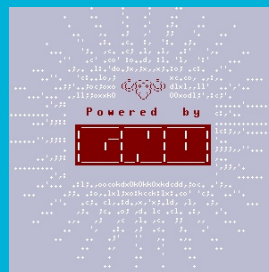


SOFTWARE SHOULD BE

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AS IN FREEDOM

FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION FY2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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THIS REPORT ENCOMPASSES THE 2015 FINANCIAL YEAR (OCTOBER 1, 2014 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2015).

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear supporters,

Last October, the FSF reached a major milestone. We turned thirty. Our mission remains essentially the same as it was when Richard M. Stallman founded the organization in 1985: to shape the world such that everyone can do everything they need to do on any computer using exclusively free "as in freedom" software. Only in that world can computers truly be a tool for empowerment.

The scope of work to achieve that mission has expanded considerably, as has the number of computers — they now come on wheels, some with wings and cameras, some pocket-sized or even smaller — and most with misguided restrictions imposed by corporations and governments. We see renewed pressure to lock computers down, and we see important functionality moving to servers outside our control. The result is certain powerful groups monitoring, filtering, and controlling the behavior of everyone else.

To stand strong against this pressure, the FSF works in three primary areas: free software development, so that we have best-in-class implementations of the software users need on hardware that enables their freedom; free software advocacy and movement-building, to defeat bad laws that give power to proprietary software, and to raise public awareness such that people from all walks of life are emboldened to refuse proprietary software; and free software licensing work, enabling the GNU General Public License and other legal tools to act as shields protecting user freedom.

I have been executive director of the FSF for five years. During that time, the FSF has grown in all three of these areas to better address the challenges in each. Our staff size has increased by over 50 percent. Our financial support has kept pace with this expansion, thanks to the individual donors who provide over 80 percent of our revenue. We have more associate members than ever before. We are financially healthy, we make efficient and mission-centric use of donations, and we are committed to transparency.



John Sullivan
Executive Director
Photo by Ruben Rodriguez

I'm proud of the results we've achieved. These successes have come not only from our increased staff size, but from improving our partnerships with other organizations and with the many individual community members who selflessly volunteer their time. You can read the specifics of what we have accomplished together in the following pages of our first-ever annual report.

"The scope of work has expanded—there are computers on wheels, some with wings and cameras, some pocket-sized or even smaller—and most with misguided restrictions."

Time and time again, people tell me that the FSF has a vitally important role as the connective tissue that keeps this global social movement, together with the radically innovative software development it inspires, working toward the right long-term goals. We are humbled to have this reputation, and we put tremendous pressure on ourselves to live up to it.

Our present sustainability is not a given, nor is it enough. To truly be successful, we need to expand more rapidly in the next five years than we have in the last five. With most human endeavors now dependent on computers and software, it is no exaggeration to say that the future of individual freedom is at stake. Without your past support, everything would already be lost. You've put us in a position where success is a real possibility — I hope you'll stick by us and increase your support as we face this new chapter.



John Sullivan
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Free Software, Free Society

The Free Software Foundation (FSF) is a nonprofit with a worldwide mission to promote computer user freedom. We defend the rights of all software users.

As our society grows more dependent on computers, the software we run is of critical importance to securing the future of a free society.

Free software is free as in freedom. It's about having control over the technology we use, where computers work for our individual and communal benefit, not for companies or governments who might seek to restrict or monitor us.

The FSF fulfills its mission through its work, which covers three broad areas, each covered by a team of staff: free software development and resources, movement building, and licensing and compliance.

THE FREE SOFTWARE DEFINITION

[0] RUN

The freedom to run the program as you wish, for any purpose

[1] STUDY

The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish

The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor

[2] SHARE

The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others

[3] IMPROVE

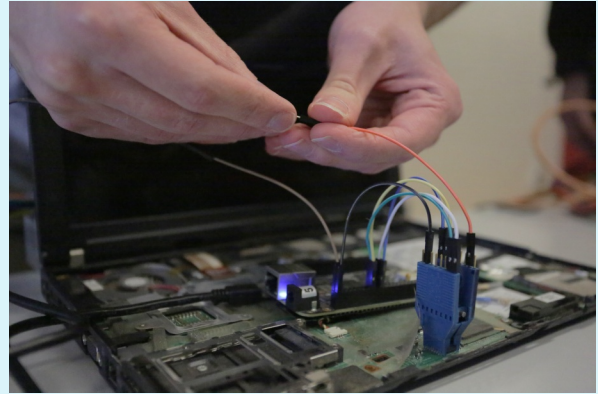
FY2015 At a Glance

- 3,255 members
- 2,189 non-member donors
- 2,400 volunteers
- 9 Board members, 12 staff
- 110,000 subscribers
- \$1.2 million budget (85% to programs)

COMMUNITY TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The FSF supports free software development to create superior implementations of software that enables user freedom. We sponsor the GNU Project, a three-decade effort that created and expands the first complete free software-licensed operating system, GNU/Linux. We provide funding, software maintenance, and hosting resources, plus full email, shell, and mailing list services in support of GNU and other free software development.

On the hardware side, the FSF's Respects Your Freedom (RYF) certification program encourages the creation and sale of hardware that does as much as possible to respect user freedom and privacy. We also provide user-friendly technical resources that make it easy to start using free software, such as the Email Self-Defense Guide. In addition, the FSF maintains the Free Software Directory, a free resource similar to Wikipedia, with over 15,000 free software packages organized into a searchable directory, providing a



A Libreboot installation at LibrePlanet

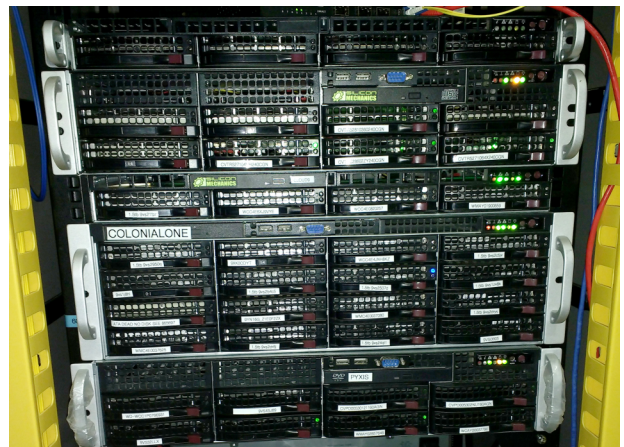
Photo by Kori Feener

centralized portal for visitors to find free software for almost any purpose.

In FY2015, the FSF tech team continued migrating and upgrading the organization's membership infrastructure to a robust free software system, CiviCRM. During the deployment, the team contributed code upstream and reported bugs to help improve the software for all users. As a result, the FSF is now able to accept donations to GNU projects, including GNU MediaGoblin and GNU Octave. Additionally, our communications with the public have become much more efficient.

FSF AND GNU TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN FY2015

- 1 dozen physical servers, 101 virtual machines
- Over 15 million annual unique visitors to www.gnu.org
- 500,000 emails per day via lists.gnu.org and lists.nongnu.org
- 460 GNU packages maintained by hundreds of volunteers worldwide



Some of the FSF's server infrastructure

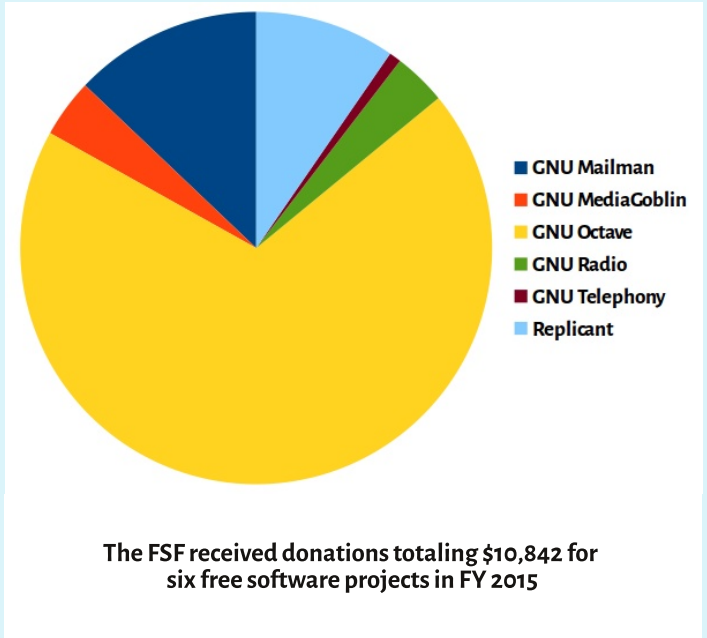
Photo from the FSF archives

TECH TEAM UPDATES

In 2015, the team welcomed two new additions: Trisquel GNU/Linux developer Ruben Rodriguez Perez as senior sysadmin, and Kosa as web development contractor.



Ruben Rodriguez
Senior System Administrator
Photo by Donald Robertson



WANT TO BE PART OF OUR WORK?

The FSF's efforts are made possible by over 2,400 volunteers around the world. You can help by:

- Contributing to GNU projects
- Starting local LibrePlanet groups
- Volunteering at special events
- Helping with tasks at the FSF office
- Interning for the tech, licensing, or campaigns team

Your participation is appreciated and critical to the success of the free software movement. Visit fsf.org/volunteer to sign up!



FSF staff and volunteers stuff envelopes for the semi-annual Bulletin mailing
Photo by Ruben Rodriguez

CAMPAIGNS

The FSF runs issue advocacy campaigns in line with strategic and member-driven priorities. The campaigns team takes the lead on these efforts.

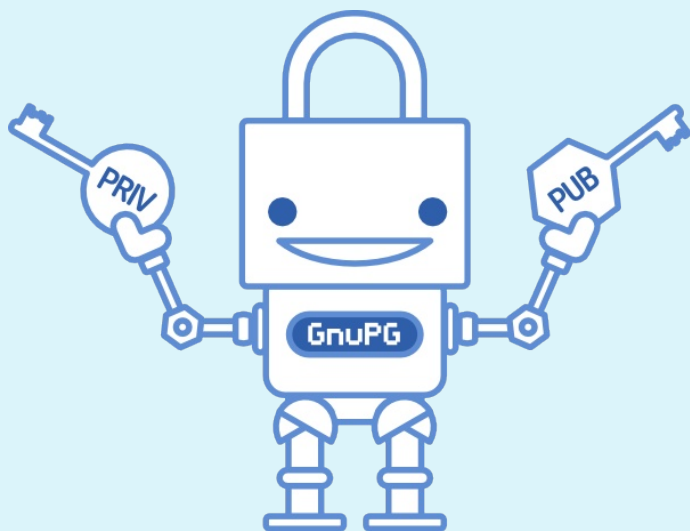
As a recognized authority on free software and related civil rights matters, the FSF also issues commentary and testimony in response to public policy and legislative events. To sustain and grow the free software movement, the FSF plays a critical role in community building and institutional knowledge. We maintain the Free Software Definition, preserving for current and future generations what must be true for a particular software program to be considered free software.

As an extension of our local and worldwide scope, the FSF provides resources to activists across the globe to start their own free software communities through the LibrePlanet network. Locally, we collaborate with ally organizations and serve as a community resource; for example, the monthly Boston CiviCRM free software database group meets at the FSF's office.

In FY2015, the campaigns team continued its advocacy and movement building work, starting with sharable materials that raise awareness about software freedom, including Web badges and two videos, one which explained “what is free software” and another documenting community members' free software



Activists on the International Day Against DRM in India, Guatemala, and the United States. (pictured clockwise from top left)



Visit our friendly guide to email encryption with GPG: emailselfdefense.fsf.org
Keypair character by jplusplus.org

stories in honor of our 30th anniversary.

The team additionally achieved significant issue milestones, as when Posteo Webmail adopted our free JavaScript guidelines, and when we rallied the community to action, joining a coalition of digital privacy groups in urging President Obama to protect encryption. Campaigns also gave talks on free software issues at tech conferences across the country, organized actions for Software Freedom Day and the International Day Against DRM, published our twice-annual Bulletin, encouraged ethical tech purchases for the holidays by distributing our Giving Guide, solicited ideas from the public for the future of the FSF's work through our Vision Survey, and highlighted the efforts of community members to make the world better through free software.

CAMPAIGNS TEAM UPDATES

In FY2015, we welcomed two new team members: Georgia Young, who is our Program Manager and focuses on organizing large-scale events like the LibrePlanet conference and the FSF30 minicon and party, as well as long-term activist campaigns, and Stephen Mahood, who moved from the tech team to become our Outreach and Communications Coordinator, rallying volunteers for events and preparing our emails, blog posts, and printed materials for the free software community.



Stephen Mahood
Outreach & Communication
Coordinator
Photo by Ruben Rodriguez



Georgia Young
Program Manager
Photo by Ruben Rodriguez

LIBREPLANET

The 2015 LibrePlanet free software conference took place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Stata Center. Co-produced with MIT's Student Information Processing Board, the two-day event drew more than 350 free software activists, developers, and users. With 45 speakers (plus lightning talks) and a Libreboot install workshop where people modified their laptops to fully support freedom, it was the most-attended LibrePlanet yet.



FREE SOFTWARE AWARDS

Each year at LibrePlanet, the FSF presents two awards recognizing important contributions in free software. At LibrePlanet 2015, the Award for the Advancement of Free Software went to Sébastien Jodogne for his work on free software medical imaging with his project Orthanc. The Award for Projects of Social Benefit went to Reglue, an Austin, Texas-based nonprofit founded by Ken Starks, which gives GNU/Linux computers to underprivileged children and their families. Congratulations!



Sébastien Jodogne, Orthanc
Photo by Tristan Chambers



John Sullivan with Ken Starks of Reglue
(left to right)
Photo by Tristan Chambers

LICENSING & COMPLIANCE

The FSF's licensing and compliance work supports free software, enabling the GNU General Public License (GPL) and other legal tools to protect user freedom. We hold copyright on much of the GNU operating system, and each year hundreds of software developers and corporations assign copyright to the FSF. We defend and enforce these copyrights against companies who try to deprive users of freedoms they are due, and we publish licenses, including the GPL, the most used free software license, and the only one written with the express purpose of promoting and preserving software freedom. The FSF also shares its expertise by holding Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit qualified trainings for legal and tech professionals and students.

against proposals to indefinitely extend the life of copyright and to expand Digital Restrictions Management anti-circumvention measures worldwide.

The FSF and allies created the Save WiFi campaign, filing over 3,000 public comments opposing proposed US Federal Communications Commission rules that would require manufacturers to implement locks on all wireless hardware – a change that would encourage device manufacturers to cripple wireless-enabled hardware so that users could no longer install free software on those devices. We also rallied free software users to comment on the US Department of Education's proposal to require free licensing for grant-funded educational works.

"Everyone needs a wireless router in their homes, and so I am very proud that we are able to offer users a router that ships with 100% free software installed and that is backed by a reputable certification process provided by the FSF."

— Christopher Waid, founder of ThinkPenguin, who offer several RYF-certified products

The FSF's Licensing and Compliance Lab spent FY2015 organizing with activists around the world and partners like the Electronic Frontier Foundation to petition governments and raise public awareness regarding issues affecting computer user freedom. From the Trans-Pacific Partnership to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the FSF defended users

The FSF's Respects Your Freedom certification program in FY2015 recognized six new devices – three laptops, two 3-D printers, and a wireless router – that run 100% free software, allow the user to install modified software, have no back doors or spyware, support free formats, and more.

LICENSING & COMPLIANCE IN FY2015

- 1,100+ co-signers against the DMCA's anti-circumvention clauses
- 430 cases of technical assistance (including license requests)
- 321 copyright assignments/disclaimers completed
- 6 licensing compliance cases successfully resolved
- 128 reports of licensing violations received
- 3,000 comments to Save WiFi
- 6 RYF products certified



The Licensing and Compliance team, Donald Robertson and Joshua Gay
Photo by Kori Feener

INDIVIDUAL GIVING IS OUR CORNERSTONE

Did you know the average individual donation that the FSF received in FY2015 was approximately \$101? We have a \$1.2 million operating budget, and much of that giving comes from individuals like you. We work hard to earn your support, and we know the FSF would not survive without donations of time and money from passionate free software supporters.

Give: my.fsf.org/donate
Join: my.fsf.org/join

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard M. Stallman, President

Hal Abelson, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT

Matthew Garrett, Principal Security Engineer at CoreOS

Benjamin Mako Hill, Assistant Professor of Communication, University of Washington

Geoffrey Knauth, Senior Software Developer at Accuweather

Bradley M. Kuhn, President of the Software Freedom Conservancy

Henri Poole, Founder of CivicActions

Gerald J. Sussman, Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT

Kat Walsh, Legal Counsel at BlockStream

THE FSF WELCOMED TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN FY2015!

MATTHEW GARRETT

PRINCIPAL SECURITY ENGINEER AT COREOS

Matthew is a developer specializing in the interactions between operating system kernels, platform firmware, and system security. He is particularly interested in mechanisms for avoiding the false tradeoff between user security and user freedom, ensuring that users have ultimate control over which software their devices will and will not run. He won the 2013 Free Software Foundation Award for the Advancement of Free Software and is a recognized speaker on the topic of the importance of free software in wider society. He holds a PhD in genetics from the University of Cambridge.



Matthew Garrett

Photo by Flickr user: nekonoir

KAT WALSH

LEGAL COUNSEL AT BLOCKSTREAM



Kat Walsh

Photo by Tristan Chambers

Kat Walsh is a copyright, internet policy, and technology lawyer. She was most recently at Creative Commons, where she was one of the drafters of version 4.0 of the CC license suite, and previously worked for the American Library Association in their information technology policy office. Kat came to the free software community through free culture. An early Wikipedian and advocate for free cultural works, she was on the Wikimedia

Foundation board of trustees from 2006-2013 (Chair 2012-13), where she advised on strategic, policy, and legal issues, and currently serves on its advisory board. She is also on the board of the Xiph.org Foundation. Kat holds a J.D. from George Mason University School of Law and a B.A. from Stetson University; she is a member of the Virginia State Bar and the US Patent Bar.

LEADERSHIP

Richard M. Stallman
President

John Sullivan
Executive Director

Eben Moglen
General Counsel

CAMPAIGNS

Stephen Mahood
Outreach & Communication
Coordinator

Zakkai Rogoff
Campaigns Manager

Georgia Young
Program Manager

LICENSING

Joshua Gay
Licensing and Compliance Manager

Donald Robertson
Copyright and Licensing Associate

OPERATIONS

Jasimin Huang
Business Operations Manager

Jeanne Rasata
Assistant to the President

Chrissie Himes
Operations Assistant

TECH

Lisa Marie Maginnis
Senior System
Administrator

Ruben Rodriguez
Senior System
Administrator

Kosa
Web Development
Contractor

David Thompson
Web Developer



FSF staff at LibrePlanet 2015
Photo by Tristan Chambers

RICHARD STALLMAN'S SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The Free Software Foundation's President and Founder, Richard Stallman (known as rms), spends much of his time advocating for free software through his writings, public speeches, and participation in panels around the world. In FY2015, rms was part of eighty-eight events in twenty-three countries.

October 2014

Colombia

Bogotá and Fusagasugá

USA

Athens, GA; New York, NY;

Ogden, UT; Socorro, NM;

and Houston, TX

Switzerland

Geneva

Canada

Montreal

November 2014

Mexico

Culiacán

USA

Portland, OR

Finland

Helsinki

France

Paris

Italy

Modena

Spain

Barcelona and Logroño

December 2014

Spain

Rivas-Vaciamadrid and Madrid

United Kingdom

London and Liverpool

Bangladesh

Dhaka

India

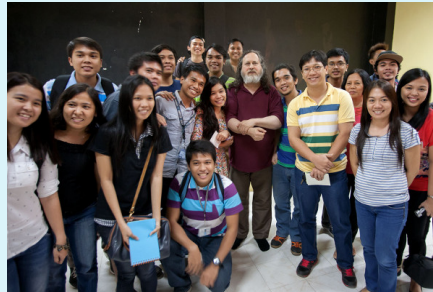
Jaipur, Rajasthan; Jodhpur;

Thiruvananthapuram;

and New Delhi

Germany

Hamburg



Richard Stallman (center) with students in Myanmar.

CC BY-ND and courtesy of Bobby Timonera

January 2015

USA

Richmond, VA

Belgium

Brussels

February 2015

Algeria

Djelfa, Algiers, Sidi Bel Abbès,
and Sétif

Tunisia

Sousse, Jendouba, and Tunis

Spain

Gijón, Asturias; Oviedo,

Asturias; and Zaragoza

Turkey

Istanbul

March 2015

Turkey

Ankara

USA

Urbana, IL; Chicago, IL;

and Cambridge, MA

Philippines

Manila, Quezon City,

Cebu City, and Iligan City

April 2015

Myanmar

Yangon and Mandalay

China

Hangzhou and Beijing

May 2015

France

Brest and Lyon

Denmark

Helsingør

Greece

Athens, Heraklion, and Chania

June 2015

Italy

Genova, Turin, and Ivrea

France

Rennes

July 2015

United Kingdom

London

France

Beauvais and Paris

Germany

Frankfurt and Karlsruhe

USA

New York, NY

August 2015

Perú

Arequipa and Lima

Chile

Osorno and Santiago de Chile

September 2015

Chile

La Serena and Arica

Italy

Siena

Belgium

Ixelles and Brussels

Spain

Las Palmas

FSF30



Free Software Foundation staff, board members, and friends at the FSF30 celebration in Boston, MA

The Free Software Foundation celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on October 3rd, 2015 with a User Freedom Summit and birthday party in the Boston area, as well as twenty other events worldwide as part of the FSF30 Party Network.

At the User Freedom Summit, FSF general counsel and Software Freedom Law Center President Eben Moglen talked about the crucial issues facing the free software movement in the next fifteen years.

FY2016 AND BEYOND

FY2015 was a great year for the FSF and the free software movement, and we couldn't have thrived over the past three decades without you.

As we consider what the next thirty years may bring to the software freedom movement, we can be sure that the FSF will continue to be a guiding light, fighting for user freedom and making a stand against nonfree software.

And nothing will be possible without your support: over 80% of the FSF's funding comes from more than 3,000 members, many individual donors, and freedom-embracing corporate patrons. While effort is needed to sustain and grow such a base, having support from people like you not only make the work possible, it allows the FSF to be free from corporate and institutional interests.

You can help us be a guiding light for software freedom -- Take a stand with the FSF by becoming a corporate patron, associate member, or donor at my.fsf.org!

FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION FY2015 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

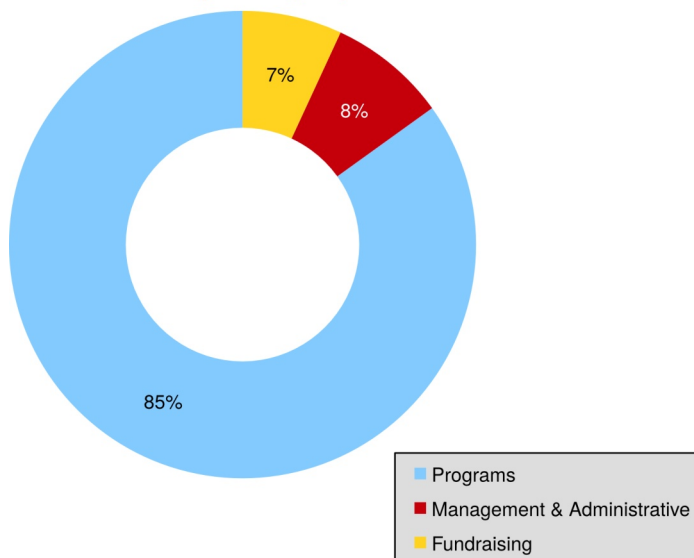
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Assets | |
| Cash & Investments | \$1,220,486 |
| Current Assets | \$44,187 |
| Property & Equipment | \$14,670 |
| Non-Current Assets | \$9,715 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$1,289,058</u> |
| Liabilities | |
| Accrued Expenses | \$44,219 |
| Accrued Payroll | \$53,360 |
| Net Assets | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | \$1,191,479 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | <u>\$1,289,058</u> |

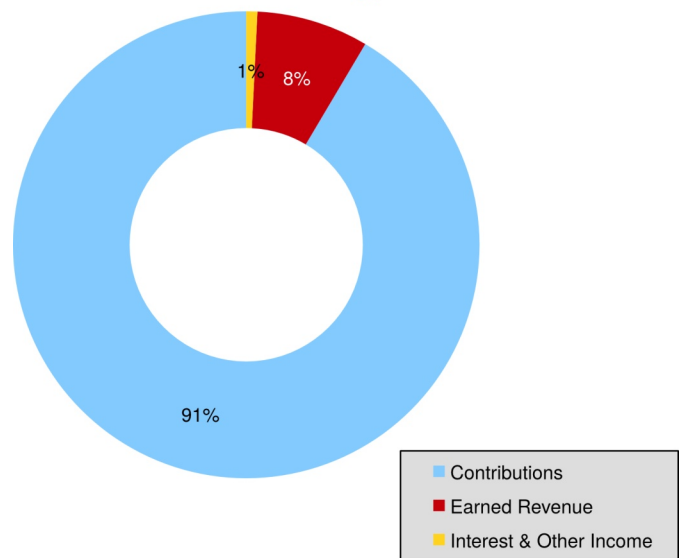
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue & Support | | | |
| Contributions | \$1,113,423 | | |
| Earned Revenue | \$94,431 | | |
| Interest & Other Income | \$9,368 | | |
| Investments | -\$20,588 | | |
| Total Revenue | <u>\$1,196,634</u> | | |
| Net Assets Released From Restrictions | <u>\$45,000</u> | -\$45,000 | |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| Programs | \$1,045,326 | | |
| Management & Administrative | \$100,665 | | |
| Fundraising | \$84,923 | | |
| Total Operating Expenses | <u>\$1,230,914</u> | | |
| Change In Net Assets | \$10,720 | -\$45,000 | -\$34,280 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | <u>\$1,180,761</u> | \$45,000 | \$1,225,761 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | <u>\$1,191,481</u> | | |

FY2015 Operating Expenses



FY2015 Revenue & Support



The Free Software Foundation is proud of its 4-star rating with Charity Navigator, a non-profit organization that evaluates the financial health, accountability, and transparency of charities.

OUR DONORS

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Uday Kale
Olaf Kayser
Alvin Khaled

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Nikolay Ksenev | Neil Nidhögg | Mason Smith |
| Krishna Kunchithapadam | Lee & Heidi Newberg Fund | Christian Sperr |
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| Eben Moglen | Minoru Sekine | Marinos Yannikos |
| Mridul Muralidharan | Yuji Shinokawa | |

This list includes our patrons, in-kind supporters, and those who receive ThankGNUs for donations totaling over \$500 in a year. The FSF appreciates and thanks the thousands of individual donors, members, and corporate patrons across the world who make our work possible.

FSF 30 YEARS



LibrePlanet 2015 was held at the MIT Stata Center.

Photo by Tristan Chambers

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