



Sills Family Foundation

2015 Annual Report

Sills Family Foundation
c/o The Philanthropic Initiative, 420 Boylston 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02116
Tel: (617) 338-5885 fax: (617) 338-2591

History and Mission

The Sills Family Foundation is governed by a board of three family member directors and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative.

The Sills Family Foundation's primary grants program intends to help children from low income families live up to their highest promise by concentrating on the following four areas:

- 1) Comprehensive support for families in crisis, with a special focus on children with incarcerated parents
- 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
- 4) Arts and Culture programs that utilize education and other creative opportunities to support underserved populations.

2015 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview

In 2015, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$1,750,250, a significant increase from the 2013 total of \$1,502,000. Of this, the Board awarded \$956,500 through its core grantmaking process, \$194,000 through a special capacity building program, \$176,000 through its Arts & Culture grantmaking initiative, \$180,000 as trustee directed discretionary grants, and \$138,750 through a mission driven selection process managed by a group of next generation foundation members. The Foundation awarded grants to a total of 40 organizations through its core grantmaking program, 11 Arts & Culture grants, 6 capacity building and 10 next generation grants in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Louisiana, California, Oregon and Washington State. The Foundation primarily makes general operating grants, allowing grantees to use the funds as needed, as opposed to being limited to a particular budget line. Grantees report that this degree of flexibility is uncommon and has been particularly useful during the economic downturn. This year the Foundation has also been able to make additional multi-year capacity building grants to long-standing grantees.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to focus on programs for families impacted by the criminal justice system. The Foundation has begun to play a role in deepening policy makers and service provider's capacity in this field. The Foundation was honored to be chosen as the recipient of two different awards for their leadership in funding and advocating for programs for families impacted by incarceration. One of the Directors serves on the steering committee for the New York Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents. In the coming year the Directors will continue to engage other interested funders to share knowledge, and to encourage engagement with this vulnerable population.

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.

In 2012, the Foundation added an additional focus area, supporting Arts and Cultural Organizations in the greater NY area. This year was the fourth round of grants in this area. The Arts and Culture Committee of The Sills Family Foundation focuses on organizations that utilize arts as a means to provide enrichment to underserved populations of all ages. In 2016 they will be honored with an "Arts Award" from Artswestchester.

The Second Generation Committee of the Foundation continues to clarify and deepen its focus. This group made 10 grants in two primary areas; addressing climate change, and interventions and supports for high-risk youth. The Second Generation committee has joined the Brooklyn Community Foundation in supporting a pilot program to bring Restorative Practices into four high suspension rate schools in Brooklyn.

Sills 2015 Strategic Grants

Grant descriptions are organized by primary focus areas.

Incarcerated Mothers and their Children

- ❖ **The Center for Children and Families, Columbia University School of Nursing
New York, NY and Burlington, VT**

The Center for Children and Families was awarded \$25,000 to support the implementation and evaluation of the Shared Parenting program at Lund (Vermont). Shared Parenting uses professionally facilitated group process to strengthen the co-parenting relationship of incarcerated mothers and the guardians of their children in the community. The project has two objectives. First, to qualitatively and measurably enhance the base of knowledge being developed at the Columbia University Center for Children and Families about the dynamics of triadic relationships in families impacted by maternal separation due to incarceration and/or residential substance abuse treatment. Second, to support development of supportive interventions specifically designed for the caregivers of children whose mothers receive reunification support services from agencies where Shared Parenting has already been implemented and established. (*Fourth year of funding*)

- ❖ **Circle
Barre, VT**

Circle was granted \$25,000 to continue to provide support for Circle's housing and programming options for incarcerated women reentering Washington Country as well as developing family reunification models. Circle has taken numerous steps towards integrating gender-responsive strategies, especially those connected to strengthening relationships among children, family, and the community. Through continued research and development, Circle will implement gender sensitive services to incorporate programming and community connections that will increase the rate of successful reentry for incarcerated women. Funding from the Sills Family Foundation will allow Circle to build on this foundational work so that its shelter and services respond to transitioning women's needs. Expenses include portions of salaries and benefits of key shelter staff, shelter resident fund, and material and supply costs. (*Thirteenth year of funding*)

- ❖ **Community Works West
Berkeley, CA**

Community Works West (CWW) received \$50,000 to support two family strengthening programs within the One Family Program and Prison Project. One Family is a family

strengthening initiative that provides parenting education and meaningful and consistent opportunities for parents to stay connected with their families through periods of incarceration. CWW launched this program in the San Francisco County Jail several years ago and has since grown to two California prisons and three post-release facilities in San Francisco, and new this year, Alameda County. CWW's long-term goal is to reduce the number of individuals entering and re-entering the juvenile and criminal justice systems and to lessen their impacts on affected communities, particularly low-income communities of color. Community Works' services are a hybrid of restorative justice and human service programs that include anti-violence, job readiness, batterers' intervention, and family strengthening services for children of incarcerated parents and their families. (*Eighth year of funding*)

❖ **Correctional Association of NYC**
New York, NY

The Correctional Association of NYC received \$16,500 for printing and distribution of its Groundbreaking new report, Reproductive Injustice: the State of Reproductive Health Care for Women in New York State Prisons. Released in February 2015, Reproductive Injustice is the most extensive study of its kind to date and one of the most in-depth studies on conditions for women in prison in the country. Support to print and distribute Reproductive Injustice is critical to the CA's ability to raise public awareness about these issues and to pursue concrete policy change. Pursuing policy change includes partnering with our Coalition for Women Prisoners to carry out a robust campaign to promote reproductive justice for incarcerated women, with a specific focus on ending the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women. (First year of Funding)

❖ **Echoes of Incarceration**
Brooklyn, NY

Echoes of Incarceration was granted \$20,000 to support their Teen Workshop Project. The project provides hands-on filmmaking workshops for other youth in high schools, foster care agencies, and afterschool programs around New York City. These workshops are a way to provide a powerful educational experience for youth, while amplifying the impact of the existing Echoes of Incarceration films, and also securing the foundation of the project for our next phase by recruiting new members to the core Echoes crew. These workshops use a proven curriculum developed over the past year. They can range from 1-6 sessions, depending on the needs and constraints of the school or organization. Sessions focus on the mission and work of the Echoes project, presentations from current crew members, screenings of the Echoes' films, and introduction and practice with camera operation. (First year of funding)

❖ **Greenhope**
East Harlem, NY

Greenhope received \$25,000 for the Rising Mothers Program and overall Family Services Program associated with the Child Development Center. The mission of Greenhope Services for Women is to empower women involved in substance abuse and the criminal justice system to reclaim their lives, reunite with their families, and rebuild their communities. Over the years, Greenhope has expanded its work to include not only services for women on parole, but also women referred by the courts as an alternative to incarceration (ATI) and

women from the community seeking substance-abuse and mental health treatment, trauma counseling, housing, family reunification services, job training and employment and related services. The specific focus of the Rising Mothers Program, a key component of the Family Services Department, is to provide a therapeutic environment and appropriate support services to begin the process of healing the wounds of attachment disruption between incarcerated mothers and their children and families. (*Fifth year of funding*)

❖ **Hour Children, Inc.**
Long Island City and Bedford Hills, NY

Hour Children was awarded a \$50,000 grant for community and prison-based programming. \$25,000 of the grant will support Hour Children's post-release community-based programs, including: transitional (4 buildings) and permanent (3 buildings) supportive housing for "Hour" families; Hour Working Women's Program (job skills training and employment placement support); mental health support; a fully-licensed day care center; an after-school program; thrift shop; mentoring program and other programs. The remaining \$25,000 will be allocated to support Hour Children's Centers of Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities, including transportation and visitation programs, parenting education, advocacy, a teen program, and residential Nursery unit with an infant care center at Bedford Hills. (*Thirteenth year funding Hour Children; seventh year funding CCBH*)

❖ **Housing + Solutions, Inc.**
Brooklyn, NY

Housing + Solutions received \$25,000 of funding for Family Services, to provide professional family therapy, addiction counseling and trauma therapy to forty-three families and up to fifteen single women, who are parents with minor children, presently not living with them or whose children are emancipated adults. The overall goal of the organization is through individual responsibility coupled with group support to help each woman (and family) gain the skills and confidence needed to take ownership of their problems, the solutions, and to overcome obstacles and make positive life choices. Past funding from the Sills Family Foundation supported Drew House, a supportive housing community for women who are first-time (non-violent) felony offenders and their children. (*Fourth year of funding*)

❖ **JustLeadership USA**
New York, NY

JustLeadership USA (JLUSA) was awarded \$25,000 of general operating support to build capacity in leadership development, advocacy, and membership. JLUSA believes that a meaningful tipping point in criminal justice reform will be possible only when the voices of those most impacted have been heard and their expertise infused into the national reform movement. JLUSA is dedicated to cutting the US prison population in half by 2030 while reducing crime. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. In the coming year, during JLUSA's start-up phase the team will focus on developing and supporting formerly incarcerated leaders; drive policy advocacy efforts on the federal, state and local levels; and build and sustain an engaged national membership. Funds will be used to partially fund the costs of its leadership development program, hire advocacy staff, and build the infrastructure necessary to support membership. (*Second year of Funding*)

❖ **Lund**
Burlington, Vermont

Lund Family Center was awarded \$25,000 to support the Kids-A-Part Parenting Program (KAPP). The Kids-A-Part Parenting Program, the only program of its kind in Vermont, seeks to reduce the trauma children experience as a result of a mother's incarceration. The program provides support to maintain contact between mothers and their children that reflects the needs of the child, engages with children and caregivers during the mother's incarceration and links them to appropriate services; and prepares mothers to return to the community, exploring and planning for their role as mother. KAPP served 170 mothers last year. 170 mothers were served in the past year. (*Ninth year funding KAPP*)

❖ **Northern Lights** (a program of The Howard Center)
Burlington, VT

The Northern Lights Program (NL) 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. Residents meet regularly with their team of service providers and play an active role in the development of their case plan. Northern Lights' mission is to provide the opportunity for returning female offenders to build the foundation necessary for long-term safety and independence for themselves and their families. (*Eighth year of funding*)

❖ **The Osborne Association**
Bronx, NY

The Osborne Association received \$25,000 for continued support of Children & Youth Services to children with incarcerated parents, including the Youth Action Council (YAC) (formerly Youth Advisory Board). The YAC is a 23-session curriculum that provides youth (ages 16-19) who have experienced their parent's incarceration with education on the nature and magnitude of the U.S. criminal justice system, the structure and function of government, the legislative process, effective advocacy techniques, and training on how to use their personal stories to advocate for policy changes that are important to them. The Osborne Association provides family, educational, vocational, treatment and health services to meet the changing needs of those affected by crime and criminal justice system in the U.S. In recent years, Osborne has expanded upon its traditionally adult services to address the issues faced by the young people directly impacted by incarceration. Osborne's Children and Youth Services includes a mixture of after school and weekend programming designed to reduce the common feelings of isolation experienced by children who have an incarcerated parent and build upon their internal assets. (*Tenth year of funding*)

❖ **Parents Helping Parents**
Watertown, MA

Parents Helping Parents (PHP) received \$10,000 to support the part-time position of Program Director of Prison Support Groups, to further its mission of empowering parents to nurture children and prevent child abuse. PHP seeks to prevent child abuse by developing a network of mutual support groups for parents who are isolated, overwhelmed, or too ashamed to ask for help from traditional social service agencies. PHP pursues its mission by operating two supportive programs for parents: 1) a 24 hour helpline that provides telephone counseling and information and referral to parents; and 2) a network of confidential parent support

groups that are led by a facilitator. After 2 years of support from Sills, the number of prison based parent support groups has grown from 0 to 7. The new part time position will help maintain and expand these groups. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ **Partakers**
MA

Partakers, Inc. received \$10,000 to support its College Behind Bars Mentoring Program, which helps incarcerated people to enhance skills critical to completing a college degree, and to build trusting personal relationships. In College Behind Bars Programs, each student is paired with a team of 4 - 6 mentors who visit in twos and correspond regularly. There are three major CBB programs to assist people in prison in pursuing a secondary education through the Boston University Prison Education Program.) *College Behind Bars* is Partakers' primary program and provides mentoring by volunteers from different faith communities, secular groups, and community organizations to incarcerated people who are accepted into BUPEP at MCI Norfolk, and the two prisons for women; MCI Framingham and South Middlesex Correctional Center. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Peace Development Fund (Prison Birth Project)**
MA

The Prison Birth Project received \$15,000 for general operating to support families impacted by incarceration through increasing access to reproductive care and choice in women's jail, and training mothers and trans parents with incarceration experience to become reproductive justice leaders. PBP offers childbirth classes, doula care, and family-centered advocacy at the Women's Correctional Center (WCC) in Chicopee, MA. Its weekly childbirth classes build community behind the wall and educate members about childbirth, legal rights, jail policies, self- advocacy, and self-care. PBP connects all pregnant members with legal partners ready to stand up to the jail if rights are infringed. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.**
Worcester, MA

Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support the Incarcerated Fathers Program, which promotes responsible fathering through counseling support groups at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction and three other locations in Worcester, MA. The program is based on three curricula for inmate fathers: Houses of Healing, Inside-Out Dads and the Nurturing Fathers Program. The program also seeks to serve the families of incarcerated fathers those who may have returned to the home within the last six months and who want to be a part of their child's life. Over the course of one year this program positively impacts over 50 families by improving parenting skills and nurturing a healthy relationship between fathers and their children regardless of incarceration. Funding will specifically support the expansion of the program to provide safe, supportive, and structured in-home or community-based programming for fathers recently released from jail and their children. (*Fifth year of funding*)

❖ **The Fund for the City of New York**

New York, NY

SOS Crown Heights was awarded \$30,000 to support the reduction of gun violence in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. The program is a replication of the Cure Violence anti-gun program model that has been shown to successfully reduce shootings and killings and features five primary components: outreach, public education, community mobilization, faith-based engagement, and use of data. Each outreach worker carries a caseload of up to 15 participants. After identifying and engaging participants, outreach workers help them develop a risk reduction plan that may include anger management, drug treatment, educational support, health services, criminal justice services, or job-training. Outreach workers maintain regular contact with participants, offering them guidance about how to navigate conflicts and engage them in positive activities. Funding will support the program's outreach efforts to divert high-risk individuals from gun violence, which includes 3 SOS outreach workers, 2 outreach workers/hospital responders and 4 violence interrupters. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ South End Community Health Center Boston, MA

South End Community Health Center (SECHC) was awarded \$25,000 to continue working with women who are leaving incarceration and re-entering the community. Funding will support the Partnership to Opportunities for Women in Re-entry (POWR) Program which is collaboration between SECHC and Project Place. The central goal of this program is to help women leaving incarceration find housing, employment and access medical and behavioral healthcare. In recent years, the POWR program has adopted a model with a complimentary clinical focus to treat trauma with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Project Place and SECHC have integrated services such as job training, employment placement, hands-on case management and physical and behavioral health care services to facilitate a fresh start for women by utilizing a “wrap around” model. (*Third year of funding*)

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

St. Mary’s was granted \$25,000 to support families and children in two residential programs who have been impacted by incarceration as well as by trauma, abuse, violence, poverty and homelessness. Funding will support St. Mary’s Home, a residential program for up to 18 pregnant and parenting teens and their children at any one time, and Bridge Home, a residential program for children from birth to age 12, who have been removed from the home due to trauma, abuse or neglect. Funding will enable families and children to receive clinical, trauma-informed care, assessment, programs, and services to help them achieve their emotional well-being and educational and employment opportunities while also addressing the impact of incarceration on their lives. (*Eleventh year of funding*)

❖ Strategies for Youth Cambridge, MA

Strategies for Youth received \$25,000 to support its In the Presence of Children (IPC) Campaign, a set of materials and associated training for police officers to use to mitigate the trauma of children observing the arrest of a parent. The IPC Campaign works with law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to improve police officers' response to children at the time of

parental arrest by promoting the adoption of age-appropriate, trauma-informed, systems-oriented responses and providing materials, training, and assistance.

SFY's mission is to promote a youth development approach among law enforcement officers and to expand age-appropriate interventions for youth, while equipping both officers and youth with the tools they need to interact positively. SFY advocates for reduced reliance on the juvenile justice system for minor offenses, and is the only national organization that approaches this issue both from a juvenile justice and from a youth development perspective. In the past, the Foundation has provided funding to support the creation of standards and training for law enforcement arresting parents in the presence of children. (*Fourth year of funding*)

❖ **Vera Institute of Justice**
New York City, NY

Vera Institute of Justice received \$25,000 to support Common Justice (CJ), a participatory justice project in Brooklyn that brings together the victim, the perpetrator, family and community members impacted by a crime for a face-to-face dialogue to determine an appropriate response to the harm caused. The project, launched in 2009, aims to transform the system's response to serious crime by offering an opportunity for dialogue and healing, as an alternative to a lengthy prison term. The process is designed to make things as right as possible for those harmed by crime, and to hold those responsible accountable to a set of agreements that replace an otherwise lengthy prison term. CJ engages and screens participants, provides urgent and long-term services to harmed parties, prepares parties for their conference, convenes the conferences and supervises responsible parties' completion of the emerging agreements. Funding will allow the organization to successfully navigate the transitional moment by (1) growing, training, and onboarding new staff; (2) continuing to grow and strengthen the men's groups; (3) continuing to grow and demonstrate leadership locally and nationally as it relates to both alternatives to incarceration for violence and to the needs of underserved victims of crime. (*Fifth year of funding*)

❖ **Voice of the Ex-Offender (VOTE)**
New Orleans, LA

VOTE was awarded \$25,000 in general operating support to continue its work increasing civic engagement of Formerly Incarcerated Persons and their families and supporting the economic sustainability and empowerment of these families. Its mission, vision, and theory of social change are focused on lifting up, resourcing, and strengthening the voice and power of communities most affected by mass incarceration. VOTE accomplishes its work through grassroots organizing, building coalitions, and prioritizing movement building. VOTE was founded and is run by Formerly Incarcerated Persons in partnership with allies dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against Formerly Incarcerated Persons. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ **Volunteers of Legal Services**
New York, NY

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) received \$25,000 for the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project (IMLP), to provide incarcerated mothers with access to volunteer attorneys and law students. These attorneys and law students visit incarcerated mothers on a monthly basis and provide them with a wide range of critical legal services. As an organization, VOLS

leverages the good will, resources and talents of New York City's leading law firms to provide pro bono legal assistance to the city's neediest residents. In 2013, nearly 900 attorneys from 50 of the most well respected law firms in New York City volunteered 15,000 hours through the VOLS projects, providing pro bono assistance to more than 3,000 low-income New Yorkers. (*Second year of funding*)

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

The Women's Prison Association received \$25,000 in general operating support for criminal justice-involved women and their families. Funding will support a continuum of services, as well as the flexibility to implement new, innovative services to help women re-join their communities, reunite with their families and establish fulfilling, law-abiding lives after a period of incarceration. WPA's approach prioritizes working collaboratively with women and families toward defining their own goals, laying out plans to achieve them, and taking advantage of an expanded realm of resources and opportunities. WPA's programs and services help women address the factors that put them at risk of criminal justice-involvement including substance abuse, mental illness, a history of abusive relationships, unemployment and poverty. (*Twelfth year of funding*)

Families in Crisis

- ❖ **Abraham House**
Bronx, NY

Abraham House received \$25,000 to support its After School Program. The After School Program provides a safe haven and comprehensive services to help Mott Haven youth move ahead to the next academic grade, graduate from high school and go on to college, and stay free of juvenile delinquency and criminal activity. Programming and services include homework help, tutoring, academic workshops, computer access, and college preparation activities, and education enrichment with a specific math and reading focus. To further support students' success, the program also serves parents and families as a whole.

The mission of Abraham House is to prevent criminal relapse among the incarcerated and to stop the intergenerational cycle of crime by offering individuals, youth, and families affected by incarceration and other societal ills a place of hope and community where lives can be rebuilt, families mended, and lessons learned; where men, women, and children receive the spiritual, social and practical tools to become productive citizens. (*First year of funding*)

- ❖ **Community Connections for Youth**
Bronx, NY

Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) received \$25,000 for general operating to strength group supports for parents, CCFY's Parent Peer Coaching and Youth Mentoring Programs. CCFY is a Bronx-based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower grassroots faith and neighborhood organization to develop effective community-driven alternative-to-incarceration (ATI) programs for youth. Responding to the crisis created by the overreliance on youth incarceration, CCFY seeks to develop the power and capacity of directly affected communities to develop effective alternatives for addressing the problems of youth crime and delinquency through a threefold approach that includes: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Training and Technical Assistance; (3) Demonstration Projects. Past funding has supported the South Bronx Community Connections initiative (SBCC), which mobilizes grassroots faith and neighborhood organizations in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx to divert youth from further juvenile justice system involvement. (*Fourth year of funding*)

- ❖ **Dartmouth College: Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth**
Hanover, NH

The Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD) program was granted \$25,000 to support the Bronx cohort through year four of the 4 phase/year program. The SEAD program empowers promising high school students from under-resourced backgrounds to thrive in high school and college, and provides Dartmouth students transformative opportunities for service and leadership. For its high school students, SEAD encourages academic preparedness and personal growth through specially designed courses, year-round mentoring, and extensive interactions with successful college students. For its Dartmouth staff and volunteers, SEAD offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn with others that have different, and often challenging, life experiences. (*Third year of funding*)

- ❖ **Girls Educational and Mentoring Services**
NY

GEMS received \$10,000 of general operating funds to support programs which include support services, short-term and crisis care, alternative to incarceration, family court advocacy and housing support. Support services include Youth Development, Youth Leadership, Youth Fellowship, and Educational Initiative and employment readiness programming, as well as services designed to help meet members' basic needs such as food, clothing, crisis support, and housing.

Girls Educational and Mentoring services (GEMS) was founded in 1998 in response to an overwhelming need for services for girls and young women at risk for or experiencing commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking (CSE), whose particular needs were not being met by other traditional social service agencies. GEMS is one of the largest providers of services to CSE youth in the US. Services are based on the needs and interests of survivors and all programming incorporates survivors' ideas, input, and expertise. GEMS' programs include support services, short-term and crisis care, alternative to incarceration, family court advocacy and housing support. (*First year of funding*)

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

Julie's Family Learning Program was awarded \$25,000 to support general operations of the 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 integrated services including high quality child-care, Montessori pre-school, and parenting and life skills education. Robert Monahan recently transitioned into the position of Executive Director and co-founders, Sisters Jean and Louise, have assumed the responsibility of running the new Family Wellness and Support Program. This program, which was launched this year, provides counseling and recreational activities to additional women who are not yet ready to enroll in the full Julie's Family Learning Center Program. (*Eleventh year of funding*)

❖ **The Hope Program**
Brooklyn, NY

The Hope Program received \$25,000 to support HOPE's work with youth (ages 18-24) through the Empowering Youth in Crisis through Employment Program. This program focuses on positive adult role models and mentoring, motivational interviewing, counseling opportunities for career exploration and job readiness workshops and programs. This year, HOPE plans to expand their services to 30% more youth, with a goal of serving 70 youth in 2016. Funding would specifically support a portion of youth program expenses, which include daily meals, curriculum materials, adult basic education testing, instructor salary, classroom space, MetroCards, etc. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services**
East Harlem, New York

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services (LSA) received \$25,000 to support enhancement of the recently renamed early childhood education program, Parenting and Child Development Program (PCD) (formerly called the Home-Based with Socialization), LSA's early childhood education program for infants/toddlers, primarily immigrant children, who are growing up in adversity in East Harlem. LSA's mission is to provide pre and post-natal

services and early childhood education to “the poorest of the poor”. Funding will support the PCD Program, which provides home- and center-based educational, and socialization services for infants and toddlers and their parents/primary caregivers. The purpose of PCD is to prepare children for pre-school, by teaching the skills that enable them to successfully transition into pre-k/Head Start, with a level of readiness that facilitates future scholastic advancement. (*Second 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 \$25,000 for the Children’s Therapy Program, which provides therapeutic interventions for children between the ages of 0 and 12 to help address the symptoms of trauma experienced after witnessing family and domestic violence. Individual therapy is the primary intervention for children older than five, but STEPS also incorporates family and parent support sessions to provide comprehensive treatment. In addition to family work, STEPS facilitates a Children’s Group (ages 6-11) which helps participants realize that they are not alone in their experience of family violence, as well as the evidence-informed Parenting Journey group for parents to reflect on their own experiences in order to identify both constructive and destructive patterns that they may be repeating as parents. (*Eleventh year of funding*)

❖ **University Settlement**
New York, NY

University Settlement received \$25,000 to support its Family Enrichment Program (FEP), which helps high-risk families living in public housing developments get off to a healthy start by addressing their needs for early childhood and parenting support. It does so by leveraging its community center spaces in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, which are located within New York City Housing Authority developments. The FEP’s multi-pronged support model combines home visiting, parent child groups, and systems navigation assistance. The University Settlement was the first settlement house in the United States. With a mission to improve the life circumstances of low-income people and the communities in which they live, University Settlement engages over 30,000 New York City residents through their network of services, which span 30 sites throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. Key program areas include early childhood care and education, youth development, eviction prevention, literacy, mental health, and older adult programs. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Youth Represent**
New York, NY

Youth Represent received \$25,000 for general operating funds, to support comprehensive legal representation to young, low-income New Yorkers. Youth Represent’s approach is three-pronged: they partner with social service organizations across New York; provide direct representation to youth in various legal arenas; and advocate to change laws to make it possible for court-involved New Yorkers to reenter society. Funding will support the legal representation and advocacy that the organization offers to young, marginalized New Yorkers under the age of 25. (*Third year of funding*)

Environmental Justice

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

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights was granted \$15,000 for general operating support. AEHR's mission is to uphold the human right to live in a healthy environment. AEHR holds companies and the government accountable when this right is violated, and they advocate for public policy that support this right. General operating funds will be used for litigation, advocacy, and public awareness campaigns aimed at protecting families and communities from toxic threats to their health and environment. (*Twelfth year of funding*)

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

Alternatives for Community and Environment received a \$25,000 grant for continued support of the *Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project* (REEP), which nurtures youth development and leadership through an environmental justice curriculum, organizing and membership program, and youth-led campaigns in Roxbury, Dorchester, and across the City of Boston. Funds from the Sills Family Foundation will allow REEP to develop leaders; grow the organization's membership base; invest in youth-led environmental justice campaigns; and support school-based action projects. REEP provides personal, academic and career support for young people, including support for court-involved youth, through informal mental, academic, and emotional support. The mission of ACE is to empower communities of color low-income populations to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environment justice. (*Twelfth year of funding*)

- ❖ **Coming Clean**
Brattleboro, VT

Coming Clean received a \$25,000 grant to advance the organization's Strategic Initiative for Environmental Health and Justice. This project will feature the organization's leadership and capacity support for collaborative organizing to advance environmental health and justice issues. The key focus areas of this Initiative include: Winning Smart Policies that better protect the health and safety of vulnerable populations; Holding Corporations Accountable for providing safe products to vulnerable, at-risk communities; and Eliminating High Priority Toxic Chemical Exposures while implementing safe substitutes and building momentum for comprehensive reform. Coming Clean works to transform economic injustices, racial discrimination, and pollution-related health disparities into environmental justice, economic justice, social justice and better democracy. Collaborative leaders and participants design and execute projects through seven inter-connected workgroups: Business, Economy & Jobs; Communications; Emerging Technologies; Energy & Chemicals; Fenceline Action; Markets; and Policy Integration. (*Fourth year of funding*)

- ❖ **Mercury Policy Project**
Montpelier, VT

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a \$25,000 grant to enhance the organization's diverse coalition efforts to reduce mercury exposure, particularly among low

income communities and people of color. MPP was founded in 1998 and promotes policies to reduce and where feasible eliminate mercury uses, reduce the export and trafficking of mercury, and significantly reduce mercury exposures at the local, national, and international levels. The organization's current objective is twofold: first to develop a strategy to reduce exposure to skin-lightening creams containing mercury, and second, to raise media awareness and lobby decision makers to urge federal agencies to develop a more protective US advisory. (*Twelfth year of funding*)

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

Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN) received a \$10,000 grant for general operating, which will fund its ongoing efforts to hold local industrial plants accountable for negative health effects caused by toxic pollution in the community. MEAN leads the effort to increase community engagement and legal advocacy for Mossville; leverage shareholder activism; and preserve the history and memory of Mossville. Past Sills funding has been used to support 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. (*Eighth year of funding*)

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

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) was granted a \$25,000 grant for the Child Safe Products Act Advocacy Campaign. WE ACT is a non-profit, community-based membership organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT's model prioritizes community organizing, education and training, advocacy and research, and public policy development. Funds will specifically support efforts to advocate for the passage of the Child Safe Products Act in New York State, which will require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to publish a list of chemicals of high concern. Products containing these chemicals pose high health risks and if passed, this bill will require that all such products be reported to the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse and, by 2018, be prohibited from being sold in New York state. (*Eighth year of funding*)

Sills 2015 Arts and Culture Grants

❖ **ArtsWestchester**
White Plains, NY

ArtsWestchester was awarded a \$23,000 grant to support two programs in Mount Vernon and Yonkers: \$18,000 to support six multi-session performing, visual and/or literary art residencies at low income, county subsidized senior residences; \$5,000 to support four multi-session art workshops at Westhab's PEAK and Elm Street after school programs. The artist residencies are designed to foster socialization and positive peer interaction by bringing people together for a shared, art-making experience. Workshops engage participants in challenging and creative activities such as making a mural or participating in a creative movement project. They are custom- designed to meet specific needs of each population. For youth, creative experience provides opportunities for at-risk youth to use art as a means for self-expression, improve self-esteem and the ability to work cooperatively with peers. For senior citizens, art workshops encourage socialization and reinforce cognitive and social skills. (*Fourth year of funding*)

❖ **Brooklyn Academy of Music**
Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Academy of Music received a \$10,000 grant for general operating, which includes Education programs at the Brooklyn Museum to provide free, low-cost and high-quality learning opportunities to address the needs of students, teachers, children, teens, and adults alike, through School Programs, Youth and Family Programs, and Adult Programs. These programs are central to the Museum's mission of instilling in visitors a lifelong appreciation of the arts, and for being a destination where all feel welcome. (*Fourth year of funding*)

❖ **Brooklyn Ballet**
Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Ballet was awarded a grant of \$20,000 to continue the Brooklyn Ballet in the Houses program for the 2015-16 school year. The program brings ballet into public schools and provides between 60 and 180 2nd, 3rd, and 6th graders at each school take part in five weeks of free, in-school ballet classes taught by Brooklyn Ballet teaching artists. Students learn to choreograph their own pieces and begin to explore the immense creative, emotional, and physical benefits of dance. Problem solving, comparison and contrast, verbal clarification of movement, and analysis are all addressed in fun yet challenging ways. Brooklyn Ballet is a professional, not-for-profit dance company dedicated to artistic excellence and education, reflecting Brooklyn's diverse communities. (*Second year of funding*)

❖ **Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences**
Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Museum of Art received a grant for \$25,000, \$10,000 of which will go toward general operating, and \$15,000 will provide support for the art education school partnership program with PS1, an elementary school located in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. Support will enable the Museum to continue to offer their multi-visit art-making program, which utilizes the Museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions to strengthen learning of classroom curricula for teachers and students. In the next year, the program will serve approximately 270 students and 10 teachers in 2nd and 3rd grade, and provide students

and teachers with opportunities for sustained exposure to the visual arts as a way to promote lifelong engagement. The Brooklyn Museum's mission is to act as a bridge between the rich artistic heritage of world cultures, as embodied in its collections, and the unique experience of each visitor. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ **Brooklyn Public Library**
Brooklyn, NY

The Brooklyn Public Library was awarded a \$23,000 grant for its Creative Aging programs serving older adults throughout Brooklyn. Since its launch, Creative Aging has become a core program among BPL's services for older adults providing much needed structured opportunities to learn, create and socialize for nearly 500 older adults. The program is based on a vision for mobilizing the trusted, neutral, information-rich public space of the library to deliver arts education for and with older adults by building effective collaborations between teaching artists and librarians. Teaching artists and librarians find that they share a vision for positive aging and bring complementary strengths to designing and implementing meaningful programs for older adults. In the coming year, BPL hopes to implement 11 Creative Aging programs, of which three would be multilingual, and serve a minimum of 165 older adults. (*Second year of funding*)

❖ **Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy**
Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy (BYCA) received a \$15,000 grant for its financial aid expansion initiative, to significantly expand access to BYCA's world-class programs among low-income New York City young people. Founded in 1992, BYCA is dedicated to offering music training and choral performances to enrich the lives of its students and community. Through music study and professional-level performances, BYCA unites children of diverse backgrounds and helps them develop into confident and expressive musicians and individuals. In 2014-15, a restructuring of BYCA's training divisions and a growing Neighborhood Expansion Program is enabling BYCA to increase the number of students served, reaching a milestone of enrolling 500 choristers. Sills funding will support BYCA's financial aid commitments to ensure continued service to all students without regard to their ability to pay. (*Second year of funding*)

❖ **Community Word Project**
New York, NY

Community Word Project was awarded \$20,000 for its Collaborative Arts Residency Program. The program provides a sustained experience in the arts that helps students develop life-long tools and skills including literacy, creative thinking, teamwork, and public speaking, to unlock creative potential and prepare them to take their places as leaders. CWP works closely with partnering teachers to integrate into the classroom curriculum and provides weekly workshops that integrate individual and collaborative creative writing, visual arts, photography, music/rhythm, and performance to ensure that every student can experience success. In the coming year, Community Word Project will expand its reach to include 64 classrooms at 18 public schools and community sites, with the goal of helping more than 1,850 underserved students develop their individual and collective voices in 2015-16. (*Fourth year of funding*)

❖ **Groundswell**
Brooklyn, NY

Groundswell was granted \$15,000 for core support of artist fees, youth stipends, materials expenses, Project Manager and Youth Development staff salaries, travel, and mural postcard printing. The goal of this grant is to engage at least 250 underserved, marginalized, and economically disadvantaged young people in art. Groundswell brings together youth, artists, and community partners to make public art that advances social change for a more just and equitable world. Since its founding, thousands of youth in its programs have worked with professional artists and community organizations to transform over 450 public spaces, creating visible change in over 100 neighborhoods that are infrequently the focus of beautification projects. Groundswell projects raise awareness of critical social justice issues, inspire stewardship of public spaces, drive collaboration and civic participation, and strengthen relationships between youth and their communities. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ **Prospect Park Alliance, Inc.**

Prospect Park Alliance was granted \$5,000 for general operating, including the vital maintenance and preservation of Prospect Park, and the continuation of the educational, cultural, and volunteer activities that engage the community of Park visitors. The Alliance provides many recreational facilities and programs to visitors of the Park, including award winning playgrounds, acres of playing fields, a tennis center, and our newly-opened LeFrak Center at Lakeside with boating, bike rentals, ice skating in the winter months, and roller skating in the summer, along with a water feature for children. The Alliance runs 800 public educational programs each year through the Prospect Park Audubon Center, located at the Park's historic Boathouse, and Lefferts Historic House, an 18th century farmhouse where children and families learn about the lives of early settlers. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Shakespeare Society
Brooklyn, NY**

Shakespeare Society received a \$20,000 grant in support of The Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders from the Hunts Point neighborhood spend the school year exploring, researching and performing a Shakespearean play. This year's selection will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Through a combination of close reading, comprehension activities, and acting and rehearsal techniques students will develop their capacity for teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. Ensemble members work with the original text, learning to read, comprehend, speak, memorize, and perform a Shakespeare play. Students who participate in the program are better prepared for future academic and creative pursuits and allow the young actors to share their accomplishments through community performance. (*Third year of funding*)

Sills 2015 Capacity Building Grants

❖ **Circle**
Barre, VT

Circle received a three-year capacity building grant of \$105,000 in 2014. This year, Circle was awarded \$34,000 of the three-year grant for the development and implementation of a new strategic plan. Circle is facing a transitional period, primarily due to the unfortunate and unstoppable ageing of a number of long-term staff and board members. Funding will allow the organization to take the time to examine its current status, look into the future, and implement changes to ensure that the organization is upholding its mission of ending domestic violence in a more reflective manner, while simultaneously increasing its ability to positively impact the lives and communities Circle serves.

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

Hour Children received a three-year capacity building grant of \$150,000 in 2014. This year, Hour Children was awarded \$50,000 of the three-year grant to support and solidify efforts to renovate and repair the facilities used by the supportive housing programs. Funding will be used specifically for renovations of the 11-bedroom house in Richmond Hill (Queens) that Hour Children recently obtained from the Sisters of St. Joseph. The building needs considerable renovations and repairs before it can be reoccupied. Once completed, this building will provide housing for several families and a number of women without children. Hour Children hopes to begin this project this fall. In future years, Hour Children will use funds to repair two of their other facilities that are in need of repairs.

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

Julie's Family Learning Program (JFLP) received a two-year capacity building grant of \$80,000 in 2014. This year, JFLP was awarded \$30,000 to enhance fundraising capacity and support the transition from a "Founders" model to an Executive Director model. Funds will be used specifically to double the number of hours of the Development Associate in the hopes of securing more revenue and expand JFLP's social networking Platform. Funds will also be used to support the transition from the co-founders to the new Executive Director. This process will include planning sessions, staff reorientation, and funding to retain JFLP's co-founders in a part time capacity to design and implement the new Family Wellness and Support Program.

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

St. Mary's Center for Women and Children (St. Mary's) received a two- year grant of \$40,000 in 2014. This year, St. Mary's was awarded \$20,000 for a strategic planning process and development of an impact measurement infrastructure, which will enable St. Mary's to respond to the increasing social, clinical, and educational needs of families. St. Mary's plans to move from informally "doing quality" in its programs to a more strategic, structured measurement of its work that will identify indicators of client success and evaluate the organization's effectiveness. This process will allow St. Mary's to greatly improve its

effectiveness in operations and build its capacity to efficiently and effectively support families.

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

Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families/STEPS to End Family Violence (STEPS) received a three-year grant of \$90,000 in 2014. This year, STEPS was awarded \$30,000 to strengthen overall internal evaluation and reporting capacity through the design of program specific logic models; the identification of evaluation measures and tools; and the development of method to efficiently collect and analyze information. During the first phase of this process, STEPS will hire a part-time consultant to work with STEPS to develop logic models and identify appropriate assessment instruments. STEPS also hopes to identify a set of tools that can be applied throughout all programs that will be efficiently implemented by staff.

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

Women's Prison Association (WPA) received a three-year capacity building grant of \$90,000 in 2014. This year, WPA was awarded \$30,000 to strengthen and expand the volunteer-led client services and WPA's Women Care Program. WPA will expand client services and streamline the way they manage volunteerism by hiring a Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator will be responsible for community outreach; and screening, training, scheduling and tracking of volunteers. WPA anticipates positive outcomes for clients as well as volunteers. Last year, Sills Family Foundation awarded WPA a capacity building grant to further staff and organizational development by further implementing Moving On: A Program for At-Risk Women.

Sills 2015 Next Generation Grants

❖ 350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund

350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund received a \$9,750 grant for general operations, including support for 350.org's Spring 2016 mobilization in the Bay Area, building climate justice allyship in the climate movement, and mobilizing, training, and working with volunteers to expand and support their effectiveness.

The 350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund aims to provide a high level of awareness, knowledge, and ongoing science-based education about climate change and ways to address it in the Bay Area and beyond. It provides action-oriented education in conferences, speakers' bureau, public events, media outreach, and community organizing to achieve healthy and sustainable communities for all. 350BACEF works to achieve clean renewable energy, energy efficiency, and carbon neutral transportation and land use. (*First year of funding*)

❖ Alliance for Climate Education

The Alliance for Climate Education received \$15,000 to fund its education and leadership programs, with a focus on New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area. ACE's mission is to educate young people on the science of climate change and empower them to take action. It fulfills its mission through two core programs: the ACE Assembly and the Action Fellowship. The ACE Assembly is an in-school presentation that helps students see climate change as the most urgent issue of our time. In partnership with Yale, Stanford, and George Mason University, the study has been published in the peer-reviewed journal, Climatic Change. (*First year of funding*)

❖ Boys & Girls Clubs of King County

The Boys and Girls Club of King County SRV branch received \$15,000 to support the Safe Passages Project, and specifically for staffing, uniforms, equipment, supplies, and marketing materials.

BGCKC is the lead agency coordinating and managing the Safe Passage Project in the Rainier Beach Campus area in Southeast Seattle. The Safe Passage Project is a model that communities across the country have used with great success to ensure that youth are able to get to and from school safely. The innovation of the Rainier Beach Campus Safe Passage Project is to integrate a powerful network of school personnel, parent volunteers, community volunteers and youth volunteers with the professional efforts of the SE Network and Rainier Beach Campus Safe Passage (RBCSP) Team. The RBCSP Team will staff street corners, maintain a visible presence and monitor designated "safety zones" during after school hours from 2-6pm to ensure youth safely transition from school to home by way of walking, metro/light rail or from school to an after school activity and/or program. (*First year of funding*)

❖ Brooklyn Community Foundation Brooklyn NY

The Brooklyn Community Foundation received \$15,000 to support the Brooklyn School-Based Restorative Justice Project in four public schools in the borough. Funds would be used to identify, train and support a full-time Restorative Justice Coordinator in each school (through local community-based organizations) and evaluate the impact of this work.

Brooklyn Community Foundation has initiated a partnership with the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE) and the Mayor's Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline to launch a four-year Restorative Justice Project in four Brooklyn schools in SY 2016. The School-Based Restorative Justice Project is targeted to schools with high suspension and/or arrest rates in search of effective alternatives to punitive disciplinary approaches. Four community-based organizations with a demonstrated track record in effective restorative justice practices have been selected through a competitive RFP process to partner with each school to design and coordinate a whole school restorative justice approach by SY16. Further, all project participants have committed to developing culturally responsive and racially just restorative justice models. In cooperation with the project partners, Brooklyn Community Foundation seeks ultimately to develop a model for restorative justice and school-based disciplinary reform that can be scaled across the entire New York City school system. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Girls Education and Mentoring Services, Inc.**

GEMS received \$15,000 to support general operating costs, and allow GEMS to enrich its Support Services, including Holistic Case Management, Youth Development, Youth Leadership, Youth Fellowship, and Educational Initiative (EI). GEMS will enrich the agency's Holistic Case Management by providing mental health assessments, individual and group counseling, ensuring members' basic needs are met, and through the agency's trauma-informed programming. General operating funds will also go towards supporting the basic needs of GEMS members, including clothing, crisis services, food, Metrocards, shelter, and stipends, costs associated with obtaining identification, healthcare, and program supplies, and staff time for providing direct services to members. This grant will also support otherwise underfunded aspects of GEMS programs and overall administration, allowing the agency and its programs to continue to flourish. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **RJOY**

RJOY received \$19,000 to fund general operations, specifically for three areas: (1) school-based RJ; (2) RJ juvenile justice and youth empowerment; (3) community-based RJ, including a national RJ-based truth and reconciliation initiative to transform violence against African-Americans. Due in large part to RJOY's successful systems change advocacy, training, technical assistance, and demonstration programs since 2006, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) today has a \$2.3 million RJ budget, and a large staff, including full-time restorative justice school coordinators at 30 school sites in the district, plus almost 7 managers at the district level.

RJOY interrupts cycles of violence, incarceration and wasted lives by promoting a cultural shift from punitive responses to youthful wrongdoing that increase harm to restorative approaches that heal it. It provides training and technical assistance, launches demonstration programs, and engages in advocacy and public education to promote policy shifts in Oakland and beyond. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ **Safe Passages
Oakland, CA**

Safe Passages was granted \$15,000 for general operating and development efforts, primarily:

1. Prospecting for local corporate and institutional donors.
2. Supporting local donor cultivation events.
3. Developing communication materials targeted for corporate and individual donors.
4. Funding of a part-time staff position to work with the management team on the above mentioned deliverables.

Safe Passages continues to prospect for new supporters. In the past two, years, Safe Passages has been diversifying its current board of directors composition to include representatives of the business and philanthropic sectors with the goal of expanding the organization's base of support. (*Third year of funding*)

❖ **Union of Concerned Scientists**

UCS received \$10,000 to fund its program Integration Solutions to Support a 50 Percent Renewable Energy Future in California. California leads the nation in the transition to clean, safe and renewable forms of electricity. The state recently passed the most ambitious clean energy effort in the nation, Senate Bill (SB) 350, which mandates 50 percent renewable energy by 2030. In order to comply with federal grid reliability standards and requirements in the newly enacted SB 350, the state's largest grid operator, California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will be the venues for several proceedings that will significantly impact the way California manages the grid to accommodate at least 50 percent renewable energy by 2030. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Wallowa Resources**

Wallowa Resources received \$15,000 to fund general operations and programs linking forest restoration with regenerative agriculture. The project will pilot the use of mobile biomass pyrolysis units in Wallowa County as a means of utilizing the by-products of forest restoration and fuel reduction work. The products of biomass pyrolysis include biochar, bio-oil and gases including methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide. Biochar is the principal output when pyrolysis occurs at lower temperatures. Funds will be used to lease a mobile pyrolysis unit for the trial runs, and cover project management time, as well as the resources for monitoring and analysis of the outputs and impacts. (*First year of funding*)

❖ **Youth Voices Center**

Youth Voices Center was granted \$10,000 to support the facilitation of its Power of Peace workshops. The program is a conflict resolution and anti-violence initiative focused on developing leadership, teamwork, collaboration, decision-making, respect for others and self, and cultural awareness. The overarching goal of YVC is to promote positive youth development and to lower the incidence of interpersonal violence among teens. YVC aims to achieve this goal by disseminating its Power of Peace program to a critical mass of students that represent a cross-section of their respective school, community center, or youth group. By helping these young people to dispel negative stereotypes of themselves and others and increase their capacity for empathy, YVC hopes to create safer school communities and more confident adolescents. (*First year of funding*)

Sills 2015 Grants Summary

Strategic Grants

	Name of Organization	2015 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
1	Abraham House, Inc.	After School Program	\$25,000
2	Advocates for Environmental Human Rights	General operating	\$15,000
3	Alternatives for Community and Environment	Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)	\$25,000
4	Center for Children and Families, Columbia University School of Nursing	Shared Parenting	\$25,000
5	Circle	Housing Options and Programming for Battered Women Charged with Crimes	\$25,000
6	Coming Clean	Strategic Initiative for Environmental Health and Justice	\$25,000
7	Community Connections for Youth	General operating	\$25,000
8	Community Works West	Two family strengthening programs within One Family	\$50,000
9	Correctional Association of NYC	Women in Prisons Project	\$16,500
10	Dartmouth College - Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD)	Summer Enrichment Dartmouth	\$25,000
11	Echoes of Incarceration	Teen Workshop Project	\$20,000
12	Fund for the City of New York	SOS Crown Heights	\$30,000
13	Future Link	Echoes of Incarceration Teen Workshop Project	\$20,000
14	Girls Educational and Mentoring Services	General operating support	\$10,000
15	Greenhope Services for Women	Rising Mothers Program	\$25,000
16	Hope Program, Inc.	Youth Programming	\$25,000
17	Hour Children, Inc.	Children's Centers of Bedford Hills and Taconic; and post-release community based programs g	\$50,000
18	Housing + Solutions	Family Therapist Position	\$25,000
19	JustLeadership USA	General operating	\$25,000
20	Julie's Family Learning Program	Adult and Children's Services	\$25,000
21	Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service	Parenting and child development program	\$25,000

22	Lund	Kids-A-Part Program	\$25,000
23	Mercury Policy Project	"Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign	\$25,000
24	Mossville Environmental Action Now	General operating	\$10,000
25	Northern Lights	General operating	\$20,000
26	Osborne Association	Youth Action Council	\$25,000
27	Parents Helping Parents	Hire part time program director for Prison Parent Support Groups	\$10,000
28	Partakers, Inc.	College Behind Bars Mentoring Program	\$10,000
29	Peace Development Fund, Inc.	Prison Birth Project	\$15,000
30	Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	Incarcerated Fathers Program	\$25,000
31	South End Community Health Center	Partnership for Opportunity for Women in Re-entry (POWR)	\$25,000
32	St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	St. Mary's Home and Bridge Home	\$25,000
33	STEPS to End Family Violence (Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families)	Children's Therapy Program	\$25,000
34	Strategies for Youth, Inc.	In the Presence of Children Campaign	\$25,000
35	University Settlement	Family Enrichment Program	\$25,000
36	Vera Institute of Justice	Common Justice	\$25,000
37	Voice Of The Ex-offender	General operating	\$25,000
38	Volunteers of Legal Service	Incarcerated Mothers Law Project	\$25,000
39	West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.	Child Safe Products Act Advocacy Campaign	\$25,000
40	Women's Prison Association	General operating	\$35,000*
41	Youth Represent	General operating	\$25,000
Total Strategic Grants:			\$956,500

*Includes a matching grant of \$10,000

Arts and Culture Grants

Name of Organization	2015 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
ArtsWestchester	Seniors Program and Youth Program	\$23,000
Brooklyn Academy of Music	General operating	\$10,000

Brooklyn Ballet	Brooklyn Ballet in the Houses Program	\$20,000
Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences	General operating	\$10,000
Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences	P.S. 1 School Partnership	\$15,000
Brooklyn Public Library	Creative Aging Program	\$23,000
Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy	Financial Aid Expansion Project	\$15,000
Community-Word Project	Collaborative Arts Residency	\$20,000
Groundswell	General operating and Staff Development	\$15,000
Prospect Park Alliance, Inc.	General operating	\$5,000
The Shakespeare Society	Hunts Point Children's Program	\$20,000
Total Arts and Culture Grants:		\$176,000

Capacity Building Grants

Name of Organization	2015 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
Circle	Strategic planning	\$34,000
Hour Children, Inc.	Renovations and repairs to the facilities used by the supportive housing programs.	\$50,000
Julie's Family Learning Program	Enhance fundraising capacity	\$30,000
St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	Strategic planning	\$20,000
STEPS to End Family Violence/Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families	Strengthening overall internal evaluation and reporting capacity	\$30,000
Women's Prison Association	Strengthen and expand volunteer-led client services	\$30,000
	Total Capacity Building Grants:	\$194,000

Next Generation Grants

Name of Organization	2015 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund	General operating	\$9,750
Alliance for Climate Education Inc	Support education and leadership programs	\$15,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County	Safe Passage Project	\$15,000
Brooklyn Community Foundation	Restoration Justice Program	\$15,000
Girls Educational and Mentoring Services	General operating	\$15,000
Safe Passages	General operating, development and fundraising	\$15,000
RJOY	General operating	\$19,000
Wallowa Resources	General operating, forest restoration projects	\$15,000
Youth Voices Center	Power of Peace workshops	\$10,000
Union of Concerned Scientists, Inc.	Integrated Solutions project	\$10,000
	Total Next Generation Grants:	\$138,750

2015 Trustee Discretionary Grants

The 3 trustees of the Sills Family Foundation made a total of 23 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$500 to \$25,000, and totaling \$180,000.

Art Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
350.org	\$2,000
Alano Club Of Portland	\$2,500
Cambridge Friends School	\$25,000
Ecology Center	\$1,500
Global Giving Project #14518	\$1,500
High Fives Non-Profit Foundation	\$2,500
Jewish Family& Community Services of the East Bay	\$1,500
Oakland Leaf	\$500
Refugee Transitions	\$1,000
School Is Open	\$5,000
The Khaled Hosseini Foundation	\$1,000
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports	\$10,000
Youth Uprising	\$1,000

Peter Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Children's Defense Fund	\$2,500
Citizen's Committee for Children of NY	\$2,500
College and Community Fellowship -- Financial and other types of support for women with criminal records seeking higher education	\$5,000
Corporate Accountability International -- works on international water, tobacco and global warming issues	\$5,000
Family Center of Washington County (VT)	\$2,500
JLUSA -- helped pay for annual fundraiser	\$5,000

Rutgers Early College Humanities Program -- summer education for inner city kids	\$2,500
Stroum Jewish Community Center (Mercer Island, WA) -- school scholarships	\$5,000
Twinfield Together Mentoring Program -- Mentoring for Vermont school kids	\$5,000
Vermont Foodbank	\$5,000
VSA Vermont -- Arts programs for the disabled	\$5,000
Ward Brook Center -- helps Aids-infected women in Rwanda	\$5,000

Deborah Iarussi

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Amazon Conservation Association	\$250
Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle	\$1,500
Family Services of Westchester	\$4,000
International Rescue Committee - Syrian Refugee Crisis	\$250
Michael J Fox Foundation	\$20,000
New Rochelle Council on the Arts	\$2,500
New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence	\$2,500
New Rochelle Public Library Foundation	\$500
Planned Parenthood Federation of America	\$250
Pratt Institute - School of Architecture Rome Program	\$7,416
Retts Syndrome Research Trust	\$1,000
Songcatchers	\$2,000
The Record Company	\$5,000
The Sharing Shelf	\$2,000
Trustees of Hampshire College-Denice O'Neill Scholarship	\$8,334
Willie May Rock Camp for Girls- scholarship for girls impacted by incarceration	\$2,500

