



# Sills Family Foundation

## 2022 Annual Report

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## ❖ History and Mission

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

The Foundation intends to ensure that marginalized families have the tools and support they need to live up to their highest promise. Its strategic grants program concentrates on the following program areas:

- 1) Criminal Justice Reform
- 2) Support for Families and Young Children in Low Income, Underserved Communities
- 3) Environmental Justice

In addition to these focus areas, the Foundation has three additional grantmaking committees. The Arts and Culture Committee funds organizations that engage with underserved communities through the arts, as well as additional special arts and culture initiatives. The Second Generation Committee supports programs for high-risk youth, immigrants, and climate change mitigation. The Third Generation Committee supports organizations working in criminal justice reform, reproductive rights, and climate justice.

## ❖ 2022 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview

In 2022, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$2,286,811, a decrease from its 2021 high of \$3,099,295 (which included a \$1M gift to the Brooklyn Arts Museum through the Arts & Culture committee) but an increase from the 2020 total of \$2,124,150. Of this, the Board awarded \$1,190,000 through its Core grantmaking process, \$55,000 through a Rapid Response program, \$433,811 through its Arts & Culture committee, \$325,000 through the G2 committee, \$50,000 by the G3 foundation members, and \$233,000 as trustee- and family-directed discretionary grants. The Foundation awarded a total of 160 grants, including 48 grants through its Core grantmaking program, 7 Rapid Response grants, 9 Arts & Culture grants, 17 G2 grants, 4 G3 grants, along with 75 small discretionary grants. This year, the Foundation made Rapid Response awards to several grantees who encountered unexpected challenges. A final grant installment through the Foundation's capacity building initiative was shifted to be paid in 2023, at which time that initiative will be completed. We have also moved towards a more specific geographical focus, resulting in us having to phase out long term grantee relationships.

The Foundation primarily makes general operating grants, allowing grantees to use the funds as needed, as opposed to being limited to a particular project or budget line. The Foundation deeply values the expertise and leadership capacity of our grantees and is comfortable with their ability to prioritize where the grants will be best used.

2022 has been a year marked by reflection and steps toward recovery after the many disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Sills Family Foundation has worked hard to be as supportive as possible to our grantees, always aiming to be trusting of their vision and leadership. Several of our grantees have gone through important transformations in the past few years, many of which resulted in transitioning to leadership by women of color. We applaud this development, and have highlighted some of those groups in the Annual Report sections and "Grantee Spotlights" below.

In our Foundation we are going through a time of transition as well. As a family-run organization, we are committed to making room for the younger generation's voices to be heard. In 2022 we engaged in multiple task force and family wide meetings which led to creating an intergenerational committee focusing on environmental justice and climate change mitigation. In the next several years we anticipate a shift in our strategies and will be as transparent as possible as new areas of focus develop.

Throughout the remainder of this Annual Report, we summarize the grantees in each of our program areas and highlight a few grantees in each category. In some cases, the “Grantee Spotlight” exemplifies the program area, while in others it represents a grantee that might be exceptional for its size, duration, or impact.

## ❖ Sills 2022 Strategic Grants

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The arrest and conviction of a parent creates enormous instability for his or her family. This sudden and unexpected loss of emotional connection, income, and housing, along with the accompanying feelings of stress, fear, and an undeserved sense of shame can cause great harm to children and family systems. The Foundation began its work in criminal justice reform by funding organizations that help these children gain some sense of stability, and that work to reunite families after their parents come home from prison. The Foundation augmented this approach by funding organizations that assist incarcerated parents while they are still in prison, making it easier for them to support their families when they come home and less likely to be re-arrested. These organizations offer emotional and psychological help, parenting classes, secondary and college educations, involvement in the arts, and both criminal and civil legal assistance.

After years of involvement in this work, the Foundation recognized that while it is necessary to treat the trauma suffered by these children, it makes at least as much sense to try to prevent that trauma from ever occurring. Now, the Foundation also funds organizations that keep people out of prison through alternatives to incarceration and work with young people who are at risk of committing crimes, particularly crimes of violence. It also funds programs that advocate for reducing the total number of people in prison.

The Foundation’s criminal justice grants can be divided into the following three subcategories:

- A. Helping Families Impacted by Incarceration
- B. Programs Inside Prison
- C. Decreasing Incarceration

#### A. HELPING FAMILIES IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Bronx Defenders	\$25,000	5th	Reentry Support and the Housing Crisis in the Bronx
Circle	\$25,000	19th	Housing Options and Programming for Battered Women Charged with Crimes
College and Community Fellowship	\$25,000	7th	General Operating Support
Drive Change	\$25,000	2nd	General Operating Support
Echoes of Incarceration	\$25,000	8th	General Operating Support
Hour Children	\$25,000	20th	General Operating Support
Housing Plus	\$25,000	3rd	General Operating Support
Lund	\$25,000	16th	Kids-A-Part
The Osborne Association	\$25,000	17th	Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations (OCJAG)
The Osborne Association	\$25,000	17th	Youth Action Council (YAC) and Youth Experience Success (YES)

Providence House	\$25,000	5th	Women's Justice Program
Women's Prison Association	\$25,000	19th	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>		

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Hour Children

*Long Island City, NY*

Hour Children, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, aims to help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families, and build healthy, independent, and secure lives. Hour Children's name acknowledges the key hours that impact the life of a child with an incarcerated mother – the hour of her arrest, the hour of their visit, and the hour of their reunification. In February of 2022, Hour Children welcomed a new Executive Director, Dr. Alethea Taylor, RhD, CRC, following the long tenure of its founder, Sister Tesa Fitzgerald. Dr. Taylor's leadership represents an exciting new era for the organization, as well as exemplifies the broader trend of staff transitions across the nonprofit sector which have brought a generation of female leaders of color into leadership roles. Under Dr. Taylor's leadership, Hour Children implements services and programming through its four residential programs, serving 180 women and families; its After School Program, which has returned to its pre-pandemic capacity level of 25 children, five days per week; individual visiting programs at Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities; the Hour Food Pantry, serving 150 individuals experiencing food insecurity, three days per week; and more. Hour Children's holistic approach to supporting currently and recently incarcerated women and their families includes attention to mental health support, affordable housing, access to the employment services and placement, reliable childcare, and food security, resulting in a recidivism rate of less than 3%, in comparison to the New York States rate of more than 20%. The Foundation's grant will be used for general operating support.

## B. PROGRAMS INSIDE PRISON

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Bard Prison Initiative	\$25,000	4th	General operating support
Brooklyn Defender Services	\$25,000	7th	General operating support
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison	\$25,000	6th	General operating support
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	\$25,000	11th	Engaging Incarcerated Fathers in Responsible Parenting
Rehabilitation Through the Arts	\$25,000	6th	General operating support
Volunteers of Legal Services	\$25,000	6th	VOLS Immigration Project
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Rehabilitation Through the Arts**

*Purchase, NY*

Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) helps people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts, modeling an approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment. Founded at Sing Sing in 1996, RTA works with professional teaching artists to lead year-round workshops in theatre, dance, music, creative writing, and visual arts. The RTA model provides an intensive, comprehensive arts program that builds critical life skills so that people can meet the challenges of connecting with family and community when released. RTA operates in six maximum- and medium-security men's and women's New York State correctional facilities within a 200-mile radius of New York City. In addition to resuming its in-person programming this year, a significant accomplishment has been progress on RTA's Reentry Toolkit, a major initiative to prepare people for the social and emotional challenges of reentry while they are still incarcerated. Pilot workshop materials were completed in the fall of 2021, and during 2022 RTA worked to complete additional curriculum for the full 3-month, 24-session program package that will be rolled out in multiple NYS prisons. RTA alumni and formerly incarcerated people have contributed to every step of the process, from writing scripts and performing in the narrative films, being interviewed for "lived experience" videos, reviewing the curriculum, contributing their artwork to the participant workbook, and facilitating the pilot workshop. The Foundation's grant will be used for general operating support.

**C. DECREASING INCARCERATION**

These grants fall into two categories - programs involved in keeping specific individuals out of prison, and those that advocate for lowering incarceration rates.

**PREVENTING INCARCERATION**

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Avenues for Justice	\$25,000	4th	Services Not Cells for NYC's Court-Involved & At-Risk Youth
Center for Court Innovation/Justice Innovation Inc.	\$25,000	4th	Brooklyn Justice Initiatives
Center for Court Innovation/Justice Innovation Inc.	\$25,000	10th	Neighbors In Action/Center for Court Innovation
Common Justice	\$25,000	12th	General Operating Support
Community Connections for Youth	\$25,000	11th	General Operating Support
Envision Freedom Fund (Brooklyn Community Bail Fund)	\$25,000	8th	General Operating Support
Exalt Youth	\$25,000	7th	General Operating Support
Liberty Fund	\$25,000	2nd	General Operating Support
Roca, Inc.	\$25,000	6th	Roca's Intervention Model for Young Parents
Strategies for Youth	\$25,000	10th	Strengthening Massachusetts' Police Reform Efforts

Urban Youth Alliance International	\$25,000	4th	Employment Pathways for Court-Involved Youth
Youth Represent	\$25,000	9th	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Exalt Youth**

*Brooklyn, NY*

The Exalt Youth mission combines a rigorous, culturally-responsive curriculum with paid internships and career development to elevate expectations of personal success for court-involved youth ages 15-19. Exalt is led by people of color who are deeply committed to racial equity and justice for youth in three specific areas: criminal justice avoidance; academic progression; and employability. Exalt’s consistent programming helps youth to avoid the criminal justice system, progress educationally, and develop skills while earning a legitimate source of income. Exalt operates its Core Program through both an In-Person and a Virtual model, which was developed during the pandemic and has become a key part of its services. Both models involve lessons, paid internships, individual mentoring and court/educational advocacy, educational enrollment, and transfer assistance. Additionally, Exalt operates a Graduate Program for alumni of the Core series, and an Adopt-A-School model which provides technical assistance and support within specific school structures, partnering currently with three schools. After closing out a three-year scaling plan in 2021, Exalt is now focusing on building capacity in preparation for further geographic growth. The Foundation’s grant will be used for general operating support.

**ADVOCACY**

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Center for Justice at Columbia University School of Social Work	\$25,000	2nd	Women Transcending
Correctional Association of New York	\$25,000	4th	"NEED TO CONTACT SOMEONE FOR HELP!": Responding to inquiries from families of incarcerated people
JustLeadership USA	\$25,000	9th	JLUSA Leadership Development & Training Programs
New York Women’s Foundation	\$15,000	1st	The Justice Fund
Release Aging People in Prison Campaign	\$25,000	4 <sup>th</sup>	General Operating Support
Voice of the Experienced	\$25,000	11th	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Release Aging People in Prison Campaign**

*New York, NY*

Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign is a grassroots organizing and advocacy project that works to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice through the release of older and



aging people from prison. RAPP was established in 2013 by three formerly incarcerated people. It plays a key role in New York and the greater United States to shift the public narrative around U.S. prisons and punishment to include older adults, people serving long sentences, and those convicted of violent crimes. RAPP has focused much of its energy on structural changes by organizing to change the policies, practices, and personnel associated with the State Parole Board, which annually denies parole release to thousands of incarcerated older New Yorkers. Due to successfully advocating for codified rule changes and appointment of Commissioners coming from therapeutic and non-prosecution professions, parole release rates more than doubled for all parole applicants, older applicants, and those with life sentences – from 20% to 40%. In 2020 and 2021, the number of elders in NYS prisons fell below 9,000 for the first time in 2013. Recently, amidst the election of NYC Mayor Eric Adams, the appointment of Gov. Kathy Hochul, and increased critical coverage of criminal justice reforms in the popular media, RAPP has joined forces with other advocacy groups to oppose reform rollbacks in the legislature, advocate for qualified and values-aligned State Parole Board appointments, and relaunched its campaign for clemency. The Foundation’s grant will be used for general operating support.

## SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN LOW INCOME, UNDERSERVED 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. In 2017 the foundation began to explore ways in which to increase support to vulnerable immigrant populations and others negatively impacted by the US political climate. In 2022, we continued to offer support to programs working with immigrant and refugee communities.

A core belief of the Sills Family Foundation is that creating an equitable society begins with supporting families with young children through access to high quality education, legal support, and healthcare. These grants fund organizations in the following two categories:

- A. Health and education; and
- B. Support for Immigrant Families

### A. HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
BronxWorks	\$25,000	4th	The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) program
Community Solutions	\$25,000	2nd	United For Brownsville
Julie's Family Learning Program	\$25,000	20th	Adult and Children's Services
Power of Two	\$25,000	5th	Power of Two Community Programs
The Reading Team	\$25,000	5th	General Operating Support
St. Mary's Center for Women and Children	\$25,000	18th	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Power of Two**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Power of Two was created to help families heal from the root causes of trauma, help children thrive, and strengthen community cohesion. The group gives children who have experienced early adversity a foundation for success in school and life by fostering a strong and healthy attachment between parent and child. In its evidence-based Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) program, Power of Two seeks to promote responsive parenting, mitigate the negative effects of toxic stress between caregivers and children, build resilience in children, and promote academic success, physical health, and social and emotional well-being. The organization aims to scale ABC in New York City with the mission of disrupting the intergenerational cycle of poverty that affects too many families, and of providing a model dissemination strategy for other cities and states. Power of Two started disseminating ABC in 2015 in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and in 2022 will serve over 1,500 child-caregiver dyads. In April of 2022, Coleen Stevens Porcher was announced as the organization’s new Executive Director, taking the helm from co-founder Erasma Beras-Monticciolo. Ms. Stevens Porcher brings the lived experience of an immigrant who grew up in East New York, as well as almost 30 years of experience in educational and social services organizations, serving in executive and institutional advancement roles. The Foundation’s grant will be used for Power of Two Community Programs.

**B. SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.	\$25,000	5th	Immigrants' Rights Project
Brooklyn Community Foundation	\$25,000	5th	Brooklyn Immigrant Rights Fund
Make the Road New York	\$25,000	5th	New York Immigration Rapid Response and Deportation Defense
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Make the Road New York**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Make the Road New York (MRNY) builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities through an array of educational, legal, and community organizing services. Recent accomplishments include the passage of a first-in-the-nation, \$2.1 billion Excluded Worker Fund in New York State, which distributed emergency relief to 130,000 individuals who were excluded from federal relief funding; a \$2.4 billion rent relief program for all New Yorkers regardless of immigration status; a new COVID outreach team which made over 560,000 calls and reached 40,000 through phone and in-person outreach with information on COVID healthcare, testing, and vaccines, and helped 1,000 community members get vaccinated at MRNY events; and more. The Foundation’s grant will support MRNY’s Civil Rights and Immigrant Power Project, which is focused on creating opportunities for meaningful economic and political participation for NYC’s low-

income immigrant population and promoting the civil rights of immigrants nationally. Goals for the year ahead include organizing and legal work to prevent national origin discrimination, as well as immigrant rights advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels. MRNY is focusing on expanding the NYS social safety to include undocumented immigrants and advancing national immigration reform, while locally hosting “Know Your Rights” (KYR) trainings; conducting deportation defense and raids response; fighting NYPD collaboration with ICE; and convening a committee of community members who have firsthand experience with the current detention/enforcement regime to discuss their needs and plan campaigns.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Sills Family Foundation continues to support environmental justice organizations in recognition that the burden of environmental damage is disproportionately carried by disadvantaged communities. These programs support coalition building between small grassroots organizations and help move policy and research in a more equitable direction.

The Foundation is committed to supporting programs that work with low-income communities faced with an undue burden of environmental toxins.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Coming Clean	\$25,000	11th	Networks in Action: Unleashing the Power of Collaboration for Environmental Health and Justice
Mercury Policy Project	\$25,000	9th	Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.	\$25,000	15th	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### Coming Clean *Brattleboro, VT*

Coming Clean is a nonprofit environmental health collaborative, founded in 2001, working to transform the chemical industry and to secure systemic changes that allow a safe chemical and clean energy economy to flourish. Its network membership consists of 400 individual experts in 150 organizations, plus 15 affiliate members of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance, and the networks and groups that each serves. With an intersectional model and focus on collaboration, recent strategic efforts have led to wins including: launching the influential Equitable and Just National Climate Process and Platform (EJNCP); President Biden’s prioritization of environmental justice; opening opportunities for strengthening risk management plans for hazardous facilities and chemical storage tanks, including first-ever accounting of hazards posed by extreme weather events due to climate change; state-level commitment to Justice40; restrictions on chemicals and pesticides at dollar stores; and a successful collaboration to pilot (and make scalable) Local Food Solutions. The Foundation’s grant will support the project Networks in Action: Unleashing the Power of Collaboration for Environmental Health and Justice.

## ❖ Sills 2022 Rapid Response Grants

In addition to its annual grantmaking, the Foundation continued its “Rapid Response” grant program. The goal of this program is to provide current grantees with access to additional resources that can be used to address urgent, unanticipated needs in which a relatively small amount of money (up to \$10,000) can be utilized to overcome a specific obstacle with a discrete, one-time funding solution. The Rapid Response program is open to all current grantees.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Purpose
Brooklyn Public Library	\$10,000	Books Unbanned Initiative
Choose Love	\$5,000	Choose Love Ukraine Campaign
Hudson Link	\$10,000	Stipends for program alumni
Make the Road New York	\$10,000	Support for asylum seekers arriving in NY from Texas
Power of Two	\$10,000	Diapers and other baby essentials
Witness to Mass Incarceration	\$5,000	Hats and Gloves Campaign for Riker’s Island
Youth Represent	\$5,000	Paralegal training
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [Brooklyn Public Library: Books Unbanned](#)

*Brooklyn, NY, and national*

In April of 2022, the Brooklyn Public Library launched Books Unbanned to help teens combat the negative impact of increased censorship and book bans in libraries across the country. The Books Unbanned initiative was created in response to an increasingly coordinated and effective effort to remove books from library shelves across the county. The American Library Association reported 729 challenges to library, school and university materials and services in 2021, resulting in more than 1,597 individual book challenges or removals. This represents the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling these lists 20 years ago. In recent years, most targeted books were for a teen audience and were by or about Black or LGBTQIA+ persons. Through Books Unbanned, BPL provides young adults ages 13 to 21 nationwide a free eCard for one year unlocking access to the Library’s collection of 350K eBooks, 200K audiobooks and 100+ databases. Public response to the program was overwhelming, with over 5K email requests from teens and over 1,500 eCards issued as of June 2022. To help meet this urgent demand, BPL requested a Rapid Response grant to increase its eBooks collection to ensure teens locally and nationwide have access to the books they want to read. The Foundation’s Rapid Response grant allowed BPL to purchase approximately 400 new YA eBook licenses.

## ❖ Sills 2022 Arts and Culture Committee Grants

The Arts and Culture Committee believes that exposure to and training in the arts can be 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 foundation’s priorities.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
ArtsWestchester	\$30,000	11th	Artist Residencies for Seniors Citizens; At-risk Youths and families
Bloomfield College	\$25,000	5th	Scholarship fund
Brooklyn Ballet	\$20,000	9th	Brooklyn Ballet's 2023 Elevate Program
Brooklyn Museum	\$250,000	3rd	Arts of Africa exhibit - final payment, March 2023
Brooklyn Public Library	\$20,000	9th	Creative Aging program
Community Word Project	\$23,811	11th	Collaborative Arts Residencies
Manhattan Theatre Club	\$20,000	4th	MTC Education's FY23 Write on the Edge Program
POLIN Museum	\$25,000	6th	General operating support
Songcatchers	\$20,000	4th	General operating support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$433,811</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [Brooklyn Ballet: Elevate Program](#)

*Brooklyn, NY*

The Foundation’s grant will support Brooklyn Ballet’s Elevate program, a dance residency that brings the art form into schools through 6-8 week residency programs of hands-on ballet training. Elevate uses Dr. Ann Hutchinson Guest’s “Language of Dance” system to teach children basic ballet vocabulary and achieve a physical and intellectual understanding of dance. The program addresses problem solving, comparison and contrast, verbal clarification of movement, and analysis as well as the fundamental principles of being a good student, including patience, order, self-reliance, self-control, balance within the individual, and harmony within a group. After a transition to virtual programming due to the pandemic, Elevate was revived in 2022 and resumed free dance classes in seven of the eight public schools with which the program had partnerships with prior to the pandemic.

## ❖ Second Generation Grants

The Second Generation committee funds programs in the following program areas:

- A. At-risk youth
- B. Climate change mitigation
- C. Supporting Immigrants

### A. At-Risk Youth

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
ASE Education Foundation	\$15,000	5th	Scholarship for secondary automotive repair training
Girls Education and Mentoring Services, Inc.	\$20,000	8th	General Operating Support
LIFE Camp, Inc.	\$20,000	2nd	General Operating Support
MISSEY, Inc.	\$20,000	7th	General Operating Support
Youth ALIVE!	\$20,000	7th	General Operating Support
Youth Shelter Program of Westchester	\$20,000	6th	Mount Vernon Community Call to Action coalition
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [Girls Education and Mentoring Services, Inc.](#)

*New York, NY*

Throughout its 24 years of providing services to commercially sexually exploited and trafficked girls and young women, GEMS has developed a strong survivor-led, trauma-informed, strengths-based, culturally competent program model with proven outcomes and a comprehensive array of services. GEMS interventions and initiatives include Youth Development programming to address young women’s developmental, social and emotional needs; the Educational Initiative, supporting members to obtain their high school diploma or GED, and attend college or vocational training; Pathways Economic Empowerment Program, helping to move members from minimum wage to living wage employment and beyond; Residential Housing including crisis housing, Transitional Independent Living, and independent living; Survivor Leadership Program; street outreach services; and more. In the past year, GEMS served 200 members through our direct services and partnered with various organizations throughout New York City and beyond. The Foundation’s grant will be used for general operating support.

### B. Climate Change Mitigation

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Carbon Cycle Institute	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
Climate Collaborative	\$20,000	4th	General Operating Support
Ecdysis Foundation	\$20,000	1st	1000 Farms Initiative

Green Wave	\$20,000	1st	General Operating Support
GRID Alternatives	\$20,000	6th	2023 Greater Los Angeles Solar Career Pathways for Youth Program
Women's Earth Alliance	\$20,000	5th	US Grassroots Accelerator for Women Climate Leaders
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**GreenWave**

*New Haven, CT*

GreenWave trains regenerative ocean farmers and works to replicate the regenerative ocean farming model in coastal communities throughout North America, developing an economy led by farmers. In 2017, GreenWave launched a regional regenerative ocean farmer training pilot in southern New England, providing high touch and hands-on training, technical assistance, and ongoing support to farmers, reaching 10-15 emerging farmers annually. Between 2017 and 2021, more than 8,000 prospective farmers from every coastal state in the United States and 100 countries around the globe requested support from the organization. Since 2020, GreenWave has scaled its programming to meet that need, providing technical assistance and education with an expansive network of diverse stakeholders. GreenWave's goal is to train and support 10,000 farmers by 2030 to catalyze the planting of regenerative ocean crops and yield meaningful economic and climate impacts, through an approach that combines high- and low-touch curriculum and network building, farmer subsidies, market development, and innovation. The Foundation's grant will be used for general operating support.

**C. Supporting Immigrants**

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Hearts and Homes for Refugees	\$15,000	2nd	ESOL for All
Make the Road New York	\$15,000	7th	Youth Power Project Restorative Justice Program
Partnerships for Trauma Recovery	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
Refugee & Immigrant Transitions	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
Safe Passage Project	\$20,000	2nd	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>		

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Safe Passage Project**

*New York, NY*

Safe Passage Project works to ensure that no child faces the immigration process alone. The vast majority of immigrant children in the United States have a path to legal status under existing law.

However, no immigrant – not even a child – is entitled to court-appointed legal counsel. As a result, more than half of these children go through immigration proceedings without. On their own, young people win their cases only 17% of the time; however, Safe Passage attorneys win cases on behalf of their clients more than 90% of the time. Safe Passage Project employs 24 attorneys and mentors over 560 pro bono attorneys to extend their impact. The organization also utilizes the services of four social workers to support clients’ holistic needs and connect with vital services. During its most recent grant period, Safe Passage screened a total of 160 young people and opened 39 new cases for comprehensive and free legal representation, bringing its total number of active clients to 1,250; its social work team provided 179 referrals to resources such as health insurance, mental and medical health care, housing, and more. Safe Passage also recently launched an online hub of trainings and sample litigation documents intended for pro bono attorneys, as well as a newsletter. The Foundation’s grant will be used for general operating support.



## ❖ Third Generation Grants

In 2022, the Foundation expanded its grantmaking allocation for members of the family in the third generation. The G3 Committee decided to focus its strategic grantmaking on intersectional, grassroots organizations working in criminal justice reform, reproductive rights, and climate justice.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Baltimore Action Legal Team	\$12,500	1st	General Operating Support
Black & Pink National	\$12,500	2nd	General Operating Support
Critical Resistance	\$12,500	2nd	General Operating Support
UPROSE	12,500	1st	General Operating Support
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		

### *GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT*

#### [Baltimore Action Legal Team](#)

Baltimore, MD

Baltimore Action Legal Team is a newly established independent nonprofit, formed after many years of fiscal sponsorship. In April 2015, local community organizations joined together as Baltimore United for Change in support of Baltimore residents' appeal for justice and accountability in the days following the killing of Freddie Gray in police custody, and issued a call to lawyers, legal workers and activists for support. The Baltimore Action Legal Team ("BALT") formed in response to that call, under guidance from local legal professionals and activists, as well as from the Black Movement-Law Project, Center for Constitutional Rights, and other outside experts. When the Baltimore Police Department began mass arrests of protesters, BALT played a critical role in supporting the direct needs to, providing legal strategy for, and documenting the stories of those arrested. After the Uprising, BALT committed themselves to supporting grassroots organizations and providing much needed legal education and assistance to the Baltimore community. BALT supports community-led efforts to address racial injustices focused on inequities in the criminal justice system. These efforts fall into the categories of community education, rapid response, training, research and advocacy. BALT does not seek to reform the current system but strives for a Baltimore where Black people use their power to determine justice within their communities. The Foundation's grant is for general operating support.

## ❖ 2022 Discretionary Grants

In 2022, the trustees of the Sills Family Foundation expanded its discretionary grantmaking program to a wider group of family members who are engaged in and committed to the Foundation’s work, based on their level of involvement and membership on various Foundation committees. Together, trustees and family members made a total of 75 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$500 to \$10,000, and totaling \$233,000.

Donor	Organization Name	Purpose	Grant Amount
Adam Iarussi	El Puente		\$2,500.00*
Adam Iarussi	Gambian Youths Organization		\$2,500.00
Anonymous	BDS Movement		\$500.00
Anonymous	Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition	Shut Down Berks campaign	\$500.00
Art Sills	Academy of the City Charter School		\$5,000.00
Art Sills	Cambridge Friends School		\$10,000.00
Art Sills	Planned Parenthood		\$10,000.00
Art Sills	School is Open		\$5,000.00
Art Sills	Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports		\$10,000.00
Deborah Iarussi	Power of Two, A Project for the Fund of the City of New York		\$5,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	CoRenewal	Fungi and Petroleum Contamination	\$2,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Jewish Family and Children Services	Welcome Refugees Fund	\$1,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Refugee and Immigrant Transitions		\$1,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	SF Baykeeper		\$1,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Sunrise		\$3,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Regents of the University of California	Study on agroecological approaches that could harness biodiversity and ecosystem functioning for improved agricultural resilience	\$3,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Youth vs. Apocalypse		\$4,000.00
Jackson Hobbs	Ardent Coffee/A Just Brew		\$5,000.00
Jackson Hobbs	Documentary Educational Resources	Climate Town with Filmmaker Rollie Williams	\$5,000.00
Jackson Hobbs	UTOPIA Washington		\$5,000.00
Jacob Iarussi	Kentucky Health Justice Network		\$2,500.00
Jacob Iarussi	Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson	No More Deaths	\$2,500.00

Jordan Sills	Health Care for the Homeless		\$1,000.00
Laila Iarussi	Brigid Alliance		\$2,500.00
Laila Iarussi	Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project		\$2,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	AREA Research	Forward Together with Maggie Favretti	\$1,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Arts Westchester		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation	For Hurricane Ian Victims	\$5,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Brennan Center for Justice		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	C-CAP		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Community Resource Center		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Giving Circle		\$1,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Grannies Respond Abuelas Responden		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Kavod		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Meals on Wheels of New Rochelle		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	National Interscholastic Cycling Association		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	New Neighbors Partnership		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	New Rochelle Council on the Arts		\$2,000.00*
Leah and Eric Sills	New Rochelle Public Library Foundation		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Solidarity Engineering		\$7,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Sousa Mendes Foundation	Video sculpture-Candelabro	\$3,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Team Brownsville	Angry Tias and Abuelas	\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Techforce		\$5,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	The Blue Card		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	The Sharing Shelf		\$3,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Vanguard Theater Company		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Westchester Parks Foundation		\$1,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	ABAHD		\$1,000.00

Matthew and Malaak Sills	Afghan Refugee Relief		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Afghan-American Foundation		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Afghans for a Better Tomorrow		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Artogether		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Choose Love		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Five Pillars		\$2,000.00*
Matthew and Malaak Sills	For the People		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Muslim Youth for Positive Impact		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	My Yute Soccer		\$1,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Noor Islamic Cultural Community Center		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Oakland Public Education Fund	Oakland Unified School District Equity Fund	\$8,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Operation Access		\$1,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Pangea Legal Services	Project ANAR	\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Partnerships for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Redwood Day School	Scholarship program	\$4,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Refugee and Immigrant Transitions		\$1,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Uplift Afghanistan		\$2,000.00
Peter Sills	Corporate Accountability		\$5,000.00
Peter Sills	Doula Program to Accompany and Comfort		\$10,000.00
Peter Sills	Twinfield Union School	Twinfield Together Program	\$5,000.00
Peter Sills	Vermont Foodbank		\$5,000.00
Susan and Larry Sills	Discalced Inc	Dance for Parkinson's Disease	\$8,000.00
Susan and Larry Sills	Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinsons Research		\$8,000.00
Talia Iarussi	Brigid Alliance		\$2,500.00
Talia Iarussi	North Brooklyn Angels		\$2,500.00
Tess Hobbs	Wasatch Adaptive		\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$233,000.00</b>

\* Indicates that payment set-up of this grant is still in process as of December 20, 2022.