Nominations Open for Nation's Top Honor in Public Interest Computing

The 2018 Tides Pizzigati Prize will award $10,000 to an open source software developer whose work is helping nonprofit groups and activists survive and thrive

October 5, 2017, San Francisco, Calif. – Nominations are now being accepted for the 12th annual Antonio Pizzigati Prize for Software in the Public Interest, the nation's highest honor for software developers working with nonprofits to help advance innovative social change.

Tides will be accepting nominations for this year's $10,000 prize through December 15. The 2018 winner will be announced next April at the Nonprofit Technology Network annual conference in New Orleans. The Pizzigati Prize honors talented and creative computer programmers who develop open source software products that add impressive value to the nonprofit sector. Tides welcomes nominations from both developers and the nonprofits who work with them.

The OpenFn software developed by the winner of the 2017 Pizzigati Prize, Taylor Downs, lets non-technical users create data-integration workflows between key technologies in minutes — with clicks, not code. Thanks to the work of Taylor and his colleagues, organizations that used to expend countless hours manually moving data from one application to another can now shift information about in a timely and cost-effective basis.

The winner of the 2016 Pizzigati Prize, Cristina Lopes, has been the moving force behind OpenSimulator, the noncommercial software that's opening the 3D virtual world to nonprofits all across the globe. The 2015 Pizzigati Prize winner, Vishwas Babu, has led the development of Mifos X, an open technology platform that's helping nonprofits offer a full range of financial services to over 2.5 million clients worldwide. The 2014 winner, Donald Lobo, has been the key developer for CiviCRM, an open source constituent relationship management software package that offers nonprofits, at no cost, a set of powerful online tools for building effective links with their core audiences and advocates.

"Programmers like these are opening up new opportunities for advocacy success," notes Sonya Watson, Tides coordinator of this year's prize competition. "The Pizzigati Prize gives these developers the recognition they so deserve."

The Pizzigati Prize also honors the brief life of Tony Pizzigati, an early champion of open source computing. Born in 1971, Tony spent his college years at MIT, where he helped work digital magic at the world-famous MIT Media Lab. Tony died in a 1995 auto accident on his way to work in Silicon Valley.

Full details on the Tides Pizzigati Prize, the nation's largest annual award in public interest computing, appear online at http://pizzigatiprize.org

Tides is a philanthropic partner and nonprofit accelerator dedicated to building a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Tides works at the nexus of funders, changemakers, and policy, with extensive impact solutions including philanthropic giving and grantmaking, impact investing, fiscal sponsorship for social ventures, collaborative workspaces, and policy initiatives. Our extensive tools and know-how give our partners the freedom to hit the ground running and drive change faster than they can on their own. For more information on Tides visit www.tides.org.

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