



INSIDE FJC

FJC ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGES

FJC would like to inform you that Megan Hening will no longer be working with us as our Grants Administrator effective August 4, 2017. She will be exploring other philanthropic opportunities and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Annalise Goeke will be assuming Megan's duties and is happy to help you with any requests in regards to your donor-advised fund. A recent graduate of New York University, Annalise has worked as an America Reads Tutor and a Residential Advisor, and we are excited to welcome her to the FJC team!

CHARITABLE GIVING HIT A RECORD HIGH, GROWING 1.4% IN 2016



Charitable giving hit a record high for the third straight year in 2016, reaching \$390.1 billion, according to "Giving USA," an annual study that estimates American philanthropy. However, donations rose at a slower rate than in recent years — 1.4%— as key economic indicators grew modestly and a divisive election season sowed uncertainty.

Data from the largest donor-advised-fund providers suggests there was a boom in contributions to the accounts in last few weeks of 2016. The growth was likely driven in part by a rising stock market at the end of last year and anticipated reductions in individual income-tax rates in 2017 under the new Trump administration.

It's unclear how giving will fare in 2017. The Trump administration released an outline in April for a tax-code overhaul that experts say would reduce charitable giving because it aims to eliminate the estate tax and increase the standard deduction — though it's unlikely any of the proposed changes would go into effect this year unless Congress is able to pass a major tax bill. Forecasts released in January by the Lilly School and Marts & Lundy, a fundraising-consulting firm, predict that giving will jump 3.6 percent this year and 3.8 percent in 2018. Given the numbers of factors that could affect giving this year, it's too early to tell if those forecasts remain solid.

Giving by cause in 2016:

- Environmental and animal-welfare organizations experienced the biggest growth, with donations rising to \$11.1 billion last year, a nearly 6% increase.
- Giving to arts and culture groups grew by 5.1%, the second-biggest jump, reaching \$18.2 billion.
- Religious institutions saw gifts rise 1.8% to \$122.9 billion. Although faith groups have represented the largest portion of total giving for decades, their share of donations has dropped as fewer Americans attend services and claim a religious affiliation.

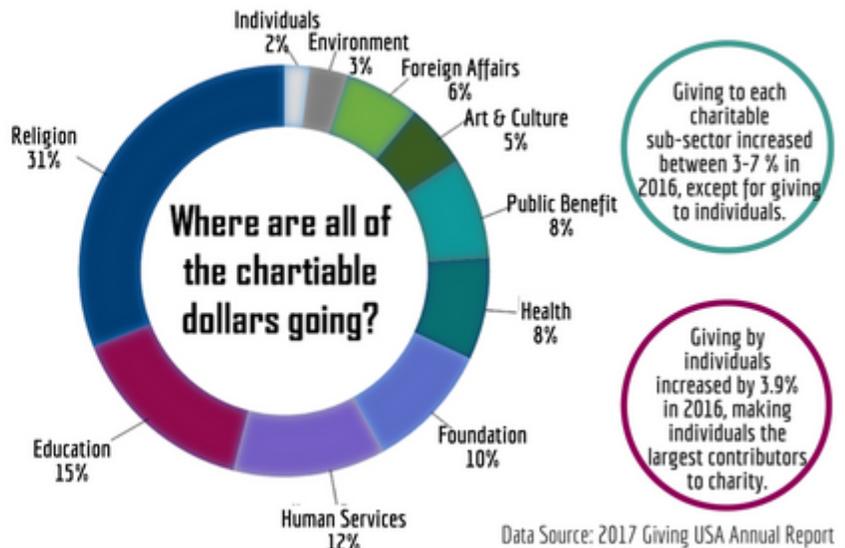
Source: *Donations Grew 1.4% to \$390 Billion in 2016, Says 'Giving USA.'* The Chronicle of Philanthropy, June 13, 2017.

2016 Charitable Facts:

For only the 6th time in 40 years, all nine major philanthropy sub-sectors saw an **increase** in charitable giving.

Individuals, foundations, & corporations donated a combined total of **\$390.05 billion** to a variety of non-profits, religious & cultural institutions, and environmental groups.

Donor-advised funds accounted for about **5%** of all giving in 2016. The popularity of this charitable vehicle has led to the number of giving accounts doubling in 2016.





**CHARITY
SPOTLIGHT**

**HIDDEN SPARKS REWARDED AS
ONE OF MOST INNOVATIVE
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS**

In every Jewish day school there are children who struggle from a variety of learning or behavioral challenges -- students for whom school can be difficult and demoralizing. Hidden Sparks aims to help those children with learning differences by helping the teachers. Hidden Sparks coaches teachers to increase understanding of learning and behavior and to provide strategies to support struggling students. Hidden Sparks uses a whole school, multi-tier enhancement model which includes in-school professional development, team teacher meetings on student progress, training and mentoring for school leaders, "Hidden Sparks Coaches", and ongoing support for classroom teachers.



Hidden Sparks has been featured in SLINGSHOT, which recognizes the 50 most innovative Jewish organizations in the U.S., for five years in a row.

Since its inception in 2007, Hidden Sparks has expanded in depth and breadth. Sixty-five day schools in the NY Metro area, Maryland, Florida, Illinois, and five day schools in Israeli cities have partnered with Hidden Sparks to have their faculty trained by the organization and mentored using the Hidden Sparks curriculum. To date, 190 peer coaches have been trained, which has impacted hundreds of teachers and thousands of children. In addition, the Hidden Sparks Without Walls free webinar program boasts 100+ webinars, which reach thousands of parents and educators across the world.

External evaluation has found that of participating educators, 92% have changed their teaching in some way to address diverse learners, 82% now communicate with their students in a more non-judgmental manner, 82% now use the Hidden Sparks curriculum to assess the demands of their lessons (Center for Educational Technology, Columbia University). Hidden Sparks has been the recipient of multiple awards, including the Covenant Signature Award for Excellence in Jewish Education and the Slingshot Award for Innovation, which they were recently awarded for the fifth time.



hiddensparks



Hidden Sparks is a participant in FJC's Fiscal Sponsorship Program. For more information about Hidden Sparks, please visit: www.hiddensparks.org/



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