominational organization working with Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. VOM desires to fulfill the Great Commission and to educate the world about the ongoing persecution of Christians.

Foreign Missions

Wycliffe Bible Translators

P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862
(800) 992-5433 / www.wycliffe.org

Wycliffe Bible Translators advances the translation of the Word of God into all those languages of the world where it is needed. Wycliffe desires to provide access to Scriptures to everyone in the language they understand best.

General Evaluation Criteria

Information was evaluated from approximately the fall of 2008 to the fall of 2009; however, there was not a hard and fast evaluation date.

(1) Transparency

- ◆ Ministries with a trend of openness and transparency were included and those ministries providing more than a token amount of information were evaluated greater than someone grudgingly providing a minimum of information, because they "had to"
- ◆ Organizations with a trend of pushing emotional buttons in a hard sales approach in fundraising persuasion were excluded
- ◆ Any indication of an organization obscuring critical information from scrutiny was eliminated

(2) Truth Claims

- ◆ All the ministers on the list have at some point been verified as an IRS tax-exempt entity, and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law
- ◆ Any organization with indications of a problem with their IRS tax-exempt status would be excluded
- ◆ Any organization that had a matter of fact in dispute (from a credible source), about what they have said, or actually do, would be excluded

(3) Values

- ◆ Ministries that were unashamed of being identified as an evangelical Christian ministry were included
- ◆ Any organization that may hedge on its "Christian" identity would be excluded
- ◆ It was our desire to include those ministries that were "Christian" more than in name only, not just marketing to Christians as a market segment for "Christian donor money", but ministries that had theological underpinnings and Biblical values that determined their actions
- ◆ Organizations that relied more on a secular motivation and means were excluded as well as those "ministries" that seem to view the organization as their own vehicle as a business to make money rather than a love to maximize ministry to others
- ◆ Any organization with real controversial extra-Biblical dogmas would be excluded
- ◆ Any organization that may waver on a pro-life stance would be excluded

(4) Sectors

- ◆ A factor also included getting a sampling of various sectors, or functions of ministry, such as Relief and Development, Evangelism, Christian Growth, etc.

(5) Resourcefulness

- ◆ If there were a couple organizations in the same sector, doing similar work, how efficient they were could be a tie breaking factor; however, a high MinistryWatch.com Financial Efficiency Rating was not a driving factor for inclusion on this particular list, although most do have good ratings.
- ◆ Any organization that looked like a perpetual foundation that could live on investments for years would be excluded
- ◆ Any organization that looked like it was more talk than actually doing things would be excluded
- ◆ Ministries that seemed to be doing the right thing before God and man, even when no one is watching, were moved above others that seemed enamored with riches and where not maximizing the ministry at every opportunity
- ◆ Any ministry with an overly complicated organization structure with lots of separate entities, that resulted in more than one salary for the same people, and that was difficult to understand would be excluded

(6) Red Flag Issues

- ◆ Any unexplained odd aspects of a ministry would be reason to exclude it

(7) Consultation

- ◆ There could not be any critical internal disagreement among those familiar with the ministries

Comments Welcome

Help us improve the process for next year. Please send your suggestions and criticisms. Not only on the methodology and areas examined, but ministries to apply the criteria for next year. Please send an email to: rpitzer@wallwatchers.org, addressed to Rod Pitzer.

Contact Information and Resources

Government Contacts

Internal Revenue Service

Exempt organization customer service address:

Internal Revenue Service
TE/GE Customer Account Services
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

- Tax-exempt assistance: 1-877-829-5500
- General tax questions: 1-800-829-1040
- Order forms and publications: 1-800-829-3676
- Website: www.irs.gov
- Verify tax-exempt status
- Verify tax deductibility
- Obtaining federal tax-exempt status
- Completing federal tax forms
- Specialized assistance to tax-exempt organizations

Attorneys General offices, or Departments of Justice, Charitable Activities Section

Most states have an active unit of the Attorney General's office that are willing to help consumers. Check with NASCO (National Association of State Charities Officials) at www.NASCO.net, look under US State Charity Offices and click on the state of interest.

- Reporting illegal activity by nonprofit organizations
- Information about charitable organizations and copies of annual reports
- Questions about professional fundraising reporting requirements
- Registrations of charitable corporations or trusts
- Questions about annual reports for charitable organizations
- Merging nonprofit organizations
- Serving as a board member of a nonprofit organization
- Dissolving nonprofit organizations

Secretary of State, Corporation Division

Check phone number on the Internet or your local phonebook under state government.

- Verifying that a nonprofit corporation is in fact incorporated and current in its filing
- Obtaining copies of filed articles of incorporation and amendments
- Forming a new corporation
- Obtaining state identification numbers
- Merging nonprofit corporations
- Amending articles of incorporation
- Dissolving nonprofit corporations

Federal Trade Commission

Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
1-877-382-4357
Website: www.ftc.gov

- Information on fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices
- How to file a complaint

Christian Ministry Marketplace

MinistryWatch.com

1 (866) 364-9980
www.ministrywatch.com
A free donor advocate service facilitating the information needs of donors. Profiles Public Charities, church and para-church ministries to aid donors in understanding the key issues concerning a ministry's operations.

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

1 (800) 323-9473
www.ecfa.org
A membership ministry advocate. A peer accountability membership group. Primary responsibility to the ministries that pay dues to the ECFA and thereby fund its operations.

Generous Giving

www.generousgiving.org
Nonprofit that seeks to encourage givers of all income levels to experience the joy of giving and embrace a lifestyle of generosity, according to God's word and Christ's example. It was launched in 2000 by the Maclellan Foundation.

Royal Treasure

1 (770) 977-4502
www.royaltreasure.org
Nonprofit teaching Biblical Stewardship to women.

The Gathering

www.gatheringweb.com
Conferences, email forums, conference calls and other activities for those that give a minimum of \$200,000 annually to Christian ministries or have the capacity to do so.

National Christian Foundation

www.nationalchristian.com
Facilitates Christian stewardship. Helps donors set up a Stewardship Fund, a donor advised fund, liquidate assets, provide gift annuities, trusts, scholarships, and endowments.

Calvin Edwards, & Co.

Info@calvinedwardscompany.com
For profit organization providing philanthropic counsel to high-capacity Christian donors.

Geneva Global

info@GenevaGlobal.com
www.genevaglobal.com
For profit organization assisting individual donors.

Excellence in Giving

www.excellenceingiving.com
For profit organization with tailored services of affluent families and individuals.

The Legacy Group

www.philanthropyatwork.com
For profit organization to assist private wealth management and those to achieve charitable goals.

The Eternity Portfolio

www.eternityportfolio.com
Book by Alan Gotthardt that shows how to get the ultimate return on your investments through investing in eternity.

Strategic Resource Group

www.srginc.org
Nonprofit directing people, prayer and financial resources with churches and key ministries in the Middle East.

Secular Resources

GuideStar

www.guidestar.org
Largest public search engine of nonprofit organizations. Provides access to many tax-exempt organization's IRS Form 990s. Some knowledge of accounting may be necessary to understand the documents found on this site.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance

www.give.org
A charitable watchdog site. The Alliance reports on nationally soliciting charitable organizations that are the subject of donor inquiries. These reports include an evaluation of the subject charity in relation to the voluntary BBB charity standards.

Charity Navigator

www.charitynavigator.org
Helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the financial health of each charity in its database.

Charity Channel

www.charitychannel.com
Known best for its nonprofit email arena discussion forums.

The American Institute of Philanthropy

www.charitywatch.org
A charitable watchdog group that rates US charities in different categories. Fee for reports. They also provide tips to insure safe giving.

The Charities Review Council

www.crcmn.org
Conducts detailed reviews of national and local charitable organizations soliciting in the State of Minnesota. They also provide tips and guides for donors to help them make wise giving decisions.

Idealist.org / Action Without Borders

www.idealist.org
Provides an array of nonprofit and volunteering resources.

Independent Sector

www.independentsector.org
A national leadership forum, working to encourage philanthropy, volunteering, nonprofit initiative and citizen action that help to better serve people and communities. There is a section on ethics and accountability, including donor's bill of rights, related publications, articles and other resources.

Chronicle of Philanthropy

www.philanthropy.com
Biweekly newspaper of the nonprofit world.

The Nonprofit Times

www.nptimes.com
Articles and topics related to nonprofits.

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www.ministrywatch.com
www.wallwatchers.org