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LILLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY

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Giving USA: 2015 Was America's Most Generous Year Ever

Charitable donations hit record for second year in a row, at estimated \$373.25 billion

CHICAGO (June 14, 2016)—Donations from America's individuals, estates, foundations and corporations reached an estimated \$373.25 billion in 2015, setting a record for the second year in a row, reports *Giving USA 2016: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2015*, released today.

That new peak in contributions is record-setting whether measured in current or inflation-adjusted dollars. In 2015, total giving grew 4.1 percent in current dollars (4.0 percent when adjusted for inflation) over 2014. The revised inflation-adjusted estimate for total giving in 2014 was \$359.04 billion, with current-dollar growth of 7.8 percent, and an inflation-adjusted increase of 6.1 percent.

But that's not the only big news about charitable giving in this year's report.

"If you look at total giving by two-year time spans, the combined growth for 2014 and 2015 hit double digits, reaching 10.1 percent when calculated using inflation-adjusted dollars," said Giving USA Foundation Chair W. [Keith Curtis](#), president of nonprofit consulting firm The Curtis Group, Virginia Beach, Virginia. "But these findings embody more than numbers—they also are a symbol of the American spirit. It's heartening that people really do want to make a difference, and they're supporting the causes that matter to them. Americans are embracing philanthropy at a higher level than ever before."

Charitable contributions from all four sources went up in 2015, with those from individuals once again leading the way in terms of total dollar amount, at \$264.58 billion. This follows the historical pattern seen over more than six decades.

Giving USA, the longest-running and most comprehensive report of its kind in America, is published by Giving USA Foundation, a public-service initiative of The Giving Institute. It is researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Diving even Deeper into Charitable Gifts, both Large and Small

“The last two years represent the highest and second-highest totals for giving—and the third and fourth largest percentage increases in giving—in the past 10 years, adjusted for inflation,” said [Amir Pasic](#), Ph.D., the Eugene R. Tempel Dean of the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Pasic added that “the share of total giving going to each type of recipient was virtually the same in 2015 as it was in 2014. During and after the recession, some donors redirected donations to assist with pressing needs. The fact that the portion of the giving “pie” destined for the various subsectors has been largely consistent for the past two years suggests that giving among the broad destination categories may be stabilizing.”

Very large charitable donations—categorized here as gifts of \$100 million or more—have garnered an increasing amount of attention over the past 10 to 15 years. In 2015, the very large contributions that were publicly announced totaled at least \$3.3 billion.

“Each year, gifts of \$100 million or more play a significant role for some individual donors and many different types of charities, and they do affect the numbers. However, Americans’ collective generosity would still be enormous even without those jaw-dropping gifts,” said Patrick M. Rooney, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs and research at the school. “Philanthropy is quite democratic and always has been—more people give than vote in the U.S.—and \$20, \$10 and \$1 gifts do make a cumulative difference.”

Not only did individuals give the most; by upping their gifts 3.8 percent when measured in current dollars (and 3.7 percent when inflation-adjusted), in 2015 they were responsible for two-thirds of the year’s overall increase in total giving.

In 2015, the largest year-over-year percentage increase in contributions from sources however, came via grants made by the country’s independent, community and operating foundations, according to data provided by the Foundation Center. It

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went up 6.5 percent in current dollars, and 6.3 percent when adjusted for inflation. Over the past several years, foundations have seen strong asset growth, helping drive their ability to increase donations made in the form of grants.

The Numbers for 2015 Charitable Giving by Source:

- ↑ *Individual giving*, \$264.58 billion, increased 3.8 percent in current dollars (and 3.7 percent when inflation-adjusted) over 2014.
- ↑ *Foundation giving*, \$58.46 billion, was 6.5 percent higher than 2014 (6.3 percent when inflation-adjusted).
- ↑ *Charitable bequests*, \$31.76 billion, increased 2.1 percent (1.9 percent when inflation-adjusted) over 2014.
- ↑ *Corporate giving*, \$18.45 billion, increased 3.9 percent (3.8 percent when inflation-adjusted) over 2014 giving.

Charitable Giving Levels Reflect Economic Conditions

Sustained growth in total giving for 2014 and 2015 could be due, in part, to at least two factors: The country's overall economic environment continuing its path to recovery after recessionary times, and household finances seeming to stabilize.

Healthy growth among several key economic factors, including: personal consumption; personal income; disposable personal income; GDP; and, corporate pre-tax profits, influenced all four sources of giving when it came to 2015 charitable donations, and from individuals in particular.

While the S&P 500 declined steadily throughout 2015, ending essentially flat (at -0.7 percent), its double-digit growth in each of the two years prior, and attendant rise in many portfolio values, helped buoy 2015 giving.

One gauge of philanthropy's impact on American society is the fact that charitable giving is at a level high enough for it to be part and parcel of GDP. In fact, charitable donations have hovered around 2 percent of GDP for many years. In 2015, the relevant figure was 2.1 percent, the same as in 2014 and slightly above the 40-year average of 1.9 percent.

Upon closer examination of the relationship between giving and GDP, which totaled \$17.95 trillion at year's end, [Jeffrey D. Byrne](#), chair of The Giving Institute and president and CEO of Jeffrey D. Byrne + Associates in Kansas City, Missouri, sees something potentially even more interesting: "Between 2010 and 2015, growth in charitable donations actually outperformed growth in GDP," he said, adding, "consider this: inflation-adjusted total giving grew at an annualized average rate of 3.6 percent during that time frame; meanwhile, GDP growth grew at an average rate

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

of 2 percent.

“Isn’t that a fascinating statistic,” he asked, “that growth in total giving has been outpacing growth in our nation’s GDP? I believe that is information Americans can wrap their heads around and celebrate. I hope everyone who either works within philanthropy, donates to philanthropic causes, or benefits from the good work such organizations do, will participate in helping this level of growth continue and even increase.”

Highlights about 2015 Gifts to Charitable Organizations

When looking at the other side of giving—contributions *to* nine major types of charitable organizations—2015 was noteworthy for several reasons:

- Giving to educational institutions remained strong; growth exceeded 5 percent in 2015, as it also did in four of the five years between 2010 and 2014.
- The giving to religion slice of *Giving USA*’s recipient pie chart, which measures the percentage of donations made to nine charitable subsectors, has steadily shrunk for decades. Paradoxically, it has never tumbled from its first-place standing in terms of total donations received. In 2015, the category held firm at 32 percent of the total received, the same figure estimated for 2014.
- Many valuable gifts of artwork, books and manuscripts, along with other types of “appreciated assets,” were donated to charitable organizations in 2015. Since art markets both domestic and global were at or near peak highs in 2014 and 2015, that could explain why.
- Giving *to* foundations was the only category in 2015 where donations decreased—by 3.8 percent in current dollars. Since foundations tend to receive very large gifts, it is possible their magnitude was not as great in 2015 compared to 2014, especially since those contributions influence year-over-year changes in giving.
- Giving to international affairs increased 17.5 percent in 2015 after two straight years of decline. That large increase may be attributable to growth in the number of active international charitable organizations; use of more strategic fundraising methods; and increased focus on international issues among foundations. Additionally, as the slowest-growing type of charitable organization (in terms of gifts received) for six years, giving to this category may have taken longer to recover from the recession than others.

The Numbers for 2015 Charitable Giving to Recipients

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

As noted above, all but one of nine categories that *Giving USA's* research covers saw increased giving in 2015; donations to foundations was the exception.

- ↑ Religion—at \$119.30 billion, 2015 giving increased 2.7 percent in current dollars, and 2.6 percent when adjusted for inflation.
- ↑ Education—giving increased to \$57.48 billion, 8.9 percent more in current dollars than the 2014 total. The inflation-adjusted increase was 8.8 percent.
- ↑ Human Services—its \$45.21 billion total was 4.2 percent higher, in current dollars, than in 2014. The inflation-adjusted increase was 4.1 percent.
- ↓ To Foundations—at an estimated \$42.26 billion in 2015, giving declined 3.8 percent in current dollars and decreased 4.0 percent when adjusted for inflation.
- ↑ Health—the \$29.81 billion estimated for 2015 giving to this category was 1.3 percent higher, in current dollars, than the 2014 estimate. When adjusted for inflation, the increase was 1.2 percent.
- ↑ Public-Society Benefit—the \$26.95 billion estimate for 2015 increased 6.0 percent in current dollars over 2014. When adjusted for inflation, the increase was 5.9 percent.
- ↑ Arts/Culture/Humanities—at an estimated \$17.07 billion, growth in current dollars was 7.0 percent in 2015. When adjusted for inflation, the increase was 6.8 percent.
- ↑ International Affairs—the \$15.75 billion estimate for 2015 increased 17.5 percent, in current dollars, from 2014. The increase was 17.4 percent when adjusted for inflation.
- ↑ Environment/Animals—the \$10.68 billion estimate for 2015 was up 6.2 percent in current dollars, and 6.1 percent when adjusted for inflation, over 2014 giving.

In addition to the above, 2 percent of 2015's total charitable giving, \$6.56 billion, went to individuals. These contributions were largely in-kind donations of medicine contributed via pharmaceutical foundations' patient assistance programs.

Adding further context to the giving by recipient data, "Five charitable subsectors saw large increases in 2015: giving to education; arts, culture and humanities; environment/animals; public-society benefit; and international affairs. Each of these subsectors grew by more than 5 percent," said Una Osili, Ph.D., director of research at the school. "And two of those—education and the arts—traditionally include organizations and institutions that wealthy donors are most likely to support. In addition, the increase in education giving was fueled by a number of very large gifts to colleges and universities."

For an even deeper look at charitable giving in 2015, please see [“Perspectives,”](#) an insightful look at the relationship between the data, the donations and the people who make philanthropy happen. Penned by Foundation Chair Keith Curtis, Institute Chair Jeffrey Byrne, and Lilly Family School of Philanthropy Dean Amir Pasic, it indeed puts 2015 into perspective.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Members of the media can request 40-year data tables that show sources of contributions by year in current and inflation-adjusted dollars and allocation of gifts by type of recipient category, also in current and inflation-adjusted dollars. Data also are available showing total giving as a percentage of GDP, individual giving as a percentage of disposable income and corporate giving as a percentage of corporate pre-tax profits.

The requested citation for *Giving USA* is *Giving USA 2016: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2015*, a publication of Giving USA Foundation, 2016, researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Available online at the Giving USA [store](#).

About Giving USA Foundation

Advancing the research, education and public understanding of philanthropy is the mission of Giving USA Foundation, founded in 1985 by The Giving Institute. Headquartered in Chicago, the Foundation publishes data and trends about charitable giving through its seminal publication, *Giving USA*, and quarterly reports on topics related to philanthropy. Published since 1956, *Giving USA* is the longest running, most comprehensive report on philanthropy in America. Read more about Giving USA Foundation's history, as well as the history of *Giving USA* and philanthropy in the U.S. in the [Giving USA 2015 Spotlight: Celebrating Service to Philanthropy](#) (available as a free download).

About Giving USA

For over 60 years, *Giving USA: The Annual Report on Philanthropy in America*, has provided comprehensive charitable giving data that are relied on by donors, fundraisers and nonprofit leaders. The research in this annual report estimates all giving to all charitable organizations across the United States. *Giving USA* is a public outreach initiative of Giving USA Foundation™ and is researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Giving USA Foundation, established in 1985 by The Giving Institute, endeavors to advance philanthropy through research and education. Explore *Giving USA* products and resources, including free highlights of each annual report, at [our online store](#).

About The Giving Institute

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

The Giving Institute, the parent organization of Giving USA Foundation™, consists of member organizations that have embraced and embodied the core values of ethics, excellence and leadership in advancing philanthropy. Serving clients of every size and purpose, from local institutions to international organizations, The Giving Institute member organizations embrace the highest ethical standards and maintain a strict code of fair practices. For information on selecting fundraising counsel, visit www.givinginstitute.org.

How to Obtain *Giving USA 2016*

Giving USA 2016: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2015, will be available for download June 14, 2016, at our online [store](#). A complimentary executive summary, *Highlights*, also will be available on that date.

Customers can select from a number of *Giving USA 2016* products, including the full report, available in both digital and paperback formats; a PowerPoint slide deck; data tables; and the free *Highlights* executive summary.

Giving USA Foundation periodically publishes in-depth reports (*Spotlights*) on different aspects of charitable giving and fundraising trends. Visit www.givingusa.org for available topics; prices vary.

About the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

The Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy is dedicated to improving philanthropy to improve the world by training and empowering students and professionals to be innovators and leaders who create positive and lasting change. The school offers a comprehensive approach to philanthropy through its academic, research and international programs and through The Fund Raising School, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving and the Women's Philanthropy Institute. For more information, visit www.philanthropy.iupui.edu.

***Giving USA* Methodology**

Giving USA estimates primarily rely on econometric methods developed by leading researchers in philanthropy and the nonprofit sector and are reviewed and approved by the members of the *Giving USA* Advisory Council on Methodology (ACM). Members of the ACM include research directors from national nonprofit organizations, as well as scholars from such disciplines as economics and public affairs, all of whom are involved in studying philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

The Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy prepares all of the estimates in *Giving USA* for Giving USA Foundation. *Giving USA* develops estimates for giving by each type of donor (sources) and for recipient organizations categorized by subsectors (uses). Most of *Giving USA's* annual estimates are based

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

on econometric analyses and tabulations of tax data, economic indicators and demographics. Data for giving by foundations come from the Foundation Center.

Following the same approach by leading public and private institutions that develop economic statistics, *Giving USA* researchers update data found within *Giving USA* each year. This is because current *Giving USA* estimates are developed before final tax data, some economic indicators, and some demographic data are available. The estimates are revised and updated as final versions of these data become available. Final estimates are usually developed two to three years after their initial release.

For more specific details on *Giving USA*'s methodology, please refer to the "Brief summary of methods" section within *Giving USA 2016* or contact the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at adrldavi@iupui.edu or 317-278-8972.

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Perspectives on Giving USA 2016—a look at the relationship between the data, the donations and the people who make philanthropy happen

by

W. Keith Curtis

Chair

Giving USA Foundation

Jeffrey D. Byrne

Chair

The Giving Institute

Amir Pasic

Eugene R. Tempel Dean

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New giving record is more than a number

One billion dollars a day. That’s how much Americans give to help others, on average. Thanks to their generosity, total U.S. charitable giving reached an estimated \$373.25 billion in 2015, achieving an all-time high for the second consecutive year.

Giving from all sources—individuals, bequests, foundations, and corporations—increased in 2015, and we also saw increases in giving to all but one type of recipient of charitable giving. These patterns underscore what we have learned from more than six decades of *Giving USA* data: Americans are generous year in and year out.

Giving USA Foundation, the Giving Institute, and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy are pleased to continue our partnership in providing the most comprehensive, longest-running, and most rigorously researched resource on U.S. charitable giving. We are privileged to report on Americans’ generosity, the forms it takes, and how those patterns and trends unfold over time, whether they represent crucial nuances or sea changes.

This report is filled with numbers—important research that is valuable for understanding what is happening in philanthropy today and what those trends mean for both givers and recipients in the short term and in the long run. But it is also about so much more than numbers, no matter how big those numbers may be. The numbers matter, of course, but they matter most because of what they enable all of us to do for the benefit of others.

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

For those who give, what lies behind the numbers is often caring, empathy, or the strong desire to make a difference—whether for one person or for thousands. Motivations for giving are complex and vary widely among the individuals and institutions doing the giving, but often generosity is born of gratitude, of lessons learned by example, of personal experience, or of the drive for positive change and impact. For many, a pleasant and often unexpected side effect is the warm glow that comes from helping someone else.

For the recipients of such generosity, the numbers represent opportunity, relief, restored health, more education, a first chance to experience the arts, cleaner water, a better life. Giving opens hearts and opens doors. Giving can make an enduring difference, around the world, across the country, and in the communities where we live and work every day. And for both the giver and the recipient, giving represents hope and the faith that progress and a brighter future are possible.

The data for the past two years attest to those possibilities: for the first time in a decade, we saw a combined two-year, double-digit growth rate of 10.1 percent for 2014 and 2015, adjusted for inflation. This increase in giving mirrored the generally positive growth during those years in both the overall economy and in most of the multiple economic factors that influence giving.

Even in light of the record-setting giving of the past two years and all the good that will do, there is always room to do more. But as we consider what that more could be, all of us should pause to celebrate the impact we are having and the difference we are making individually and collectively. And we should spread the word about what philanthropy can do.

Giving USA Foundation, The Giving Institute, and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy believe that *Giving USA* is both a public service and a public trust, and we are dedicated to providing the highest-quality information to all those who are interested and engaged in the philanthropic community. We are committed to providing the background and context about the factors shaping philanthropy that enable scholars, researchers, and policymakers to help strengthen American philanthropy and its impact. Most of all, we are committed to equipping nonprofit leaders, fundraisers, donors, and volunteers with insights into the philanthropic climate to help you do what you do even better.

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016



Keith Curtis

Chair, Giving USA Foundation

Founder, President, The Curtis Group

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Keith Curtis has more than 30 years of experience working on behalf of philanthropic organizations. Over that time, Keith has become recognized as an expert in all aspects of fundraising and nonprofit management. He is also a sought-after advisor and speaker, making up to 40 presentations a year to a variety of national and state conferences.

As president of The Curtis Group, founded 27 years ago, Keith and his team have developed strategies to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for their clients. But equally important, his guidance has helped those nonprofits raise awareness, raise their standards of operation and raise their expectations of what they can accomplish. Clients include the large and visible, such as one of the largest YMCAs in the country, a multi-billion-dollar health care system and arts, cultural and educational organizations, as well as smaller nonprofits such as free clinics, animal shelters and hospices.

Keith is actively involved in the Giving USA Foundation, where he serves as chair. He is past chair of its Advisory Council on Methodology. He is also a board member of The Giving Institute, a membership organization dedicated to advancing philanthropy and promoting ethical practices in fundraising.

In recognition of his work in philanthropy, Keith was honored with the 2012 Alumni Service Award from Old Dominion University.

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016



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Jeffrey D. Byrne

Chair, The Giving Institute

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Jeffrey's decades of experience in the nonprofit sector continues to improve lives through philanthropy and build clients' capacity by connecting stakeholders to missions. His intensive work with numerous organizations, with thousands of volunteers and on scores of client projects has provided him invaluable experience in the field of fundraising.

Jeffrey brings a distinctive, client-focused philosophy to fundraising, financial development and Capital Campaign planning and management. A fourth generation farmer, Jeffrey's client relationships reflect his Midwestern upbringing, work ethic and strong commitment to advance philanthropy.

Jeffrey has spearheaded campaigns for rural nonprofits needing to increase healthcare services within their communities and national membership organizations seeking to improve programs for constituents throughout the country. Among his successes are The Harry S. Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs, The Liberty Memorial National World War I Museum, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, American Academy of Family Physicians, hundreds of YMCAs, The Nature Conservancy - Kansas Chapter, Powell Gardens and dozens of faith-based campaigns.

Jeffrey founded the only Kansas City firm to be accepted into The Giving Institute, which is most recognized for embodying the values of ethics, excellence and leadership in advancing philanthropy. He also serves the Institute as chair.

Today, Jeffrey's fundraising leadership is shared with the nonprofit community through the workshops, seminars and keynote addresses he delivers throughout the country on a broad range of fundraising topics. Jeffrey's efforts as a leading fundraising practitioner were recognized in 1998 when he received the "Excellence in Fundraising Award" presented by the Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy. A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor's degree in political science, Jeffrey serves on several nonprofit boards including

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Nonprofit Connect (Kansas City), The Giving Institute (national), Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (Advisory Board, Kansas City) and the University of Missouri (Political Science Advisory Board, Columbia).

About JB+A

Founded in 2000 in Kansas City, Missouri, Jeffrey Byrne + Associates, Inc. is a fundraising and financial development firm that specializes in building organizational capacity and conducting major gift, capital and endowment campaigns solely for nonprofit organizations across the United States. Its team of seasoned fundraising professionals offers a wide array of services to help our clients advance philanthropy in their communities: consulting, advancement planning, analytics and communications, publications and marketing. Its associates also conduct numerous workshops and trainings nationwide.



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Amir Pasic is the *Eugene R. Tempel Dean* of the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the world's first school devoted to research and teaching about philanthropy. Under Pasic's leadership the school has graduated record numbers of students, launched groundbreaking research, and expanded its international engagement.

Prior to joining the school, Pasic was vice president of international operations at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a global professional association serving educational institutions and their advancement professionals. He provided strategic leadership for CASE regional offices in London, Singapore, and Mexico City, led the growth of its operations in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, Latin American and Africa, and oversaw CASE activities in other areas outside of the United States. During Pasic's tenure, CASE's international annual revenue experienced double-digit growth and its overseas memberships and conference attendance reached record levels.

Previously, Pasic was associate dean for development and strategic planning at the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) as well as executive director of its Foreign Policy Institute, where he continues to serve as a fellow.

Pasic served as deputy director of the world security project at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and was deputy vice president for advancement at The George Washington University. A former librarian at the Library of Congress, he began his career with faculty appointments at Brown University's Watson Institute.

Pasic earned his doctorate in political science at the University of Pennsylvania. He

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

holds a master's degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Yale University. He serves as trustee of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs and on Independent Sector's 2016 Programs and Practice Committee.

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 14, 2016

-Page 15 of 19-

1

Key Findings



This section includes an overview of U.S. giving trends in 2015 by donor and recipient type, including total amounts given and received and the rates of change in giving from 2014.

Total estimated charitable giving in the United States rose 4.1 percent between 2014 and 2015 (4.0 percent, adjusted for inflation), to \$373.25 billion. This increase reflects growth in giving by all sources and all but one of the major recipient subsectors.¹

3.8%

Giving by individuals totaled an estimated \$264.58 billion, rising 3.8 percent in 2015 (an increase of 3.7 percent, adjusted for inflation). Itemized giving comprised 82 percent of the total estimate for giving by individuals.² Giving by both itemizing and non-itemizing households increased, at 4.1 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively.

6.5%

Giving by foundations increased 6.5 percent, to an estimated \$58.46 billion in 2015 (an increase of 6.3 percent, adjusted for inflation). These figures are provided by the Foundation Center. Grantmaking by community foundations rose 7.4 percent from 2014. Grantmaking by operating foundations and independent foundations also increased, at 8.1 percent and 6.0 percent, respectively.³

2.1%

Giving by bequest totaled an estimated \$31.76 billion in 2015, increasing 2.1 percent from 2014 (a 1.9 percent increase, adjusted for inflation).

3.9%

Giving by corporations is estimated to have increased by 3.9 percent in 2015, totaling \$18.45 billion (an increase of 3.8 percent, adjusted for inflation). Corporate giving includes cash and in-kind contributions made through corporate giving programs, as well as grants and gifts made by corporate foundations. Corporate foundation grantmaking is estimated to have totaled \$5.43 billion in 2015, which was an increase of 5.4 percent (in current dollars) from 2014.⁴

2.7%

Giving to religion increased 2.7 percent between 2014 and 2015, with an estimated \$119.30 billion in contributions. Inflation-adjusted giving to the religion subsector was 2.6 percent in 2015.

8.9%

Giving to education is estimated to have increased 8.9 percent between 2014 and 2015, to \$57.48 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to education organizations increased 8.8 percent. It is estimated that giving to higher education captured approximately 70 percent of the total.

4.2%

Giving to human services increased by an estimated 4.2 percent in 2015, totaling \$45.21 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to human service organizations increased by 4.1 percent.

3.8%

Giving to foundations is estimated to have declined by 3.8 percent in 2015, to \$42.26 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to foundations declined 4.0 percent.

1.3%

Giving to health organizations is estimated to have increased by 1.3 percent between 2014 and 2015 (an increase of 1.2 percent, adjusted for inflation), to \$29.81 billion.

6.0%

Giving to public-society benefit organizations increased by an estimated 6.0 percent between 2014 and 2015, to \$26.95 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to public-society benefit organizations grew 5.9 percent.

7.0%

Giving to arts, culture, and humanities is estimated to have increased 7.0 percent between 2014 and 2015, to \$17.07 billion. Adjusted for inflation, giving to the arts, culture, and humanities subsector increased 6.8 percent.

17.5%

Giving to international affairs is estimated to be \$15.75 billion in 2015, an increase of 17.5 percent from 2014. Adjusted for inflation, giving to international affairs organizations increased 17.4 percent.

6.2%

Giving to environmental and animal organizations is estimated to have increased 6.2 percent between 2014 and 2015, to \$10.68 billion. Adjusted for inflation, donations to the environment/animals subsector increased 6.1 percent.

1.6%

Giving to individuals is estimated to have declined 1.6 percent (1.8 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars) between 2014 and 2015, to \$6.56 billion. The bulk of these donations are in-kind gifts of medications to patients in need, made through the Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) of pharmaceutical companies' operating foundations.

Unallocated giving totaled \$2.18 billion in 2015. This amount can be considered as the difference between giving by source and by use in any particular year. This amount includes the difference between itemized deductions by individuals (and households) carried over from previous years. The tax year in which a gift is claimed by the donor (carried over) and the year when the recipient organization reports it as revenue (the year in which it is received) may be different.

References

1. All data in this section are reported as estimates, which are subject to revision. To provide the most accurate estimates for charitable giving, as new data become available, *Giving USA* revises its estimates for at least the last two years. See more about how *Giving USA* calculates charitable giving by sources and uses in the “Brief summary of methods used” section of this report.
2. Itemized and non-itemized giving calculations include “mega-gifts,” but not disaster giving. See more about how *Giving USA* calculates charitable giving by sources and uses in the “Brief summary of methods used” section of this report.
3. Data were provided by the Foundation Center in April 2016 and are subject to revision. Data on giving by and to foundations are available in the Foundation Center’s *Key Facts on U.S. Foundations* reports, available at the Foundation Center’s website at www.foundationcenter.org
4. Data on corporate grantmaking were provided by the Foundation Center in April 2016 and are subject to revision. Data on giving by and to foundations are available in the Foundation Center’s *Key Facts on U.S. Foundations* reports, available at the Foundation Center’s website at www.foundationcenter.org