

Job Announcement

**Women Thrive Worldwide**  
**Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs**  
**(Washington, DC)**

(Updated July 2011)

Women Thrive Worldwide in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a person who is passionate about improving the lives of women and communities living in poverty in developing countries and deeply knowledgeable about U.S. Government policy-making to serve as vice president for policy and government affairs. Reporting to the co-founder and CEO, this person would also be part of the senior management team.

Applications will be accepted until this position is filled. To see if the search is still active, please go to [www.SlesingerManagement.com](http://www.SlesingerManagement.com).

**The Organization**

Women Thrive Worldwide is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to shape U.S. policy to help women in developing countries lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Founded in 1998 (and initially called the Women's Edge Coalition), Thrive develops, shapes, and advocates for policies that foster economic opportunity for women living in poverty. Thrive focuses on making U.S. international assistance and economic programs prioritize women since it believes firmly that women are the key to ending global poverty, and empowering them is not only right, it's also the most effective long-term solution to world poverty.

Unlike other organizations such as CARE and Save the Children, Thrive does not carry out projects in developing countries. Instead, it gathers information from the field from its networks of U.S.-based and local women's organizations worldwide. Its total focus is advocacy before policy-makers in the U.S. Government, and potentially in international forums such as the G-20, World Bank, and others in the future.

The substantive agenda of Thrive changes over time. Current priorities include aid effectiveness, gender-based violence, economic opportunity and growth, global hunger and food security, and global trade policy. The organization is currently updating its mission and visions, as well as shaping future policy initiatives, so this is an opportunity to influence Thrive's long-term direction, advocacy agenda, and impact on women and families.

Thrive currently has a staff of 16 and an annual budget of \$2.3 million. It is funded primarily by grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals. Major donors include the Ford Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the NoVo Foundation. To maintain its objectivity and independence, Women Thrive takes no U.S. government money.

Thrive's president and CEO is Ritu Sharma, who along with Elise Fiber Smith, founded the organization in 1998. Its board chairman is Joseph Keefe, president and CEO of PAX World Funds, one of the country's largest firms specializing in socially-responsible investing.

Women Thrive strives to be a fast-moving, highly professional, business-like nonprofit that sets clear plans and rewards performance against goals. At the same time, Women Thrive's staff is a close-knit group of people deeply committed to the mission, with a high value placed on both achieving extraordinary results for the women it serves worldwide and maintaining a healthy work-life balance for its dedicated staff in Washington, DC.

To learn more about Women Thrive Worldwide, please see [www.WomenThrive.org](http://www.WomenThrive.org).

### **The Position and its Principal Responsibilities**

The vice president for policy and government affairs will oversee all policy initiatives at Women Thrive Worldwide. This includes the implementation of current initiatives as well as identifying new topics that should become part of Thrive's policy agenda in the future.

In addition, this person will lead a team that includes four other staff with policy and government affairs expertise, and will serve on the organization's senior management team, along with the CEO, the vice president for communications and outreach, and the vice president for organizational advancement (who oversees fundraising).

This is an existing position that is available due to long-time vice president Nora O'Connell's recent move to a senior position in the Washington, DC office of Save the Children.

### **Desired Skills, Experience, and Personal Characteristics**

To be successful, the vice president for policy and government affairs should be:

1. Committed to the mission of Women Thrive Worldwide, with a clear understanding of the value of policy advocacy on behalf of low-income women in developing countries, ideally demonstrated by prior professional experience. Expertise in specific gender issues is not required, but experience in international development is required.
2. Experienced in U.S. Government policy-making, ideally via prior employment in Congress or at agencies providing international assistance, such as USAID, USTR, and the State Department.
3. Expert in issue advocacy and coalition building at the national level.
4. Familiar with the work of other NGOs active in development assistance since many of these organizations are in coalitions created and led by Women Thrive.
5. Able to identify new programs and policy issues that should become part of Women Thrive's always evolving advocacy agenda.
6. In collaboration with the development staff, able to identify and secure funding to sustain current programs and develop new ones.
7. A highly effective communicator, both in writing and orally, and able to represent Women Thrive before U.S. agencies, other organizations, and their senior leaders.

8. Able to lead the work of a team of four people, including two direct reports.
9. Female or male. All of Women Thrive's current staff are women, but the organization has employed men in the past and would welcome both male and female applicants for this position.

### **Compensation**

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Women Thrive Worldwide offers a generous benefits package.

### **To Apply**

Please e-mail:

1. A cover letter that explains why you're interested and qualified,
2. A resume, and
3. A three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence)

to search consultant Larry Slesinger, Founder and CEO of Slesinger Management Services, at [Larry@SlesingerManagement.com](mailto:Larry@SlesingerManagement.com). Please include "Women Thrive" in subject line; attached files in Microsoft Word or PDF only.

All applications will be acknowledged within a few days of receipt.

(This job announcement can also be found at [www.SlesingerManagement.com](http://www.SlesingerManagement.com).)

*Women Thrive Worldwide is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*