



# Sills Family Foundation

## 2017 Annual Report

## **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 three areas:

- 1) Comprehensive support for families in crisis, with a special focus on families impacted by incarceration
- 2) Support to communities in need through improved access to early education and reduction of neighborhood violence
- 3) Environmental justice

In addition to these focus areas, the Foundation has two additional grantmaking committees. The Arts and Culture Committee funds organizations that engage with underserved communities through the arts and also funds special arts and culture initiatives. The Second Generation Fund supports programs for high-risk youth, new immigrants, as well as programs addressing climate change.

## **2017 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview**

In 2017, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$1,724,500, a decrease from the 2016 total of \$1,929,704. Of this, the Board awarded \$990,000 through its core grantmaking process, \$98,000 through a special capacity building program, \$263,000 through its Arts & Culture grantmaking initiative, \$180,000 as trustee-directed discretionary grants, and \$183,500 through a mission driven selection process managed by a group of next generation foundation members. The Foundation awarded grants to a total of 38 organizations through its core grantmaking program, 13 Arts & Culture grants, 5 new capacity building and 17 next generation grants in New York, 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 is highly welcome. This year the Foundation has been able to make additional 5 multi-year capacity building grants to long-standing grantees. These capacity building grants are intended to support an organization through a period of structural change and internal development. This year the Foundation also undertook a survey of its grantees to evaluate the grantees experience of applying for support. The results showed that our grantees find our application and reporting process accessible and manageable and feel the process works very well.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to focus on programs for families impacted by the criminal justice system. This effort has extended to addressing the inequities in the bail system, preventing juvenile detentions, and supporting legal efforts to level the playing field. These grants also provide support to programs that work to strengthen the parent/child bond during incarceration through supporting transportation for visits, creating child-sensitive visiting areas in correctional facilities, providing parenting education classes to incarcerated parents, as well as supporting families through the re-entry period. The Foundation has begun to play a role in deepening policy makers and service providers' capacity in this field. The Sills Family Foundation is proud to be a member of the NY Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents, as well as the New York Youth Justice Initiative. 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 in recognition that the burden of environmental damage is disproportionately carried by disadvantaged communities.

The Foundation supports organizations doing critical work in providing services to families in crisis, ensuring that the youngest children of families in poverty are receiving high quality early education, and that families are given the support needed to reach their highest potential.

The Arts and Culture Committee believes that arts can be used as a means to strengthen the capacities of individuals and communities. The committee supports organizations that provide enrichment to under-resourced schools, community based programs, and that bring senior citizens together to participate in creative and community building experiences. This committee has begun a special initiatives program that will be offering larger grants to certain organizations that align closely with the foundations priorities.

The Second Generation Committee of the Foundation continues to clarify and deepen its focus. This group made grants in three primary areas: addressing climate change, interventions and supports for high-risk youth, and this year the committee has added an additional focus area of support to high-need immigrant communities. 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.

The Sills Family Foundation is committed to supporting the most vulnerable in our society. In 2017 the foundation has begun to explore ways in which to increase support to vulnerable immigrant populations and others negatively impacted by the US political climate.

## **Sills 2017 Strategic Grants**

Grant descriptions are organized by primary focus areas.

### **Families Impacted by Incarceration**

#### **Brooklyn Defender Services**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Brooklyn Defender Services received \$25,000 to support its Incarcerated Parents Project (IPP). Brooklyn Defender Services provides supported legal representation to about 40,000 indigent Brooklyn residents annually. For many of BDS's clients, poverty, trauma, mental illness, and substance abuse are the driving forces behind their involvement in the criminal or child welfare systems. To effectively and compassionately address the challenges their clients face, the organization has created specialized units that provide individualized services to clients with overlapping criminal and family court issues. The IPP is a replicable service model that reaches across BDS's various practice areas to ensure that incarcerated parents don't face family dissolution as a result of their incarceration. Grant funding will be used to provide seamless pre-entry services including planning, social work services and referrals. (*Second year of funding*)

## **Brooklyn Public Library**

*Brooklyn, NY*

The Brooklyn Public Library was awarded \$25,000 to support its TeleStory Program. The Brooklyn Public Library has a mission of ensuring the preservation and transmission of society's knowledge, history, and culture, and to provide Brooklyn's residents with free, open access to information for education, reference and recreation. To achieve this mission, the Library has historically focused on the needs of children, youth and families, while developing new programs and resources that have helped to establish it as a leader in literacy services to New Americans, out-of-school-time services, workforce development programs, digital literacy and cultural offerings. Funding will support the Library's TeleStory program, which is focused on increasing childhood literacy and providing a safe and trusted environment in which children can connect with an incarcerated parent and other family members during a free one-hour televisit. Utilizing state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment, TeleStory fosters stronger bonds between children, aged birth through ten, and their incarcerated parents through reading books and telling stories over a live video feed. *(First year of funding)*

## **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 extend the implementation of, training for, and definitive testing of its Shared Healthy Alliances for Reflective Parenting (SHARP) program. 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. SHARP implementations to date have been in women's correctional facilities in NY, VT, MA, and MN. With funding, the organization would also launch the program in NH. *(Fifth 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 County, as well as developing family reunification models. For over twenty-five years, Circle has provided a range of services including: an emergency shelter for women and their children fleeing domestic violence, a 24-hour toll free hotline, legal and court assistance in filing Temporary Orders and preparing for their Final Orders, community support groups for women who have been or currently are involved in an abusive relationship, prevention programming available to students throughout Washington County, and educational presentations available to community members on the dynamics of domestic violence. *(Fourteenth year of funding)*

## **College and Community Fellowship**

*New York, NY*

The College and Community Fellowship received \$25,000 to support general operating costs. College & Community Fellowship's mission is to eliminate individual, social, and structural barriers to higher education for women involved with the criminal justice system. In CCF's first year, they served about ten women in total through the Academic Support Program. Today, under the leadership of former CCF student Vivian Nixon, CCF is home to a theater arts program, a peer mentoring program, and is fiscal sponsor to a national advocacy coalition in addition to the original

Academic Support Program, serving about 1,000 people annually through outreach and formal programming. Grant funding will support general operating activities. *(Second year of funding)*

### **Community Justice Network of Vermont**

*Montpelier, VT*

Community Justice Network of Vermont was granted \$15,000 for general operating support. The Community Justice Network of Vermont (CJNVT) is a non-profit that represents 20 Community Justice Centers (CJCs). Established in 2012, CJNVT envisions a just community for all Vermonters. Their mission is to foster a mutually supportive relationship among its members to lead, educate, and collaborate so that restorative justice practices are consistently utilized and universally available. *(Second year of funding)*

### **Echoes of Incarceration**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Echoes of Incarceration was granted \$25,000 to support general operating costs. Echoes of Incarceration is an award-winning documentary initiative produced by youth with incarcerated parents. The project explores the issues of mass incarceration and its effects on families, and creates documentary films told from the life experiences of the filmmakers themselves. The project is a collaboration between filmmaker Jeremy Robins and a group of non-profit organizations and advocates around the country. The process starts with intensive filmmaking and advocacy training for youth age 16-22, where they study documentary research, camera operation, cinematography, sound, lighting, interviewing skills, and editing. The crew then researches and pitches ideas, both to panels of criminal justice experts and to professional filmmakers. Past funding has supported the Teen Workshop Project, which provides hands-on filmmaking workshops for other youth in high schools, foster care agencies, and afterschool programs around New York City. These workshops involve the crewmembers presenting films and speaking about their experiences as children with incarcerated parents, then conducting hands-on workshops with the youth. *(Third 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: 8 transitional and permanent supportive housing facilities 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. *(Fifteenth year funding Hour Children; ninth year funding CCBH)*

### **Housing + Solutions, Inc.**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Housing + Solutions received \$25,000 of funding for general operating, to provide women and families with affordable, safe and stable housing; support reunifying and strengthening families whose lives have been disrupted and negatively impacted by trauma, violence and incarceration; and increase women and young adults' economic self-sufficiency. Housing + Solutions goal is to

provide community-based housing and comprehensive services to women, including women with children, to support them in overcoming poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and the effects of incarceration in order to build lives of stability and to define and realize goals for themselves and for their families. At the heart of the mission is the belief that with safe, affordable housing a woman and her family over time will assimilate into their new community and begin using local services, create their own safety net and seek out neighborhood resources when extra help or guidance is needed. *(Sixth year of funding)*

### **Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison**

*Ossining, NY*

Hudson Link was awarded \$25,000 for general operating to support costs related to administration, staffing, and materials for pre-college program at each of the six prisons where the program is delivered. Hudson Link's mission is to provide college education, life skills, and re-entry support to currently and formerly incarcerated men and women to help them make a positive impact on their own lives, their families and communities, resulting in lower rates of recidivism, incarceration and poverty. The organization is made up of three major programs: pre college preparatory courses, degree-track college courses, and post-release alumni services. *(First year of funding)*

### **JustLeadership USA**

*New York, NY*

JustLeadership USA (JLUSA) was awarded \$25,000 of general operating support to support key organizational infrastructure and capacity-building and programmatic goals in 2017-18. JLUSA believes that America's most challenging barrier to systemic criminal justice reform is the absence of clear and consistent leadership by those who have been directly affected. The organization's goal is consistent with their mission - to cut the U.S. correctional population in half by 2030 - while building and supporting leaders and advocates, with a focus on formerly incarcerated men and women. *(Fourth year of funding)*

### **Lund**

*Burlington, Vermont*

Lund was awarded \$25,000 to support the Kids-A-Part Parenting Program (KAPP). The Kids-A-Part Parenting Program works with women incarcerated at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility and their families. The organization works to decrease the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) on the children of incarcerated mothers, and to increase the emotional wellbeing and likelihood of a successful transition once released from prison for the incarcerated women. 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 781 people last year. *(Eleventh 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 \$25,000 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 serves 11 women at a time and residents stay

between 7 and 12 months. Service providers, staff and volunteers work collaboratively to provide a comprehensive and empowering system of support and accountability. 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 *(Ninth year of funding)*

### **The Osborne Association**

*Bronx, NY*

The Osborne Association received \$25,000 for continued support of its Youth Action Council (YAC). The Osborne Association works to reduce reliance on incarceration and provides effective alternatives to address issues of addiction, health and mental health, community violence and poverty that contribute to crime. For 80 years, Osborne has worked in partnership to create opportunities for people affected by the criminal justice system to further develop their strengths and lead lives of responsibility and contribution. Osborne's YAC program has grown into a clinically-sound weekly afterschool program that supports positive outcomes for youth, including increasing their civic engagement while promoting youth-informed policy change with the potential to affect children of incarcerated parents across the state. The YAC is a 23-session curriculum that provides youth (ages 14-19) 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. Members select an advocacy focus related to parental incarceration that they research, discuss, and present to policymakers, practitioners, other youth and the larger social justice community. *(Twelfth year of funding)*

The Foundation granted an additional grant of \$25,000 to the Osborne Center for Justice Policy and Practice (OCJPP). Launched in January 2016, OCJPP is built on a model developed through almost ten years of coordinating the NY Initiative for children of Incarcerated Parents. This model has three key components: 1). Building collaborative partnerships across systems and sectors; 2). Creating leadership opportunities for those directly affected; and 3). Conducting strategic analysis and generating new knowledge to inform policy and practice change. Right now, and for the immediate future, OCJPP will concentrate on two especially vulnerable groups, the "bookends" of mass incarceration: children of incarcerated parents and elders/older people in prison. These efforts will draw deeply on the insight afforded by Osborne's direct services for children, families, and those aging in prison and returning home as elders. *(Second year funding initiative)*

### **Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.**

*Worcester, MA*

Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support the Incarcerated Fathers and Family Support Program. Pernet Family Health Service in Worcester, Massachusetts is a Department of Public Health certified home health and social service agency, providing emergency services, in-home care for the maternal-child population in the Worcester area, early intervention services for children with, or at-risk for, developmental delays, and more. The Incarcerated Fathers Program 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 also seeks to serve the families of incarcerated fathers and 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. *(Sixth year of funding)*



## **Rehabilitation Through the Arts**

*Katonah, NY*

Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) was awarded \$25,000 for general operating. The organization's mission is to use the transformative power of the arts to develop social and cognitive skills prisoners need for successful reentry. RTA serves 200 prisoners at 5 NYS correctional facilities at any one time, teaching year round in at least one facility every day of the week. Over 25 highly-qualified professional artist/educators travel to remote prisons in 3 NYS counties, teaching a wide variety of artistic media including, theatre, dance, music, writing, and visual arts. RTA's goal is to provide an opportunity for self-development to prisoners who want to change and seek the tools to do so. *(First 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 17 pregnant and parenting teens (ages 13-19) and their children at any one time; and Bridge Home, a family-centered emergency diagnostic and residential program for children from birth to age 12, who have been removed from the home by the Department of Children and Families due to trauma, abuse, and 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. *(Thirteenth 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. *(Fifth 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 2016, 10 VOLS staff members enabled 1,000 volunteer lawyers from 50 of the most well-respected law firms in New York City to provide 18,000 hours through the VOLS projects, providing pro bono assistance to nearly 3,000 low-income New Yorkers on critical issues including



immigration, elder law, family law, housing, government benefits, and community economic development. *(Fourth year of funding)*

### **Women's Prison Association**

*New York, NY*

The Women's Prison Association received \$25,000 in general operating support for criminal justice-involved women and their families. Funding will support an integrated 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 operates from three community sites in NYC and jail and prison-based offices at Rikers Island, Taconic, and Bedford Hills Correctional Facilities. Women recently released from prison or jail can access emergency assistance, case management, HIV services, mentoring, and legal support through reentry services offered in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The Brooklyn Community Office also offers intensive case management to families at risk for child removal due to substance abuse by the primary care giver as well as its program. From this location the organization also operates a new HIV testing and prevention program and Justice Home, a community-based alternative to incarceration. In Manhattan's East Village, WPA operates two shelters: Sarah Powell Huntington House for formerly-incarcerated women and their children and Hopper Home, a transitional shelter for women with or at risk for criminal justice involvement. As a complement to client services, the Institute on Women & Criminal Justice pursues a rigorous public policy and advocacy agenda to bring new perspectives to public debates on women and criminal justice and to foster changes in the way public systems deal with women and crime. *(Fourteenth year of funding)*

### **Community Violence Reduction**

#### **Roca, Inc.**

*Chelsea, MA*

Roca was granted \$25,000 to support the organization's work in Greater Boston. Roca's mission is to disrupt the cycle of incarceration and poverty by helping young people transform their lives. Roca uses an evidence-based, cognitive behavior Intervention Model designed to target the highest risk young men. The model creates behavior change in young people over two years, with two additional years of supportive follow up. Roca provides intensive street outreach, case management, and stage-based institutions engaged in the lives of the young people Roca serves. Roca currently operates in Chelsea, Boston, Lynn and Springfield, MA. *(First year of funding)*

#### **Save Our Streets (The Fund for the City of New York)**

*New York, NY*

SOS Crown Heights was awarded \$25,000 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. Funding will be used to provide workshops to young people attending middle and high schools where students suffer from over exposure to violence. Funding will also supplement New

York City funding to enhance the Mediation Center's Anti-Gun Violence Youth Employment Program by providing employment readiness workshops for program participants. *(Fifth year of funding)*

### **Strategies for Youth**

*Cambridge, MA*

Strategies for Youth (SFY) received \$25,000 for general operating support. SFY is a national, nonprofit policy and training organization dedicated to improving relations between youth and police. SFY offers training programs for police who regularly interact with youth, for school resources officers deployed in public schools, and for youth, ages 12-18, and as of 2017, parents to reduce parental reliance on police. SFY uses three strategies to reorient the role of law enforcement to serve as guardians of peace, working in concert with the community to support the positive development of youth. These strategies include, (1) the organization's signature training program, Policing the Teen Brain; (2) Juvenile Justice Jeopardy, SFY's complementary program offered to youth; and (3) SFY conducts original research and policy development to promote developmentally-appropriate and trauma-informed equitable approaches to policing and to press for reforms and improvement of police/youth relations. Past Sills funding has supported Strategies for Youth (SFY)'s "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, as well as an evaluation of the program. This year, funding will be used to hire a public relations firm to serve as an amplifier of the organization's impacts and mission. *(Fifth year of funding)*

### **Common Justice**

*New York City, NY*

Common Justice (CJ) received \$25,000 to support general operating for its work in Brooklyn addressing cycles of violence, the harmful effects of incarceration, and the mental and physical health consequences that arise from violent crime. CJ offers an alternative to the traditional adversarial court system that promotes healing and accountability and facilitates the recovery of individuals and communities. The organization, launched in 2009 as a project of Vera Institute of Justice and becoming an independent organization in 2017, 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. *(Seventh year of funding)*

## Communities in Need

### 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 (kindergarten through grade 12) 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. The after school programming and services include homework help, tutoring, academic workshops, computer access, 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. *(Third year of funding)*

### Brooklyn Community Bail Fund

Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Community Bail Fund received \$25,000 to support its general operating costs. The Brooklyn Community Bail Fund's mission is to ensure equal access to the criminal justice system through direct service, advocacy and public education, with the ultimate goal of ending cash bail. The organization's work prevents unnecessary and unjust jailing by paying bail for indigent New Yorkers accused of misdemeanors. By paying small amounts of bail, coerced guilty pleas are averted and families are kept together, productive and stable. The organization's approach seizes on the opportunity provided by the Charitable Bail Act of 2012, which allows organizations to pay bail of \$2,000 or less for misdemeanor defendants who cannot otherwise afford it. To date, the organization has paid bail for over 1,500 indigent New Yorkers in need, served 252 youth clients (aged 16-24) for an aggregate bail amount of over \$265,000. The average price of a client's freedom is \$975. *(Third year of funding)*

### Community Connections for Youth

Bronx, NY

Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) received \$25,000 for general operating to provide families and young people impacted by the juvenile justice system with the additional support and opportunities they need to decrease feelings of isolation often felt by parents navigating a complex system alone, and to empower them with the skills needed to meaningfully impact system reform. CCFY is a Bronx-based non-profit whose mission is to empower neighborhood and faith-based organizations 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 affected communities to develop 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. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## **Dartmouth College: Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth** *Hanover, NH*

The Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD) program was granted \$25,000 to support a cohort of ninth-grade students from the Bronx, New York City, during their first summer program on the Dartmouth campus. 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. *(Fourth year of funding)*

## **exalt** *New York, NY*

exalt youth was granted \$25,000 to support general operating costs. exalt is a nonprofit that provides intensive training, paid internship experiences, and ongoing professional, educational, and justice system support to 15-19 year-old court-involved youth in New York City. The organization's mission is to elevate the expectations of personal success for youth involved in the criminal justice system. The organization's powerful combination of structured classes for tangible skill development, individualized support to navigate the education and justice systems, placement in paid internships and an alumni network of resources equips youth with the tools and experience to avoid further criminal justice system involvement. *(Second year 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 a community-based family wellness, support and education program that is committed to the development of strong, stable, healthy family functioning. Julie's provides services that enable poor, at-risk mothers and their children to transform their lives and become healthy, successful and economically self-sufficient members of their communities. Julie's provides over 20 different Adult and Children's Services, in keeping with its comprehensive and holistic approach, to approximately 200 disadvantaged, low-income, young mothers and their children from diverse ethnic and racial communities around Greater Boston. Funding will be used to support and sustain the current staffing level of the organization. *(Thirteenth 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 its Parenting and Child Development Program (PCD), which helps East Harlem families whose young children, ages zero to three, are at risk for developmental delays. LSA's mission is to strengthen and improve vulnerable children and families by meeting their basic needs for food, health care, education, and a safe home in the belief that affirming families in their own dignity improves the entire community. Funding will support the PCD Program, which emphasizes, through home visits and on-site socialization groups, ways to improve parent and child interactions and strengthen

relationships by helping parents better understand their children's behaviors and development. *(Fourth 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 to support the Group Treatment for Children of Domestic Violence, a new treatment series within the Community-Based Services. The Group Treatment for Children of Domestic Violence model is a complex trauma approach that focuses on systems of meaning, skills, resiliency and mindfulness. This new model will complement the myriad of other therapeutic services that STEPS offers through the Children's Therapy program. Beyond the Children's Therapy Program, STEPS provides holistic support to all survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, with a special emphasis on supporting justice involved survivors, immigrant survivors, adolescent survivors and very young children impacted by abusive partner behavior. *(Thirteenth year of funding)*

### **University Settlement**

*New York, NY*

University Settlement received \$25,000 to support its Family Enrichment Program (FEP). 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 31 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. University Settlement's FEP helps high-risk families living in public housing developments increase protective factors that strengthen familial bonds and prevent child abuse and neglect. 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. *(Third year of funding)*

### **Youth Represent**

*New York, NY*

Youth Represent received \$25,000 for general operating funds to support comprehensive legal representation for young, low-income New Yorkers. Youth Represent is a holistic youth defense and advocacy nonprofit organization with a mission of ensuring that young people affected by the criminal justice system are afforded every opportunity to reclaim lives of dignity, self-fulfillment, and engagement in their communities. The organization provides criminal and reentry legal representation to youth, age twenty-four and under, who are court-involved or who are experiencing legal problems because of past involvement in the criminal justice system. The organization uses a fee-for-service, community-lawyering model to represent clients. Youth Represent also provides education and technical assistance to community-based organizations to inform them of the legal issues their participants may face, and advocate for changes in state and local laws to protect young New Yorkers while promoting public safety. This year, the organization will be focusing on successfully expanding their programs into new areas for which the organization received a significant influx of new support, and on countering the deleterious impact of a sudden shift at the federal level on policies towards both criminal-justice-involved individuals and immigrants. *(Fourth year of funding)*

## **Environmental Justice**

### **Alternatives for Community and Environment**

*Roxbury, MA*

Alternatives for Community and Environment received a \$25,000 grant for general operating support. For twenty-five years, ACE has led the fight for environmental justice in Greater Boston. ACE focuses on building the power of communities of color and low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. *(Fourteenth year of funding)*

### **Coming Clean**

*Brattleboro, VT*

Coming Clean received a \$25,000 grant to support general operating costs. Coming Clean is an organization of 185 international, national, state and grassroots groups united together for healthy and just solutions to the problems of toxic industrial petrochemical production, use, and disposal. The organization's mission is to reform the industrial chemical and fossil fuels industries so they are no longer a source of harm, and to secure systemic changes that allow a safe chemical and clean energy economy to flourish. Toward that end, Coming Clean manages the exchange of ideas and information relevant to industry reform strategies; amplifies campaigns coordinated by participant groups; and coordinates a set of Coming Clean-led campaigns and projects that align market-based demands, inclusive organizing and grassroots strategies, provocative research and advocacy for insightful policies. *(Sixth year of funding)*

### **Mercury Policy Project**

*Montpelier, VT*

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support its Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign. MPP was founded in 1998 and promotes policies to reduce and where feasible eliminate mercury uses, releases, trade and exposure. The organization works to raise awareness and promote policies to reduce and where possible eliminate mercury uses, reduce the export and trafficking of mercury, and reduce mercury exposure at local, national, and international levels. Funding will support the Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign, which works to reduce human exposure to mercury at the local, national, and international levels. This includes raising awareness of the dangers of skin lightening products containing mercury, collaborating with Consumers for Dental Choice and others to promote the phase out of dental amalgam, and collecting data samples to test mercury levels in people and the environment *(Fourteenth year of funding)*

### **West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.**

*New York, NY*

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) was granted a \$25,000 grant for general operating support. 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. Funding will be used to support the implementation of



the organization's development growth plan and strengthen the organization's potential to diversify its funding streams. *(Tenth year of funding)*

## **Sills 2016 Capacity Building Grants**

### **Community Connections for Youth**

*Bronx, NY*

Community Connects for Youth was awarded a three-year capacity building grant of \$75,000 in 2016. This year, Community Connections for Youth was awarded \$25,000 of the grant to hire a consulting firm to facilitate a strategic planning process that will guide CCFY's operations and programs for the next three to five years. Funding will also support a portion of staff time for leading the project, and quarterly meetings and annual retreats. CCFY plans to use this plan to develop a new business model that reflects the organization's growth as a training and technical assistance expert and direct service provider. *(Second year of a 3-year grant)*

### **JustLeadership USA**

*New York, NY*

JustLeadership USA received a three-year grant of \$75,000 in 2016. This year, JustLeadership was awarded \$25,000 of the grant to enhance communications for broad promotion of the organization's local/national advocacy campaigns. With a refined, formal communications strategy, JustLeadership hopes to deploy bolder, more strategic messaging and tactics to promote the organization's work, thus maximizing its ability to influence policy makers and achieve reform. *(Second year of a 3-year grant)*

### **Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services**

*East Harlem, New York*

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services was awarded a three-year grant of \$41,750 in 2016. This year, Little Sisters was awarded \$13,000 of the grant to develop agency-wide results oriented thinking: goals, outcomes, and metrics for measuring impact. Little Sisters hopes to use these measurements to inform the agency's key performance indicators and to determine the best use of data systems needed to capture the requisite information. The purpose of this project is to improve program quality, better serve clients, and more clearly convey the organization's mission to funders and community stakeholders. *(Second year of a 3-year grant)*

### **Pernet Family Health Service**

*Worcester, MA*

Pernet was awarded a three-year grant of \$45,000 in 2016. This year, Pernet received \$10,000 of the grant to help the organization transition to Electronic Health Records. This project will include commercial imaging (scanning) and indexing of all client records and procurement of mobile-friendly tablets so that scanning will be less needed. This project will increase staff productivity; increase capacity; and support agency-wide data integration. *(Second year of a 3-year grant)*

### **Common Justice (Vera Institute of Justice)**

*New York City, NY*



Common Justice was awarded a three-year grant of \$75,000 in 2016. This year, Common Justice received \$25,000 to support its transition to an independent non-profit. Since 2008, Common Justice has been incubated as a Vera project; however the organization spun off as a new organization in 2017. Funding will support the development and implementation of an effective business model, actively engaged and committed Board of Directors, and communications capacity. *(Second year of a 3-year grant)*

## Sills 2017 Arts and Culture Grants

### Artists Striving to End Poverty

*White Plains, NY*

Artists Striving to End Poverty was awarded a \$15,000 grant to support ASTEP on STAGE! and general operating. ASTEP on STAGE! introduces underserved youth in NYC to the transforming power of the arts by bringing performing and visual artists from the Broadway and NYC community to after-school and in-school programs. ASTEP Volunteer Artists deliver 2-hour classes focusing on drama, music, visual art and dance. The program also partners with NYC organizations serving youth affected by the justice system, incarceration, gun violence, homelessness, immigration status, systemic poverty, and HIV/AIDS. In 2017, the organization has more than doubled the number of workshops provided through ASTEP on STAGE! and in 2018, the organization aims to build on this momentum and expand the program by recruiting and training sufficient numbers of highly-qualified Volunteer Artists to meet the increasing number of workshops in demand. *(First year of funding)*.

### ArtsWestchester

*White Plains, NY*

ArtsWestchester was awarded a \$34,500 grant to support two programs in Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains, and Yonkers: \$20,850 to support seven multi-session performing, visual and/or literary art residencies at low-income, county-subsidized senior residences; \$13,650 to support five multi-session art workshops at Westhab's PEAK and Dayspring after-school programs. The artist residencies are designed to foster socialization and positive peer interaction through ongoing art-making workshops. These workshops engage participants in challenging and creative activities such as making a mural or participating in a creative music/movement project. Each workshop series is designed to meet the specific needs of the participants. For at-risk youth, creative experiences provide opportunities reinforce self-confidence and one's ability to work cooperatively with peers. For senior citizens, art-making workshops encourage socialization and reinforce cognitive and social skills. *(Sixth 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 in 2018. The program brings ballet into public schools and provides between 60 and 180 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at each school the opportunity to participate in 12 weeks of free, in-school ballet classes taught by Brooklyn Ballet teaching artists. The programs culminate in an end-of-year showcase for students to demonstrate their new skills in front of parents or friends. 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. *(Fourth year of funding)*

### **Brooklyn Museum**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Brooklyn Museum of Art received a grant for \$30,000, \$10,000 of which will go toward general operating, and \$20,000 of which will provide support for the art education school partnership program with PS1, an elementary school located in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. Support will allow the Museum to continue to provide the students, teachers, and families of PS1 with high-quality visual arts education, utilizing its world-class collections and instructional resources to inspire its communities to learn and grow toward a better and brighter future. The partnership with PS1 is unique in its deeply collaborative nature, extending a mission of community service beyond the walls of the Museum. 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. *(Fifth year of funding)*

This year, the museum also received a \$53,000 grant to support the costs of the position of an African Arts Consulting Curator. *(This is the first of a two-part payment over two years).*

### **Brooklyn Public Library**

*Brooklyn, NY*

The Brooklyn Public Library was awarded a \$19,000 grant for its Creative Aging programs serving older adults throughout Brooklyn. Now in its fifth year, BPL's Creative Aging programs support the artistic interests of Brooklyn's 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. The programs teach the fundamentals of an art form and provide students with hands-on instruction that builds artistic skills and inspires creativity. Programs focus on visual, literary and performing arts and have included dance, photography, choral singing, painting, collage, poetry, fiber arts, and theater. *(Fourth year of funding)*

### **Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy (BYC) received a \$10,000 grant for the Pathways to Excellence Initiative, a multifaceted initiative that will ensure equitable access to BYC, and create pathways of support that enable students to advance through our program and continue on to success in college and career. The Pathways to Excellence Initiative will allow BYCA to: sustain the Neighborhood Expansion Program (NEP), which enables young people to begin their experience with BYC closer to home with two NEP locations; expand public school partnerships to enable students at high-poverty schools to benefit from free sequential choral music programs; enhance community engagement through the two newly-created positions of Community Engagement Manager and School Administrator; and provide tuition subsidy and financial aid to ensure that BYC's program is accessible to very-low, low, and moderate-income students without regard to their ability to pay. *(Fourth year of funding)*

## **Community Word Project**

*New York, NY*

Community Word Project was awarded \$20,000 to sustain and expand its Collaborative Arts Residency Program. CWP residencies will infuse the arts into the public school classroom curriculum to motivate students to be engaged and curious learners as they develop critical, creative thinking and the literacy skills needed to succeed in school and life. Grant funds will be allocated to Teaching Artist salaries, program coordination, and program supplies. CWP provides multiple opportunities for students to engage in cross-curricular activities. The addition of the arts component provides additional points of entry to further engage students who otherwise struggle with accessing the content and curriculum. In 2018, CWP plans to work with a record number of students - 2,750 - through 125 multidisciplinary arts residences in 40 schools and libraries in all five boroughs. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## **Girls Write Now, Inc.**

*New York, NY*

Girls Write Now was granted \$10,000 in general operating support in 2018, their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Girls Write Now mentors underserved girls to find their voices through the power of writing and community, sending 100% of seniors to college with writing/digital portfolios and self-confidence. The organization offers girls a unique combination of arts education and comprehensive supports, including up to four years of one-to-one mentoring from a professional woman writer; performance, publication and leadership development opportunities; writing and digital skills workshops; college preparation; and the opportunity to create a professional writing and/or digital portfolio. At the end of June, Girls Write Now closed out Year One of their strategic plan and met most of their benchmarks significantly under budget. Their goals include expanding the organization's reach in New York City; enriching their flagship programming by moving to a "University Model" that integrates creative, digital, and critical writing with college readiness and curricula choice; extending the length of mentor and mentee involvement; and elevating the voices of their girls locally, nationally, and globally through performance, publication, exhibition, online distribution, press, and corporate engagement. *(Second year of funding)*

## **Groundswell**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Groundswell was granted \$10,000 for general operating support to its core public art-making programs. Groundswell brings together youth, artists, and community partners to make public art that advances social change for a more just and equitable world. 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. In 2017-18, over 230 youth will create 7 large-scale works of socially-engaged public art in partnership with community-based organizations and local artists, develop artwork portfolios for college and scholarship applications, and complete community service hours while building art and leadership skills. *(Fifth year of funding)*

## **Prospect Park Alliance, Inc.**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Prospect Park Alliance was granted \$5,000 for general operating to support the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of Prospect Park, and the continuation of education and cultural

activities that serve Brooklyn and greater New York City. 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 the 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 18<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse where children and families learn about the lives of early settlers. The Alliance celebrated the Park's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. *(Third year of funding)*

## **Shakespeare Society**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Shakespeare Society received a \$21,500 grant in support of The Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble. In FY 18, The Shakespeare Society and The Public Theater are joining forces under the Public Shakespeare Initiative, of which the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble will be a central and essential program. Now in its eleventh year, the Ensemble will continue as a program of the Public Shakespeare Initiative, implemented in close collaboration with The Shakespeare Society's long-time, vital community partner The Hunts Point Alliance for Children. Through the Ensemble, approximately 55 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from five schools in Hunts Point will spend an entire academic year learning about, rehearsing, and ultimately performing a Shakespeare play. The play for this year is the popular, pastoral comedy *As You Like It*. Through the play, the group will explore banishment, exile, and the struggle to seek belonging and build relationships. The text will be further used to explore themes such as our relationship to our environment, man's occasional inhumanity, and how people can be changed and healed by engaging in relationships and with nature. Ensemble members will work with the original text, learning to read, understand, speak, and memorize the play. They will develop numerous academic and life skills, including public speaking, diction, listening, teamwork, focus, taking responsibility and holding themselves accountable. *(Fifth year of funding)*

## **POLIN Museum**

*Warsaw Poland*

The North American Council for the Legacy of Polish Jews received a grant of \$15,000 to provide support to the POLIN Museum. The POLIN Museum is the first public-private partnership in Poland, created jointly by the government, the local government, and a non-governmental organization. It is a modern cultural institution - a narrative museum which presents a 1,000-year history of Polish Jews. It is also a place for meetings and conversations for all of those eager to learn more about the past and present of Jewish culture, to confront the stereotypes, and to face the perils of today's world such as xenophobia and nationalistic prejudices. By promoting openness, tolerance, and truth, POLIN Museum contributes to the mutual understanding and respect amongst Poles and Jews. *(First year of funding)*.

## **Sills 2017 Next Generation Grants**

### **350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund**

Oakland, CA

350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund received a \$2,000 grant for general operating support, which will also serve as a transition grant as the Foundation moves away from providing support to the organization. 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' bureaus, 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. *(Third year of funding)*

### **ASE Education Foundation**

Leesburg, VA

The ASE Education Foundation received a \$10,000 grant to fund scholarships to support post secondary education in the field of automotive repair. The scholarships will be awarded to two or more graduates from the Bronx NY based Alfred E. Smith Career and Technical Education High School in 2018. The scholarships will be based upon outstanding student leadership, academic achievement, and community service, as well as demonstrated financial need. *(First year of funding)*

### **Brooklyn Community Foundation – Restorative Justice Project**

Brooklyn, NY

The Brooklyn Community Foundation received \$15,000 to support the Brooklyn School-Based Restorative Justice Project in four public schools in partnership with the NYC Department of Education. The project is targeted to schools with high suspension and/or arrest rates in search of effective alternatives to punitive disciplinary approaches that result in youth ejection from school, entanglement in the criminal justice system, and often, incarceration. The Foundation is committed to funding the project through SY 2019/2020, and with its city agency partners aims to foster effective, sustainable, and racially just restorative justice programs. *(Third year of funding)*

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

Brooklyn, NY

GEMS received \$10,000 to support general operating costs, and allow GEMS to enrich its programs and services. From its founding in 1998, GEMS has grown into a nationally-acclaimed organization that is one of the largest providers of services to commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking (CSE) youth in the US. GEMS is dedicated to improving the lives of girls and young women the agency serves through comprehensive supportive services. Through this grant, the organization will enrich its Holistic Case Management by providing mental health assessments and individual and group counseling by ensuring members' basic needs and facilitating trauma-informed programming. GEMS also plans to further deepen and expand its Support Services and is hoping to expand the breadth and depth of the Youth Development programming. In addition, GEMS plans to continue to grow its vocational training partnerships with EI and have more education-focused groups. *(Third year of funding)*

## **GRID Alternatives**

Oakland, CA

GRID Alternatives received \$15,000 to support its Solar Jobs and Second Pathways Pilot Program, a new initiative that is being piloted by several of GRID's regional offices and is designed specifically for introducing and training formerly-incarcerated individuals in solar installation skills. GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit solar contractor that installs solar systems on low-income residences and trains volunteers on site in all aspects of solar installation. The organization provides solar installation training to job trainees and assists with placements into solar jobs. GRID has multiple avenues for candidates, including the Installation Basics Training certificate program, which trains individuals in the basic competency and ability to perform key aspects of the installation process, and the SolarCorps Fellowship, which is a one-year paid fellowship program for highly-motivated and enthusiastic people to join GRID full time for thirteen months. *(First year of funding)*

## **Make the Road New York**

Brooklyn, NY

Make the Road New York received \$10,000 to support the Youth Power Project (YPP) to continue the implementation of restorative justice strategies at the Bushwick Campus Community School. YPP's restorative justice approach is part of a larger community school strategy that recognizes that students cannot achieve their full academic potential until their basic needs are met. Restorative justice is crucial to the community school model; it creates a culture of respect and accountability, builds community anchored in shared values, and keeps students on the path to success. Through trainings, mentorship, and support circles, the entire school community plays a role in implementing RJ practices on campus. Make the Road works closely with the DOE to evaluate implementation of restorative approaches recommended by the Mayor's Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline and the City Council Restorative Justice Initiative. *(Second year of funding).*

## **MISSEY, Inc.**

Oakland, CA

MISSEY received \$15,000 to the Daily Drop-In Center, which provides a safe space for youth to build supportive community, gain new knowledge, and cultivate leadership abilities during critical after-school hours. MISSEY offers trauma-informed, non-judgmental direct services to CSEC, CSE-TAY (Commercially Sexually Exploited Transition Age Youth), and at-risk youth, providing intensive case management, mentoring, a drop-in center, and youth advocacy. The Drop-In Center offers basic needs support, life skills workshops, group mentoring, critical discussion groups, peer support, school/employment exploration and enrollment assistance, and art/wellness opportunities that serve as catalysts for healing and activism. Through these activities, youth learn to connect and collaborate with others, uplift their voices and express their truths, explore their passions and interests, and develop the confidence, knowledge, and self-advocacy skills that empower them to lead healthy, self-determined lives. *(Second year of funding)*

## **New York Energy Democracy Alliance**

Syracuse, NY

The New York Energy Democracy Alliance (EDA) received \$10,000 in general operating support to continue its work advancing environmental justice and energy democracy through the development of a renewable, equitable, accountable, and local energy system in New York. The EDA is a growing



alliance of grassroots organizations and policy experts working together to influence New York's rapidly changing energy policy. The EDA currently has 23 member organizations who are working together to ensure that the public has a voice in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) process, begun by Governor Cuomo in 2014. The alliance has helped over 100 organizations and thousands of individuals participate in the REV process through public education and organizing and listening to and lifting up the expertise of organizations from across the state that are creating community-based sustainable energy projects, especially in poor and working class communities, communities of color, and frontline communities. *(First year of funding)*

### **Project Drawdown**

*Sausalito, CA*

Project Drawdown received \$5,000 in general operating support for ongoing research and global engagement and development work. Project Drawdown is facilitating a broad coalition of researchers, scientists, graduate students, PhDs, post-docs, policy makers, business leaders, and activists to assemble and present the best available information on climate solutions in order to describe their beneficial financial, social, and environmental impact over the next thirty years. *(First year of funding)*

### **Red Hook Initiative**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Red Hook Initiative (RHI) received \$5,000 to support the High School Youth Leaders Program, the organization's core youth development program for young people (ages 14-18) who live in public housing in Red Hook, Brooklyn. This comprehensive 4-year program provides intensive job readiness and leadership training, well-supported part-time year-round employment, and a range of services that promote resiliency and support young people toward self-sufficient adulthood. In 2018, RHI will launch a new structure that features two distinct tiers of services/support: Tier 1 for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders and Tier 2 for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The new model will build upon the successful elements of the original program and will offer enhanced job readiness opportunities for freshman and sophomores while deepening their college access efforts with juniors and seniors. *(Second year funding)*

### **Refugee Transitions**

*San Francisco, CA*

Refugee Transitions received \$15,000 for its Bridge-2-Success Youth Development Program (B2S), which serves 700+ youth/year in the San Francisco Bay Area. Launched in 2003, B2S is an educational equity initiative spanning two public school districts, San Francisco and Oakland. B2S builds partnerships, collaborates with school teachers and administrators, and catalyzes family and community supports to foster development and increase achievement for disadvantaged newcomer youth. B2S provides an array of targeted academic and enrichment supports to ensure that at-risk youth are achieving academic gains and graduating high school. The program integrates three key components: (i) after-school/on-site academic support and tutoring; (ii) home-based tutoring through volunteers; (iii) youth leadership. *(First year of funding)*

### **Renewable Northwest**

*Portland, OR*

Renewable Northwest received \$11,500 to support the Solar Success project. The project is twofold: to ensure that the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) refines the low-income



element of its Community Solar program to fully achieve its low-income access goal of at least 10%; and to cause the Bonneville Power Administration to complete its solar task force objective of mapping the region's best solar sites that contribute to system reliability. The grant will help the staff coordinate with a broad spectrum of organizations, provide technical analysis, and support the OPUC in finalizing a program design that leads to affordable opportunities for participations and readying the program for deployment. *(Second year funding)*

## **RJOY**

*Oakland, CA*

RJOY received \$10,000 in general operations to support three areas: (1) continued collaboration with the Oakland school district as well as movement-building, training and consultation services (mostly for school-based RJ) nationally; (2) promoting RJ juvenile justice systems change and youth agency, including among girls and young women; and (3) promoting local and national community-based RJ initiatives, particularly a restorative city initiative in Oakland and a truth-telling, racial healing and reparations initiative nationally. The grant will help RJOY continue to collaborate with the Oakland Unified School District in the coming year with a tight focus on developing strategies to close the racial disparities gap in exclusionary school discipline. Silks support will also help RJOY continue to pioneer youth-centered restorative re-entry work and youth-led community organizing to advocate for alternatives for youth incarceration. *(Fifth year of funding)*

## **Safe Passages**

*Oakland, CA*

Safe Passages was granted \$15,000 to the Family Resource Centers, which supports families in their path to economic self-sufficiency through the provision of basic needs, job training programs, and employment opportunities. The grant will support the program by providing VISTA members with the resources to implement comprehensive in-school family support services at one of Safe Passages' five Family Resource Centers. Safe Passages supports at-risk youth and their families through the delivery of academic and social service supports. *(Fifth year of funding)*

## **Wallowa Resources**

*Enterprise, OR*

Wallowa Resources received \$10,000 to the Youth Stewardship Education Program (YSEP), a K-12 education program designed to provide natural and cultural history and stewardship education for every grade level in Wallowa County. This grant will support the HAWK program, which works with three to four Wallowa County high school students, grades 11 and 12, over six weeks in the summer. The students work on monitoring and environmental conservation projects that are focused on teaching field ecology research techniques and basic ecological principles. HAWK provides practical, hands-on environmental stewardship work for the students, who are mentored and taught by educational staff and a college intern who work closely with natural resource professionals. Funding will connect the HAWK students to Wallowa Resources' ongoing work linking forest restoration to regenerative agriculture. *(Third year of funding)*

## **Youth ALIVE!**

*Oakland, CA*

Youth ALIVE received \$15,000 to fund general operations to help sustain Youth ALIVE!'s unique but interconnected programs staffed by people from the community who do the ground work to prevent

violence, help individuals and the community heal, and create engaged young leaders within the neighborhoods hit hardest by violence. The grant will solidify the foundation of the organizational efforts to provide intensive, trauma-informed support, mentoring, case management, violence intervention, conflict mediation, mental health counseling, and leadership training to hundreds of young Oaklanders affected by violence. *(Second year of funding)*

### **Youth Shelter Program of Westchester**

*Mount Vernon, NY*

The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester (YSPW) received \$10,000 to support the salary of a vocational staff person. The organization provides a home-like alternative to jail for young men awaiting disposition of various criminal charges with the mission to remove appropriate youth from the adult system of incarceration, to motivate and educate them by providing specialized programs aimed at preparing them for their eventual return to respective communities. The vocational staff position provides much-needed support for young people who are returning to their families after a period of detention at the organization's residential facility, as well as helping families prepare to be supportive. The vocational coordinator not only identifies opportunities for the youth, but also works to develop specific training and employment options that bear the most promise for success. *(First year of funding)*

## Sills 2017 Grants Summary

### Strategic Grants

Organization Name	Amount Awarded	Grant Purpose
Abraham House	\$25,000	After School Program
Alternatives for Community & Environment	\$25,000	General operating
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund	\$25,000	General operating
Brooklyn Defender Services	\$25,000	Incarcerated Parents Project (IPP)
Brooklyn Public Library	\$25,000	TeleStory project
Circle	\$25,000	General operating
Columbia University	\$25,000	the Shared Healthy Alliances for Reflective Parenting (SHARP)
Coming Clean, Inc.	\$25,000	General operating
Community Connections for Youth	\$25,000	General operating
Community Justice Network of Vermont	\$15,000	General operating
Echoes of Incarceration (a project of Ibis Productions, Inc.)	\$25,000	General operating
Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families/STEPS to End Family Violence	\$25,000	STEPS
exalt youth	\$25,000	General operating
Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation	\$25,000	General operating
Hour Children	\$50,000	General operating
Housing + Solutions	\$25,000	General operating
Howard Center	\$25,000	the Northern Lights Program
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison	\$25,000	General operating
Julie's Family Learning Program	\$25,000	Adult and Children's Services
JustLeadershipUSA	\$25,000	general operating
Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Inc.	\$25,000	staff salaries for the Parenting and Child Development Program
Lund	\$25,000	the Kids-A-Part program
Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center	\$25,000	General operating
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	\$25,000	the Engaging Incarcerated Fathers and Their Children Project
Prison Communities International Inc.	\$25,000	General operating
Roca, Inc.	\$25,000	General operating
St. Mary's Center for Women and Children	\$25,000	Bridge Home and St. Mary's Home
Strategies for Youth, Inc.	\$25,000	hiring a public relations firm

<b>The College and Community Fellowship, Inc.</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>The Osborne Association</b>	\$25,000	the Osborne Center for Justice Policy and Practice
<b>The Osborne Association</b>	\$25,000	the Youth Action Council (YAC)
<b>The Trustees of Dartmouth College</b>	\$25,000	SEAD program's Bronx School support
<b>University Settlement Society of New York, Inc.</b>	\$25,000	the Family Enrichment Program (FEP)
<b>Common Justice</b>	\$25,000	the Common Justice project
<b>Volunteers of Legal Service</b>	\$25,000	the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project
<b>West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT)</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Women's Prison Association</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Youth Represent</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$990,000</b>	

### Capacity Building Grants

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Community Connections for Youth</b>	\$25,000	to hire a consulting firm to facilitate a strategic planning process that will guide CCFY's operations and programs for the next three to five years
<b>JustLeadershipUSA</b>	\$25,000	to enhance communications for broad promotion of the organization's local/national advocacy campaigns
<b>Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service</b>	\$13,000	to develop agency-wide results oriented thinking: goals, outcomes, and metrics for measuring impact
<b>Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.</b>	\$10,000	to help the organization transition to Electronic Health Records
<b>Common Justice</b>	\$25,000	to support its transition to an independent non-profit
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98,000</b>	

### Arts and Culture Grants

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Grant Purpose</b>
<b>Artists Striving to End Poverty</b>	\$15,000	ASTEP on STAGE! Workshops and general operating
<b>Westchester Arts Council, Inc.</b>	\$34,500	\$20,850 to senior art residencies; \$13,650 to Westhab's PEAK and Day Spring art workshops
<b>Brooklyn Ballet</b>	\$20,000	Elevate/Brooklyn Ballet in the Houses
<b>Brooklyn Museum</b>	\$30,000	\$20k for PS1 Partnership; \$10k for general operating
<b>Brooklyn Public Library</b>	\$19,000	Creative Aging
<b>Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy</b>	\$10,000	Pathways to Excellence Initiative

Community-Word Project Inc.	\$20,000	Collaborative Arts Residency Program
Girls Write Now Inc.	\$10,000	general operations
Groundswell	\$10,000	core afterschool and summer programs
Prospect Park Alliance	\$5,000	general operations
Shakespeare Society Inc.	\$21,500	Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble
North American Council for the legacy of Polish Jews	\$15,000	Polin Museum
Brooklyn Museum	\$53,000	African Arts Consulting Curator
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$263,000</b>	

## Next Generation Grants

Organization Name	Amount Awarded	Grant Purpose
350 Bay Area Climate Education Fund	\$2,000	Transition grant
Brooklyn Community Foundation	\$15,000	Brooklyn Restorative Justice Project (BRJP)
Community Initiatives/ RJOY	\$10,000	General operating costs
Girls Educational and Mentoring Services	\$10,000	General operating costs
GRID Alternatives	\$15,000	Solar Jobs and Second Pathways Pilot Program
Make the Road New York	\$10,000	Restorative Justice at the Bushwick Campus Community School
MISSEY, Inc	\$15,000	Daily Drop-In Center
New York Energy Democracy Alliance	\$10,000	General operating costs
Project Drawdown	\$5,000	General operating costs
Red Hook Initiative	\$5,000	High School Youth Leader Program
Refugee Transitions	\$15,000	the Bridge-2-Success Youth Development Program (B2S)
Renewable Northwest	\$11,500	Solar Success project
Safe Passages	\$15,000	Family Resource Centers at Schools
Wallowa Resources	\$10,000	Wallowa Resources' Youth Stewardship Education Program (YSEP)
Youth ALIVE!	\$15,000	General operating costs
Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, Inc	\$10,000	Vocational staff person salary
ASE Education Foundation	10,000	Scholarship for post-secondary training in automotive repair
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$183,500</b>	

## 2017 Trustee Discretionary Grants

The 3 trustees of the Sills Family Foundation and their families made a total of 59 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$500 to \$20,000, and totaling \$180,000.

### Art Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
All Souls Unitarian Church	\$10,000
VT Adaptive Ski and Sports	\$10,000
Cambridge Friends School	\$5,000
Academy of the City Charter School	\$5,000
School is Open	\$5,000
New York City Audubon	\$5,000
Planned Parenthood Action Fund	\$5,000
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans	\$2,500
Crocker Highland Parent Teacher Association	\$2,500
High Fives Foundation	\$1,500
The Green Belt Movement	\$1,000
Carbon Cycle Institute	\$1,000
Rainforest Action Network	\$1,000
Stand.earth	\$1,000
Jewish Family and Children Services	\$1,000
Wasatch Adaptive Sports	\$1,000
The Nature Conservatory	\$500
College Possible	\$500
Oregon Wild	\$500
Lines For Life	\$500
The Alamo Club of Portland	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

### Peter Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Ward Brook Center	\$5,000
The Doula Program	\$10,000
Vermont Foodbank	\$5,000
Twinfield Together Mentoring Program	\$5,000

VSA Vermont	\$5,000
Corporate Accountability	\$5,000
REACH	\$2,500
Children's Defense Fund	\$5,000
Save the Children	\$5,000
Children's Aid	\$2,500
Beyond the Box	\$2,500
From Life to Life Initiative	\$2,500
Brooklyn Community Services	\$2,500
Community Service Society of New York	\$2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

### Deborah Iarussi

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Trustees of Hampshire College – Denice O'Neill Scholarship Fund	\$8,333
Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls – Scholarship Support	\$3,000
Farm and Wilderness Foundation	\$1,500
Center for Disaster Philanthropy – Atlantic Hurricane Season Recovery Fund	\$4,000
Rett Syndrome Research Trust	\$1,000
UUCT/No More Deaths	\$723
Brooklyn Defender Services	\$722
Neighbors Together	\$722
Michael J. Fox Foundation	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

### Leah Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Family Services of Westchester	\$3,500
Sousa Mendes Foundation	\$5,000
Songcatchers	\$2,000
New Rochelle Council on the Arts	\$2,500
The Sharing Shelf	\$1,500



<b>American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association)</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>HHREC (Holocaust and Human Rights Education)</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>WMBA (Westchester Mountain Biking Association)</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Giving Circle of Westchester</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Community Resource Center</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>The Guidance Center</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>AS220</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>The Arts Start</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>New Rochelle Public Library Foundation</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>