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**LILLY FAMILY  
SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY**

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***Giving USA 2018: Americans gave \$410.02 billion to charity in 2017, crossing the \$400 billion mark for the first time***

*Stock market, economic conditions helped drive solid growth in contributions across the board*

**CHICAGO** [June 12, 2018]— Powered by a booming stock market and a strong economy, charitable giving by American individuals, bequests, foundations and corporations to U.S. charities surged to an estimated \$410.02 billion in 2017, according to [Giving USA 2018: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2017](#), released today.

Giving exceeded \$400 billion in a single year for the first time, increasing 5.2 percent (3.0 percent adjusted for inflation) over the revised total of \$389.64 contributed in 2016. *(Please see below for a more detailed breakdown of the numbers for each philanthropic source and sector.)*

*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 at IUPUI.

“Americans’ record-breaking charitable giving in 2017 demonstrates that even in divisive times our commitment to philanthropy is solid. As people have more resources available, they are choosing to use them to make a difference, pushing giving over \$400 billion,” said Aggie Sweeney, CFRE, chair of Giving USA Foundation and senior counsel at Campbell & Company. “Contributions went up nearly across the board, signaling that Americans seem to be giving according to their beliefs and interests, which are diverse and wide-ranging.”

Giving from all four sources and giving to all but one of the major types of recipient organizations grew in 2017, driven by economic conditions. While policy developments may have played some role in charitable giving in 2017, most of the effects of the tax policy changes adopted in late December 2017 likely will affect giving in 2018 and beyond.

“The increase in giving in 2017 was generated in part by increases in the stock market, as evidenced by the nearly 20 percent growth in the S&P 500. Investment returns funded multiple

very large gifts, most of which were given by individuals to their foundations, including two gifts of \$1 billion or more,” said Amir Pasic, Ph.D., the Eugene R. Tempel dean of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. “This tells us that some of our most fortunate citizens are using their wealth to make some significant contributions to the common good.”

In addition to the S&P 500, other economic factors, such as personal income and personal consumption, are associated with households’ long-term financial stability and have historically been correlated with giving by individuals. These factors also experienced strong growth in 2017.

### ***Highlights about Charitable Giving by Source***

- Giving by three of the four sources of giving grew 5 percent or more.
- Giving by individuals represented 70 percent of total giving.
- Giving by foundations has seen strong growth for the past seven years, according to data provided by the Foundation Center. Its five-year annualized average growth rate of 7.6 percent far exceeds the 4.3 percent annualized average growth rate for total giving.
- Corporate giving was boosted by \$405 million in contributions for relief related to natural and manmade disasters.

“Donors and funders are becoming ever more sophisticated in their approaches to making gifts as they draw on the increasing availability of new data, new technology and new ideas,” said Rachel Hutchisson, chair of The Giving Institute, and vice president of corporate citizenship and philanthropy for Blackbaud. “We are seeing innovations across the philanthropic sector that are contributing to strong growth in giving, which benefits everyone.”

### ***The Numbers for 2017 Charitable Giving by Source:***

- ↑ **Giving by individuals** totaled an estimated \$286.65 billion, rising 5.2 percent in 2017 (an increase of 3.0 percent, adjusted for inflation).
- ↑ **Giving by foundations** increased 6.0 percent, to an estimated \$66.90 billion in 2017 (an increase of 3.8 percent, adjusted for inflation). Data on foundation giving are provided by the Foundation Center.
- ↑ **Giving by bequest** totaled an estimated \$35.70 billion in 2017, increasing 2.3 percent from 2016 (a 0.2 percent increase, adjusted for inflation).
- ↑ **Giving by corporations** is estimated to have increased by 8.0 percent in 2017, totaling \$20.77 billion (an increase of 5.7 percent, adjusted for inflation).

“Giving to nearly all categories of charities experienced significant growth, and giving to foundations achieved a double-digit growth rate,” said Una Osili, Ph.D., associate dean for research and international programs at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. “Economic growth contributed to these widespread increases in 2017, and there is heightened interest in the overall economic environment and other factors that can help nonprofits sustain this growth over time.”

### ***Highlights about 2017 Gifts to Charitable Organizations***

Charitable subsectors receiving contributions generally experienced strong growth.

- Giving to foundations saw the largest growth in charitable contributions, increasing 15.5 percent, based on data provided by the Foundation Center. This growth was driven by extraordinarily large gifts by major philanthropists, such as Michael and Susan Dell and Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan, to their foundations.
- Giving to eight of the nine major types of recipient organizations increased in 2017.
- The exception was giving to international affairs organizations, which declined after several years of steady growth. However, giving to this subsector still reached its third-highest level ever recorded.
- Seven of the nine types of recipient organizations experienced growth of 5 percent or more.

“The broad growth in giving to virtually all charitable subsectors suggests that charities are connecting effectively with their donors and demonstrating their impact and case for support,” said Patrick M. Rooney, Ph.D., executive associate dean for academic affairs at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. “While it is too soon to know with certainty how recent policy changes may influence when and how much donors give, what is certain is that cultivating and nurturing strong, ongoing relationships with donors will only become more important as the changes to federal tax policy made at the end of 2017 take effect.”

#### ***The Numbers for 2017 Charitable Giving to Recipients:***

- ↑ **Giving to religion** increased 2.9 percent (0.7 percent adjusted for inflation), receiving an estimated \$127.37 billion in contributions.
- ↑ **Giving to education** is estimated to have increased 6.2 percent (4.0 percent adjusted for inflation) to \$58.90 billion.
- ↑ **Giving to human services** increased by an estimated 5.1 percent (2.9 percent adjusted for inflation) totaling \$50.06 billion.
- ↑ **Giving to foundations** is estimated to have increased by 15.5 percent (13.1 percent adjusted for inflation) to \$45.89 billion, based on data provided by the Foundation Center.
- ↑ **Giving to health organizations** is estimated to have increased by 7.3 percent (5.1 percent adjusted for inflation) to \$38.27 billion.
- ↑ **Giving to public-society benefit organizations** increased an estimated 7.8 percent (5.5 percent adjusted for inflation) to \$29.59 billion.
- ↑ **Giving to arts, culture, and humanities** is estimated to have increased 8.7 percent (6.5 percent) to \$19.51 billion.
- ↓ **Giving to international affairs** is estimated to have declined 4.4 percent (6.4 percent adjusted for inflation) to \$22.97 billion.
- ↑ **Giving to environment and animal organizations** is estimated to have increased 7.2 percent (5.0 percent adjusted for inflation) to \$11.83 billion.

In addition, giving to individuals, which is less than 2 percent of total giving, is estimated to have declined 20.7 percent (22.4 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars) in 2017, to \$7.87 billion, primarily as a result of an unusually high increase in 2016. The bulk of these donations are in-kind gifts of medications to patients in need, made through the patient assistance programs of pharmaceutical companies' operating foundations.

Unallocated giving was negative \$2.24 billion in 2017. This amount can be considered the difference between giving by source and use in a particular year. It 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.

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## **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 2018: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2017*, a publication of Giving USA Foundation, 2018, researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Available online at [www.givingusa.org](http://www.givingusa.org).

### **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 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**

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](http://www.givinginstitute.org).

### **How to Obtain *Giving USA 2018***

*Giving USA 2018: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2017* will be available for download on June 12 at [www.givingusa.org](http://www.givingusa.org). A complimentary executive summary, *Highlights*, also will be available on that date.

Customers can select from a number of *Giving USA 2018* 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 (*Special Reports*) on different aspects of charitable giving and fundraising trends. Visit [www.givingusa.org](http://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 at IUPUI 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 [philanthropy.iupui.edu](http://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 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 on econometric analyses and tabulations of tax data, economic indicators and demographics. Data for giving by foundations come from Foundation Center.

Following the same approach used 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 or 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 2018* or contact the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at [adrlidavi@iupui.edu](mailto:adrlidavi@iupui.edu) or 317-278-8972.

