



# Sills Family Foundation

2010 Annual Report

## **History and Mission**

The Sills Family Foundation is a family foundation that launched its first formal grantmaking process in 2003. The Foundation is governed by a board of three family member directors and is administered by The Philanthropic Initiative.

The Sills Family Foundation intends to help children from low income families live up to their highest promise by concentrating on the following three areas:

- 1) Comprehensive support for families in crisis, with a special focus on incarcerated parents and their children
- 2) Early and elementary childhood education that includes family supports such as medical care and parent education
- 3) Environmental justice, with a focus on contaminants that harm the developing embryo, fetus and infant.

## **2010 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview**

In 2010 we have been able to keep our grantmaking consistent with the previous year. The total grantmaking for 2010 was \$630,000. Of this, the Board awarded \$420,000 through its regular competitive grantmaking process, \$150,000 as trustee directed, discretionary grants and \$60,000 through a mission driven selection process managed by a group of next generation foundation members. The Foundation made a total of 24 competitive grants and 6 next generation grants in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, California, Washington State and Jamaica.

We primarily make general operating grants. This allows our grantees to use the funds as needed, as opposed to being limited to a particular budget line. Our grantees report that this degree of flexibility is uncommon and has been particularly useful during the economic downturn.

The Sills Family Foundation's support for programs for children with incarcerated parents continues to be a growing area of focus. In light of this trend, we have alerted several of our other grantees that we will be directing additional funds in that area and will be discontinuing grantmaking to their organizations in 2011.

One major effort this year was our contributions to the "A Call to Action: The NY Summit on Children with Incarcerated Parents". The Sills Family Foundation was the lead funder, as well as serving on the strategic planning committee, the fund raising committee, and co-facilitating the mental health track. We expect the results of this summit to direct some of our work in the coming years as we galvanize other funders, and advocate for New York State to enact policy recommendations developed at this event.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to support environmental justice organizations, as well as organizations doing critical work in providing services to families in crisis, and ensuring that the youngest children of families in poverty are receiving high quality early education.

The Foundation's second generation is increasing its engagement in the grantmaking process, and will be exploring new possibilities in the coming year through site visits in their geographical areas.

## Sills 2010 Grants

Grant descriptions are organized by primary focus areas, with a special subcategory for the area of supporting incarcerated parents and their children.

### **Families in Crisis**

❖ **Battered Women's Services and Shelter  
Barre, VT**

Battered Women's Services and Shelter was awarded \$20,000 to support domestic violence shelter programming for women and their children. The grant funds will allow for the continuation of long-term programs available to all residents during their stay at the shelter, and the ability to serve more women and children who are attempting to leave abusive homes. Programming includes weekly domestic violence education and support group, activities that assist in rebuilding healthy family relationships, courses on nonviolent forms of communication, and age-specific curriculums that offer children the tools and skills for healthy expression and interactions. *(Eighth year of funding)*

❖ **The Guidance Center, Inc.  
Cambridge, MA**

The Guidance Center was awarded a \$10,000 grant for continued support of their *Early Intervention Partnerships Program* (EIPP), which provides crucial extra home visits for at-risk families in Cambridge and Somerville, MA, not covered by public insurance funding streams. The program anticipates increased referrals of low income pregnant and postpartum women from a broader base of MassHealth insurers, in addition to their community medical and social service partners. Sills funds have been critical to the successful development of EIPP since it began over six years ago, and without which the most at-risk mothers and infants in their community would not receive important checks on health and social/emotional/physical development, crisis intervention and support services. *(Eighth and final year of funding)*

❖ **Julie's Family Learning Program  
South Boston, MA**

Julie's Family Learning Program was awarded \$20,000 to support the general operations of their Adult and Children's Services. Julie's is dedicated to helping low-income children and their mothers break the cycle of poverty, and has been providing comprehensive family support and education programs for low-income families in crisis in South Boston for over 30 years. The grant will help support early childhood programming, Montessori pre-school, adult education, and parenting and life skills education. *(Sixth year of funding)*

❖ **St. Mary's Women and Children's Center  
Dorchester, MA**

St. Mary's was granted \$20,000 to continue to support education and training programming, including the recently re-designed Women's Learning Center (WLC)

and Women @ Work Plus. The WLC's redesigned focus on preparing women academically for the workplace supports both the educational needs of Women @ Work Plus students, as well as other low income women who are preparing for GED testing or Women @ Work Plus enrollment. Women @ Work Plus was established as a transitional jobs program for low-income, under educated, hard to employ women, giving them not just training but a job as well. The WLC serves 32 Women @ Work Plus students annually, as well as an additional 50 women. *(Sixth year of funding)*

❖ **STEPS to End Family Violence/Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families**  
**New York, NY**

STEPS to End Family Violence was awarded \$20,000 for the *Children's Therapy Program*, which provides comprehensive supportive counseling services to children up to age 14 who have been affected by domestic violence. The program offers a safe place to begin healing from the violence to which they have been exposed and cope with the losses and trauma they have endured. This grant will allow STEPS to continue to provide individual play therapy to 60 children per year addressing loss, abandonment, abuse, family relationships and other traumas; family therapy sessions to strengthen parent-child attachment and communication; group therapy for children; concurrent group for the caregivers of the children attending the children's group; and two to three cycles of parenting groups addressing parenting skills, child development, impact of domestic violence and incarceration on the family, trauma, and other related topics. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## **Incarcerated Mothers and their Children**

❖ **The Children's Center at Bedford Hills**  
**Bedford Hills, NY**

The Children's Center at Bedford Hills received \$10,000 for overnight programs transportation. The grant will help finance the cost of transportation for children of women incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility to and from their homes, so that they may participate in overnight visiting programs offered by the Center. Programs include the Summer Program, the Overnight Program, and the Teen Time Programs. In February 2010 the Children's Center switched from using private car service to a Center-owned 15-seat passenger van and minivan, with hired drivers and chaperones to operate the vehicles. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Community Works West (SF Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership)**  
**Berkeley, CA**

Community Works West/ SF Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership received a \$20,000 grant in support of the One Family Parenting Program, and its continued implementation of Parenting Inside/Out, an evidence-based parenting curriculum designed specifically for jailed parents in the San Francisco County Jail system. Previous Sills funding has allowed CWW to acquire and launch PIO at San Francisco County Jails #2 and #5. This year's funding will allow CWW to continue to provide PIO in County Jail #4, and increase the number of incarcerated parents who have access

to the curriculum in County Jails 5/6. This parent education program makes contact visiting as meaningful as possible for families by enhancing bonding and communication, which will prepare parents for reunification and successful reentry when they leave jail and help lower rates of recidivism. *(Third year of funding)*

❖ **Foreverfamily  
Atlanta, GA**

Foreverfamily was awarded a \$20,000 grant to support the general operations of the Atlanta based affiliate. Funds will help ensure the stability of the organization and continuation of the services they provide children of incarcerated parents and their families. As the parent organization and model for all other affiliates and expansion efforts, Foreverfamily Atlanta has been directly serving children with incarcerated parents and their families for 23 years. Sills funding would add the financial resources needed to continue to provide an array of programming including the two oldest programs: the Family Visitation Program and the After School Program. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Hour Children, Inc.  
Long Island City, NY**

Hour Children received a \$20,000 grant for general operating support, which will allow them to continue fulfilling their mission of supporting pregnant women and mothers while incarcerated in NYS correctional facilities, and providing crucial housing and post-release services that prevent recidivism and provide for and protect their children with compassionate and loving care. The grant will also allow them to build upon the many capacity building initiatives and organizational productivity measures that they have begun over the past year. Each year Hour Children serves approximately 60-70 women and 80-90 children in their supportive housing programs, as well as women directly in prison, and women and infants in their prison nursery programs. *(Eighth year of funding)*

❖ **New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Osborn  
Association  
Long Island City, NY**

The New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents received \$20,000 for the Strategic Planning Summit in November 2010. The NYICIP was launched by the Osborne Association in 2006 as a forum for collaborative partnership with government agencies and community based organizations whose policies and practices impact children's well-being throughout a parent's involvement with the criminal justice system. The Strategic Planning summit was held on November 15, 2010, and was an opportunity for public-private stakeholders to focus on key issues facing this vulnerable population of children in New York State. Attendees participated in one of five stakeholder groups, or "tracks", prior to and at the Summit. The tracks included legal systems, corrections and juvenile justice, family stability and child welfare, mental and physical health, and education. *(First year of funding)*

❖ **Northern Lights Program at the Howard Center  
Burlington, VT**

The Northern Lights Program at the Howard Center was awarded a \$20,000 grant for general operating support to sustain its efforts to provide housing and support to women transitioning from prison back to the community. Northern Lights houses 11 women at a time for seven to twenty month stays, where they are supported by community providers, service providers, and each other as they develop skills, reconnect with their children, seek employment, improve their health, and make positive connections. *(Third year of funding)*

❖ **Osborn Association – Family Ties Program**  
**Long Island City, NY**

The Osborn Association received \$20,000 for continued support of the *New York City Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents*, which offers services to children and youth with incarcerated parents. The goal of the Initiative is to ensure that children feel safe, considered, and supported throughout the experience of a parent's arrest, incarceration, and reentry. Specifically, the grant will be applied to direct service activities with youth, including outreach and the Youth Advisory Board program activities. The board currently consists of seven youth, and provides an opportunity for young people impacted by a parent's incarceration to connect with each other, build their speaking and communication skills, and add their voice to practice and policy reform. *(Fifth year of funding)*

❖ **Vermont Children's Aid Society**  
**Vermont**

Vermont Children's Aid Society was awarded a \$20,000 grant to continue to support the *Kids-A-Part Program*, a leader in Vermont with regards to issues faced by children and families affected by incarceration. Kids-A-Part will use Sills funding to support costs associated with the development of evidence-based best practices for providing services to improve outcomes for children with incarcerated parents, which could be replicated in other parts of the country. The program would leverage work completed this past year on an outcomes and indicators project, by providing the ability to continue to define their service offerings and refine planning and evaluation techniques. *(Fifth year of funding)*

❖ **Women's Prison Association**  
**New York**

The Women's Prison Association received a \$20,000 grant for general operating support, which is critical to their mission of helping women overcome the obstacles to successful reentry and build lives defined by more than their past criminal justice involvement. The grant will support expanded early childhood literacy opportunities in East New York through their Parent-Child Home Program, enhancements to the measurement tools used to evaluate the work they do with families, and their efforts to bring new perspectives to debates on women in the criminal justice system. The grant would also help WPA absorb the costs and minimize the impact on the agency's operations when emergency costs arise, including the completion of repairs on the elevator in the Sarah Powell Huntington House, their reunification residence for formerly incarcerated homeless women and their children. *(Seventh year of funding)*

## Early and Elementary Childhood Education with Family Supports

### ❖ **Chances for Children at Highbridge Community Life Center East Harlem, NY**

The Highbridge Community Life Center received \$20,000 to support *Chances for Children*, with the mission of continuing to increase mental health support and services for young families and children 0-5 years old in Highbridge, a poorly serviced, high-risk area of the Bronx. Last year a Sills grant helped fund the two year pilot project implementing the CFC protocol in Kingsbridge and Highbridge. The next phase of the project will take place over the next two years, with the goal of CFC intervention becoming imbedded in the HCLC family services. The purpose of this intervention will be to strengthen the relationships between at-risk mothers and their infants, to provide coping skills for these young parents, and to prevent destructive interactions from interfering with the healthy development of both parent and child. *(Seventh and final year of funding)*

### ❖ **Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service East Harlem, NY**

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service received \$20,000 for general operating support, which will help them meet their operating priorities of ensuring that services remain accessible to families of all backgrounds despite the recession, securing the financial resources required to ensure long-range stability, and building the agency's capacity, both administrative and programmatic, through enhanced management systems and volunteering opportunities. LSA provides low-income East Harlem families with an integrated combination of home-based and center-based services in the areas of health, education, and crisis intervention, as part of their mission to help them build on their existing strengths, attain self-sufficiency, and contribute to a vital community. *(Seventh year of funding)*

### ❖ **Project Hope Dorchester, MA**

Project HOPE was awarded a \$20,000 grant for continued support of the Children's Center, which offers low-income and homeless children from the Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods of Boston the opportunity to receive high-quality education and child care, in line with their mission to move families beyond homelessness and poverty. Specifically, this grant will support the salary of the Literacy Specialist, whose role is to expand and enhance the literacy component of the center's curriculum, including activities to promote reading, writing, speaking, and listening through circle/group time, art projects, and music and movement. *(Seventh year of funding)*

## Environmental Justice

### ❖ **Advocates for Environmental Human Rights New Orleans, LA**

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights was granted \$20,000 for general support. AEHR is dedicated to upholding our human right to live in a healthy environment, holding companies accountable when this right is violated, and advocating for public policy that supports this right. General operating funds will increase capacity to build on human rights litigation and coalition advocacy, as well as the flexibility to initiate and steer projects as needed. Specifically, these funds will be used to advance *Mossville Human Rights Litigation* and convene a strategy session among AEHR-coordinated coalitions to develop a united campaign centered on human rights-based recovery for disasters and remedies for environmental justice. *(Seventh year of funding)*

❖ **Alternatives for Community and Environment  
Roxbury, MA**

Alternatives for Community and Environment received a \$20,000 grant for continued support of the *Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)*, which nurtures youth development and leadership in Roxbury through an environmental justice curriculum, organizing and membership program, and youth-led campaigns. Funds from the Sills Family Foundation will allow REEP to support six to eight youth organizers, conduct youth-led environmental justice campaigns, serve 30-40 members annually through their leadership development programs, and provide an environmental justice curriculum in one to two Boston Public Schools *(Seventh year of funding)*

❖ **Community In-Power and Development Association  
Port Arthur, TX**

Community In-Power and Development Association (CIDA) was awarded \$12,000 for general support, to help continue their mission to protect, educate, and alert the underserved communities in Port Arthur, Texas, of the dangers of toxic chemicals being released into their community. The funds will help to collect scientific data about the sources, types, and amounts of pollution emitted by their polluting neighbors; educate residents of the community; work with low income residents on developing their community; teach locals how to start and maintain businesses within the community; unite residents to take action and advocate for socially responsible refineries and chemical plants and the reduction of toxic emissions; work with other low-income communities of color in the US via the Coming Clean Campaign and internationally in South Africa via Global Community Monitor; and approach polluters at their annual share holder general meetings. *(Fifth year of funding)*

❖ **Health Care Without Harm  
Boston, MA**

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) was awarded \$20,000 for general support of their efforts to educate the healthcare sector on the importance of the environment in contributing to chronic disease throughout society; help the healthcare sector follow the sustainability agenda HCWH has created over the last thirteen years; use the enormous purchasing power of healthcare to drive markets and create stimulus for innovation for safer products; and activate healthcare leaders and professionals to

advocate for broader societal policies on climate change, safer chemicals and healthy food. The grant will support four core initiatives: Safer Chemicals in Healthcare; Clean Energy in Healthcare; Green Buildings in Healthcare; and Healthy Food in Healthcare. *(Seventh year of funding)*

❖ **Mercury Policy Project  
Montpelier, VT**

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a \$15,000 grant to continue to expand their *Zero Mercury Campaign – Exposure Awareness and Reduction* efforts which seeks to reduce consumer exposure to mercury from the consumption of commercially caught fish, particularly among pregnant women, young children, and disadvantaged populations who subsist on low incomes. Specifically, the campaign will strengthen government fish advisories for mercury and oppose efforts to weaken them; encourage state and federal agencies to stop listing “light canned tuna” as a low mercury fish and offering “light” canned tuna in WIC programs, and allow substitutes with far less mercury to be offered instead; build awareness, support, and collaboration for a new “Zero Mercury Tuna-free Campaign”; and promote reduction or elimination of mercury in the use of skin cosmetics and dental fillings. *(Seventh year of funding)*

❖ **Mossville Environmental Action Now  
Mossville, LA**

Mossville Environmental Action Now (M.E.A.N.) received an \$8,000 grant for general support that will allow them to further address the health consequences endured by the Mossville residents exposed to the high levels of toxic pollution in their community. To address the growing health concerns, MEAN plans to use funds to support the continuation of a series of health fairs and symposiums to raise awareness of the connection between pollution and health; fund the travel of environmental health experts to come and make presentations to the local health professionals in the community; offer free screenings to local residents; continue shareholder activism work; and execute the community’s soil testing. *(Third year of funding)*

❖ **West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.  
New York**

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) was awarded a \$10,000 grant to support the Northern Manhattan Food Justice Initiative, and its work to improve children’s environmental health in Northern Manhattan. Funding will be used to hire a full time community organizer to help with the goal of improving the availability of healthy food choices in NYC public schools. The initiative is based on the theory of change that for low-income communities of color to move from high rates of obesity to a healthy community, residents need to be mobilized to change the power relations that create, maintain, and operate the food system, WE ACT is dedicated to building communities of power to fight environmental racism and improve environmental health, protection, and policy in communities of color, and conducts a range of initiatives designed to bring about positive health outcomes for NYC’s most disadvantaged children. *(Sixth and final year of funding)*

## Sills 2009 Next Generation Grants

### ❖ **Family Services of Westchester Port Chester, NY**

Family Services of Westchester (FSW) was awarded \$10,000 to enhance EMERGE (Educating Mothers to Embrace Re-entry and Gain Employment). EMERGE is a parenting education program for incarcerated women that prepares them for re-entry into the community, by providing parenting and employment skills education to the target population of mothers incarcerated in the Westchester County Department of Correction. Sills funding will allow WJCS to meet increased demand by adding a second part-time educator to help conduct workshops within the facility, and then provide additional support services, including support groups in the community, upon release.

FSW also received \$2,700 for The Sharing Shelf, which provides a centralized depository for new and gently-used children's clothing and selected items such as strollers, car seats, and school supplies. Sills funds will help enable them to rent a small warehouse where they can continue operations, since the building they currently rent has recently been sold. *(First year funding)*

### ❖ **Friends of the Children Kings County Seattle, WA**

Friends of the Children (FOTC) was awarded a \$16,700 grant for general support to continue fulfilling its mission to help children living in seriously high risk environments develop relationships, goals, skills and resources necessary to thrive. FOTC provides one-on-one mentoring relationships for the most at risk children in the Seattle area. Mentors are paid, full-time professionals who are committed to working with a child on an ongoing basis for 14 years, beginning at age five. Part of the mission of FOTC is to identify the bottom 10% of most at risk children. Many of these children have parents who are in prison. The Sills grant will leverage other grants and contributions to provide urgently-needed mentoring for the 91 children from first through 12<sup>th</sup> grade currently in the program. *(Fourth year funding)*

### ❖ **The Guidance Center New Rochelle, NY**

The Guidance Center received \$4,200 for general operating support for Parents Place, a drop-in program focusing on social-emotional development and serving approximately 500 preschool-age children and their parents in Westchester County, NY each year. Sills funds will specifically be used for staff salaries and to strengthen the Parents Place model, including enhancing the daily parent/child activities, implementing an early childhood development screening tool, increasing the connections between newcomers and regular participants, adding more early intervention services that can be delivered on site, and developing a group for parents with newborn babies. *Fourth year funding)*

❖ **Metta Center for Nonviolence  
Berkeley, CA**

The Metta Center received a grant \$5,000 to support its Metta Mentors Nonviolence Immersion Summer Program. The program is a 10-week mentorship/internship program in Berkeley, CA, which pairs students of nonviolence with local partner organizations for practical nonviolence and social justice work, while offering regular guidance from Metta in order to help participants learn about the principles of nonviolence as a personal path, and apply those principles effectively in the service of building a nonviolent culture. The Metta Center for Nonviolence is a nonviolence resource center, which exists to raise consciousness about principled nonviolence and serve as a catalyst in the shift toward a modern nonviolent paradigm. *(Second year funding)*

❖ **Micro Credit Ltd.  
Jamaica , W.I.**

Micro Credit Ltd. was awarded \$10,000 to support their growing infrastructure. MCL is a micro financing institution that provides small loans to 2,200 clients in Jamaica that would not normally qualify for a traditional loan due to a lack of available collateral or credit history. MCL's capacity building program will include diversifying their loan portfolio to include personal and agricultural loans, training staff with the requisite skills to undertake this diversification, upgrading their information system, and expanding their outreach by opening a new branch in St. Ann by July 2011. Sills funding will allow MCL to boost their internal capacities as it relates to their information system, as well as widen the cross section of persons they serve to include the more underserved rural communities who depend mostly on subsistence living. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Oakland Unified School District, Office of Alternative Education  
Oakland, California**

The Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education received a \$11,400 grant for continued support of the Oakland Youth Outreach (OYO) gang prevention and intervention program, which provides a broad range of services to gang-involved and at-risk youth and their families in Alternative Ed high schools. This grant will allow them to expand critically needed culturally competent case management services and activities for students and their families at Community Day Schools (CDS), the public schools that serves the highest-need student population in all of Oakland. It will also be used to create a liaison with youth at OUSD's Temporary Alternative Placement (TAP) Center, where students attend classes while awaiting hearing on expulsion cases. Sills funds will allow OYO to serve an additional 20 youth per year, and place a Youth Intervention Specialist at TAP for two hours a week. *(Second year funding)*

## Sills 2010 Grants Summary

<b>Name of Organization</b>	<b>2010 Program/Purpose</b>	<b>2010 Amount Awarded</b>
Advocates for Environmental Human Rights	General Support	\$20,000
Alternatives for Community and Environment	Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project	\$20,000
Battered Women's Services and Shelter	Domestic Violence Shelter programming for women and their children	\$20,000
Highbridge Community Life Center	Chances for Children: Highbridge Project	\$15,000
Community In Power and Development Association	General Support	\$12,000
Community Works West (SF Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership)	One Family, Parenting Support Infrastructure in SF County Jails	\$20,000
Foreverfamily	General Support	\$20,000
Health Care Without Harm	General Support	\$20,000
Hour Children, Inc.	General Support	\$20,000
Julie's Family Learning Program	Julie's Adult and Children's Services	\$20,000
Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service	General Support	\$20,000
Mercury Policy Project	Zero Mercury Campaign-Exposure Awareness and Reduction	\$15,000*
Mossville Environmental Action Now	Stop the Toxic Deaths in Mossville!	\$8,000
New York Children of Incarcerated Parents Coalition	Strategic Planning Summit	\$20,000
Northern Lights Program - Howard Center	Northern Lights Program	\$20,000
Osborn Association- Family Ties Program	New York Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents	\$20,000
Project Hope	Children's Center	\$20,000
St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	Education and Training programming, including the Women's Learning Center and Women @ Work Plus	\$20,000

STEPS to End Family Violence/Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families	The Children's Therapy Program	\$20,000
The Children's Center at Bedford Hills	Transportation Programs	\$10,000
The Guidance Center Inc.	Early Intervention Partnerships Program (EIPP)	\$10,000
Vermont Children's Aid Society	Kids-A-Part	\$20,000
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.	The Northern Manhattan Food Justice Initiative	\$10,000*
Women's Prison Association	General Support	\$20,000
<b>Total Grants:</b>		<b>\$420,000</b>

\*Plus an additional \$5,000 from Peter's discretionary funds

**Next Generation Grants**

<b>Name of Organization</b>	<b>2010 Program/Purpose</b>	<b>2010 Amount Awarded</b>
Friends of the Children Kings County	General Support	\$16,700
The Guidance Center	Parents Place	\$4,200
Metta Center for Nonviolence	Metta Mentors Nonviolence Immersion Summer Program	\$5,000
Micro Credit Ltd.	General Support	\$10,000
Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education	Oakland Youth Outreach	\$11,400
Family Services of Westchester	EMERGE	\$10,000
	Sharing Shelf	\$2,700
<b>Grants: \$60,000</b>		<b>Total</b>