



# Sills Family Foundation

## 2023 Annual Report

## **Table of Contents**

History and Mission _____	3
2023 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview _____	3
Sills 2023 Core Grants _____	5
<i>Criminal Justice Reform</i> _____	5
<i>Support for Young Children and Families in Underserved Communities</i> _____	9
<i>Capacity Building Grants</i> _____	11
Sills 2023 Arts and Culture Committee Grants _____	12
Sills 2023 Second Generation Committee Grants _____	13
Sills 2023 Third Generation Committee Grants _____	15
Environmental Justice & Climate Change Committee - Pilot Year _____	16
Sills 2023 Discretionary Grants _____	18

## ❖ History and Mission

The Sills Family Foundation launched its first formal grantmaking process in 2003. The Foundation is governed by a board of five 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**

In addition to these focus areas, the Foundation has several 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 and immigrants.
- The **Third Generation Committee** supports organizations working in criminal justice reform, reproductive rights, and climate justice.
- In 2023, the Foundation launched a pilot intergenerational committee focused on **Environmental Justice & Climate Change (EJCC) Committee**, as an opportunity for family members across all generations to come together in focused learning and grantmaking around these interrelated key concerns for the Foundation.

## ❖ 2023 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview

2023 marks a milestone in the Sills Family Foundation as we have now reached our 20th year of grantmaking. We have deepened our knowledge and grantmaking skills and continue to evolve and develop our strategies. It is our goal to remain responsive to issues of inequality and injustice in its many forms, including challenges facing immigrants and refugees, criminal justice reform, climate change and families in crisis. 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.

In 2023, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$1,604,000. Of this, the Board awarded \$775,000 through its Core grantmaking process, \$159,000 through its Arts & Culture committee, \$220,000 through the G2 committee, \$50,000 by the G3 foundation members, \$200,000 through the pilot committee focused on Environmental Justice & Climate Change (EJCC), and \$200,000 as trustee- and family-directed discretionary grants. The Foundation awarded a total of 132 grants, including 40 grants through its Core grantmaking program, 8 Arts & Culture grants, 11 G2 grants, 5 G3 grants, 8 EJCC grants, and 60 small discretionary grants. Within the Core grants, a final installment was paid in 2023 that had been committed through the Foundation's capacity-building grants program, bringing that initiative to a close.

While our focus areas remain largely the same, we are transitioning away from giving via generation-based committees and are moving instead to focusing on issue-based work. We hope to give space to allow all of our members to have their voices heard and their passions valued.

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 2023 Core 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. Over time, 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	\$20,000	6th	Reentry Holistic Support
College and Community Fellowship	\$20,000	8th	General Operating Support
Drive Change	\$20,000	3rd	General Operating Support
Echoes of Incarceration	\$20,000	9th	General Operating Support
Hour Children	\$20,000	21st	General Operating Support
HousingPlus	\$20,000	4th	General Operating Support
The Osborne Association	\$30,000	18th	General Operating Support
Providence House	\$20,000	6th	Women's Justice Program
Women's Prison Association	\$20,000	19th	General Operating Support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$190,000</b>		

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### HousingPlus

*New York City*

HousingPlus’s mission 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, building lives of stability and to realizing goals for themselves and their families. HousingPlus operates with a “housing first” approach, through which women and families are connected to housing without preconditions or barriers to entry. HousingPlus then connects tenants with a host of wraparound services, including trauma and family counseling and on-site employment/education services. In recent years, HousingPlus has continued to expand its transitional and permanent housing portfolio, as well as its supportive services for formerly homeless women and youth. The SHERO transitional housing program demonstrates that it is possible to divert justice-involved women away from costly jails and promote community reintegration through transitional housing and supportive services. In 2023, the SHERO program moved from Brooklyn to newly renovated units in Harlem and began a process of expansion from 59 to a goal of 140 units; HousingPlus is also in various stages of development with several other building projects, with an expected occupancy of 400-500 across its sites by 2027. HousingPlus provides support to families and helps children thrive by providing basic needs, connecting families to educational, childcare, mental health, and recreational services within their communities, and working with participants to build employment skills, set career goals, and secure jobs that suit their strengths and provide a steady, livable income. The Foundation will provide general operating support.

## B. PROGRAMS INSIDE PRISON

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Bard Prison Initiative	\$20,000	5th	General operating support
Brooklyn Defender Services	\$20,000	8th	General operating support
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison	\$20,000	7th	General operating support
Rehabilitation Through the Arts	\$20,000	7th	General operating support
Volunteers of Legal Services	\$20,000	7th	VOLS Immigration Project
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>		

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Bard Prison Initiative

*Annandale-on-Hudson, NY*

The Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) defies expectations of who college is for and where it might lead. For the past twenty years, BPI has reimagined access to higher education in response to racial and social inequities in education and the criminal legal system. BPI builds ambitious, tuition-free

colleges in prisons and other underestimated communities and supports alumni as they continue their education and enter the professional world. Building on BPI’s success in developing supportive academic communities in prisons, BPI created three sites on the outside known as Microcolleges, in partnership with community-based institutions to shepherd students through rigorous coursework toward an associate degree and set students up for success in transferring to an appropriately ambitious four-year college. BPI’s integrated reentry and alumni affairs programming helps alumni navigate the transition that follows long periods of incarceration and build sustainable careers and lives. The result of this work in the short term is a cadre of alumni who have the tools and resources for economic and social mobility and a model for other colleges to emulate; in the long run, equitable and rigorous education is essential for a more just society. Over the last 20 years, BPI has conferred 700+ degrees and supports nearly 1,000 alumni who have returned home. BPI is also a leader in the prison education advocacy. After federal funding for incarcerated students via Pell Grants was restored in 2020 after 26 years, BPI co-led the movement to restore the NY state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for incarcerated students, and in April 2022, NYS repealed its ban on incarcerated people receiving TAP grants. This will be the Foundation’s final grant to BPI, bringing a five-year relationship to a successful close.

### 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	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
Center Justice Innovation	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
Common Justice	\$20,000	13th	General Operating Support
Community Connections for Youth	\$20,000	12th	General Operating Support
Envision Freedom Fund (Brooklyn Community Bail Fund)	\$20,000	9th	General Operating Support
exalt youth	\$20,000	8th	General Operating Support
Liberty Fund	\$20,000	3rd	General Operating Support
Roca, Inc.	\$20,000	7th	Roca’s Intervention Model for Young Parents
Strategies for Youth	\$20,000	11th	General Operating
Urban Youth Alliance International	\$20,000	5th	Employment Pathways for Court-Involved Youth
Youth Represent	\$20,000	10th	General Operating Support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$220,000</b>		

#### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

[Community Connections for Youth](#)  
Bronx, NY

Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) is a Bronx-based non-profit organization whose mission is to equip grassroots faith and neighborhood organizations to develop effective community-driven alternatives to incarceration for youth. CCFY is a leader in the movement to develop the power and capacity of directly affected communities to positively address youth crime and delinquency, specifically through the leadership development of community members most impacted by the juvenile justice system. CCFY operates a Family Strengthening Program that engages parents and family members of system-involved youth; and a Parent Support Program (PSP) which hires parents of formerly court-involved youth to be Parent Coaches. In April 2023, CCFY launched the South Bronx Youth Justice Capacity Challenge, to bring about sector change in the funding of grassroots-led youth justice efforts through a coordinated process that centers directly impacted leaders of color in designing, growing, and sustaining community-driven alternatives to incarceration. A cohort of five grassroots community organizations -- Lead by Example, YUCCA, Neighborhood Benches, Dear Black Girl, and Freedom Youth and Family Justice Center -- will participate in a multi-year process that provides them with training on developing alternatives to incarceration, joint planning with justice system partners, and an infusion of capital from private foundations, all designed to prepare them for a larger transfer of public dollars in the future. These organizations will receive training and technical support from CCFY and the Nonprofit Finance Fund in addition to subgrants. CCFY’s training and technical assistance department will assist with some of the training and development for all the organizations.

## ADVOCACY

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Center for Justice at Columbia University School of Social Work	\$20,000	3rd	Women Transcending: Right/Write to Heal (R/W2H)
Correctional Association of New York	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
JustLeadership USA	\$10,000	10th	General Operating Support
New York Women’s Foundation	\$20,000	2nd	The Justice Fund
Release Aging People in Prison Campaign	\$20,000	5th	General Operating Support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>		

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Correctional Association of New York

New York, NY

Founded in 1844, the Correctional Association of New York (CANY) provides independent oversight of prisons in New York State to promote transparency and accountability; safeguard the human and civil rights of incarcerated people; eliminate harmful practices and policies; and decrease the use of incarceration in New York. In 1846, CANY was granted authority to inspect prisons and to report its findings and recommendations to the public. It is one of only three such organizations with unfettered access to prisons in the entire country. CANY leverages its unique access to play a role in shaping and securing every major criminal justice reform in the state of New York, on topics ranging from repealing mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes to ending the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women during labor. CANY envisions a future in which prisons are replaced with an entirely different model for responding to violence and social concerns. In 2023, CANY published nine reports, including four Post-Visit Briefing



Documents, a new prison-specific report that highlights major takeaways from a monitoring visit at a given facility; and a new report on the implementation of the [HALT Solitary Confinement Act](#). CANY also made major strides in the development of an improved relationship with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), participating in DOCCS’ Prison Violence Task Force sessions and meetings with staff from DOCCS’ data team. The Foundation’s grant provides general operating support for CANY’s work.

## 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 2023, we continued this 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	\$20,000	5th	The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) program
Community Solutions	\$20,000	3rd	United For Brownsville
Power of Two	\$20,000	6th	Power of Two Community Programs
The Reading Team	\$20,000	6th	General Operating Support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [The Reading Team](#)

*New York, NY*

The Reading Team, a Harlem-based nonprofit organization is dedicated to enabling young children who are at high risk of reading failure to become strong and enthusiastic readers, writers, listeners, and speakers, developing the skills, habits, and behaviors that will support their success in school and in life. The organization works to accomplish this mission by engaging youth in a wide range of literacy-nurturing lessons and activities. Since the organization opened its doors in 2001, their evidence-based literacy programs led by trained, paid teaching staff have helped more than 13,000 children from economically challenged backgrounds achieve substantial and lasting academic success. The hallmark of their programs for children PreK through Grade 5 is early

intervention, before a lack of success in school dampens the children’s inherent enthusiasm for learning. They apply a whole-language approach, featuring five pillars of reading science: phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

## B. SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.	\$10,000	6th	Immigrants' Rights Project
Brooklyn Community Foundation	\$20,000	6th	Brooklyn Immigrant Rights Fund
Make the Road New York	\$20,000	6th	New York Immigration Rapid Response and Deportation Defense
Project ANAR	\$10,000	1st	General Operating Support
Solidarity Engineering	\$20,000	1st	General Operating Support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### Solidarity Engineering

*Philadelphia, PA*

Solidarity Engineering is a women-founded, women-led, humanitarian engineering organization with a mission is to provide community-driven, public health-based engineering for people in crisis. Established in 2020, Solidarity focuses on WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) and infrastructure projects at asylum seeker camps in the Mexican border cities of Reynosa and Matamoros. As engineers, infrastructure specialists, and technology experts, they have a wide scope of programming that prioritizes the root causes of public health crises which are often compounded by the challenges of humanitarian emergency or disaster zones. Solidarity divides its activities into three program areas: Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) & Basic Infrastructure; Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM) & Play; and Data & Advocacy. Working at the intersection of disaster response and development, Solidarity has a wide range of WASH and infrastructure activities that address sudden-onset needs, such as the provision of emergency water, portable toilets, and hygiene supplies, and long-term regional needs, such as capital construction of shelters and infrastructure. Play is also critical to the public health of displaced populations as it offers a vital outlet for emotional expression, social integration, and psychological healing, particularly among vulnerable populations. Through the construction of playgrounds, implementation of community-based murals, and facilitation of STEAM classes, Play & STEAM programming centers on the survival and development needs of children in both the immediate and long-term. The organization actively engages in policy advocacy and collaborates with other organizations and stakeholders to address systemic issues related to water, sanitation, and hygiene, and is currently collaborating with researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University on data collection and evaluation of its programs. The Foundation will provide general operating support.

## CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

During the 2019 grantmaking cycle, the Foundation decided to make several 3-year capacity building grants, most of which came to completion in 2021. These capacity building grants were intended to support organizations through a period of structural change and internal development. The following represents the final installment, which was paid in 2023 after a delay at the request of the grantee, thereby closing out this initiative.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Mercury Policy Project	\$15,000	3rd	Final payment, capacity building grant

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [Mercury Policy Project](#)

*Montpelier, VT*

MPP was formed in 1998 to reduce mercury use, releases, trade, and exposure. The organization strives to reduce mercury exposure and all uses, releases, and trade. They work 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. MPP collaborates with organizations and individuals with similar goals including science experts, businesses, and government officials.

## ❖ Sills 2023 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 periodically offering larger grants to certain organizations that align closely with the Foundation’s priorities.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
ArtsWestchester	\$26,000	12th	\$20,000 for Artist Residencies for Seniors; \$6,000 for general operating support
Brooklyn Ballet	\$20,000	10th	Brooklyn Ballet's 2024 Elevate Program
Brooklyn Public Library	\$20,000	10th	Creative Aging program
Community-Word Project	\$20,000	12th	Collaborative Arts Residencies
Manhattan Theatre Club	\$18,000	5th	MTC Education's FY24 Write on the Edge Program
POLIN Museum	\$25,000	7th	General operating support
Songcatchers	\$20,000	5th	General operating support
Sing Sing Prison Museum	\$10,000	1st	General operating support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$159,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### Community-Word Project: Collaborative Arts Residencies

*New York City*

Community-Word Project, founded in 1997, uses creative writing and multidisciplinary arts as a necessary element of public school education to ensure that young people have the chance to envision, invest in, and build a community different from the one failing to meet their needs. Community-Word Project operates in NYC neighborhoods where 70% of residents live in poverty and students struggle with the effects of underinvested schools; the linguistic challenges that come with recent immigration; and inequities in physical and mental health resources that severely impact their focus and ability to learn. The Foundation’s grant will support the Collaborative Arts Residencies (CAR) program, in which teaching artists integrate creative writing and visual arts, music, dance, or theater into school curriculum to help students improve their literacy and develop creative, critical thinking, and socio-emotional skills. CWP’s programs center around achieving five main outcomes with students: literacy, critical thinking, creative thinking, emotional intelligence, and engaged citizenship. The CAR Program uses creative writing and the arts to help students develop the creative and critical thinking skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Two teaching artists -- one writer/poet and one artist of another discipline -- work closely with classroom teachers to lead residencies, which last between 10 and 25 weeks. In addition to poetry and creative writing, CWP residencies also incorporate some other form of visual arts into the curriculum, giving students the opportunity to tell the stories of themselves and their communities in creative and thought-provoking ways.

## ❖ Second Generation Grants

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

- A. At-risk youth
- B. Supporting Immigrants

### A. At-Risk Youth

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
ASE Education Foundation	\$15,000	6th	Scholarship for secondary automotive repair training
Girls Education and Mentoring Services, Inc.	\$25,000	9th	General Operating Support
LIFE Camp, Inc.	\$20,000	3rd	General Operating Support
MISSEY, Inc.	\$15,000	8th	General Operating Support
Youth ALIVE!	\$20,000	8th	General Operating Support
Youth Shelter Program of Westchester	\$20,000	7th	Youth INSPIRE Program
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>		

#### *GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT*

#### [Youth Shelter Program of Westchester](#)

*Mount Vernon, NY*

Youth Shelter Program of Westchester (YSOW) is a community-based organization that provides education, mentorship, recreational, peer support, counseling, community and family engagement to at-risk justice-involved youth and young adults with the resources they need to thrive. The goal is to provide these individuals with the resources they need to break the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse and become productive members of society. YSOW's impacts over 100 youth and counting who are justice-involved. YSOW is the only program in Westchester County that offers an alternative to incarceration for emerging adults in the criminal justice system and within the adult criminal court system. YSOW has two main program structures, namely, the residential & the community aftercare programs with five key program components: clinical, educational, vocational, community services/volunteerism, and family reunification. The residential program is a 12-bed facility in lower Westchester County, NY, that annually provides services to over 50 young men between the ages of 18-25. The Foundation's funding will support the establishment and implementation of YouthINSPIRE, a mentoring program specifically designed to provide guidance, support, and positive role models to justice-involved youth. The mentoring program aims to address the unique challenges faced by justice-involved youth in YSOW's community-based court diversion program and/or youth who are transitioning back into society. By pairing them with caring and committed adult mentors, YSOW seeks to provide guidance, build positive relationships, and offer opportunities for personal growth and development.

## B. Supporting Immigrants

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Hearts and Homes for Refugees	\$15,000	3rd	General Operating Support
Make the Road New York	\$20,000	8th	Youth Power Project Restorative Justice Program
Partnerships for Trauma Recovery	\$25,000	6th	General Operating Support
Refugee & Immigrant Transitions	\$20,000	6th	General Operating Support
Safe Passage Project	\$25,000	3rd	General Operating Support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [Partnerships for Trauma Recovery](#)

*Berkeley, CA*

Partnerships for Trauma Recovery (PTR) was founded in 2015 to address the psychosocial impacts of trauma among international survivors of human rights abuses through culturally responsive, trauma-informed and linguistically accessible psychological and psychosocial care, clinical training, and policy advocacy. At PTR’s Mosaic Healing Center, clinicians provide in-depth psychosocial care to clients, who are refugees, asylum seekers and asylees who have survived war, torture, gender-based violence, human trafficking and persecution due to identity, sexual orientation and beliefs. The majority of clients are asylum seekers who live in a state of limbo, not knowing whether they will be returned to their country of origin, where they often face the risk of death. At the core of PTR’s model is the Global Healing and Human Rights (GHHR) clinical training program. Through this program, the organization trains advanced psychology doctoral students to provide trauma-informed, culturally aware, and linguistically accessible mental health care in the Bay Area. In 2022, PTR greatly expanded its outreach program, reaching a greater number of community members (2,511) than ever before. The organization engaged in a strategic planning process in 2023, which will provide a roadmap for PTR for the next 3-5 years. The plan focuses on four areas: (a) deepening existing direct services by leveraging community knowledge, (b) strengthening workplace culture through cross-learning and training for staff, (c) strengthening organizational sustainability by hiring an HR Director, diversifying funding, and continuing in the DEI process, and (d) growing programs by expanding training, advocacy, and outreach efforts. The Foundation will provide general operating support.

## ❖ Third Generation Grants

Since 2021, the Foundation expanded its grantmaking allocation for members of the family in the third generation. The G3 Committee has decided to focus its strategic grantmaking on intersectional, grassroots organizations working in criminal justice reform, housing and tenants' rights, and climate justice.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Baltimore Action Legal Team	\$10,000	2nd	General operating support
Black & Pink National	\$10,000	3rd	General operating support
Communities Resist	\$10,000	1st	General operating support
Critical Resistance	\$10,000	3rd	General operating support
UPROSE	\$10,000	2nd	General operating support
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### Critical Resistance

Oakland, CA

Critical Resistance (CR) is a national grassroots organization based in Oakland, CA, that seeks to build an international movement to end the prison industrial complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. They aim to DISMANTLE the structures of the prison industrial complex, a term which they use to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social, and political problems; CHANGE common sense, resource allocation, and practices away from punishment and control, and toward practices that empower communities and address harm and problems at their root cause; and BUILD the possibilities for infrastructure and priorities that will create truly strong and healthy communities. Their work includes prisoner solidarity efforts, including running *The Abolitionist Newspaper* which is sent to thousands of people imprisoned in the US and in some countries internationally, and Prison Mail correspondence programs where each of their chapters correspond regularly with imprisoned individuals. CR also runs political education training including abolitionist workgroups and workshops. Their chapters also work to fight imprisonment -- the CR Oakland and CR Los Angeles chapters are part of a campaign to close California prisons, alongside Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB); and CR NYC is part of a campaign to end immigrant detention in New York state, as part of the Abolish ICE New York/New Jersey coalition.

## ❖ Environmental Justice & Climate Change Committee – Pilot Year

In 2023, The Foundation launched a pilot Environmental Justice & Climate Change (EJCC) Committee, an intergenerational, issue-focused grantmaking and learning committee open to all family members (aged 16+). This provides an opportunity for family members who are passionate about the environment and climate change to focus their Foundation engagement specifically on this issue area. During 2023, the EJCC Committee invited all family members to attend learning sessions by Zoom with current grantees, and conducted grantmaking with a set of grantee organizations previously funded by both the Core Board and the Second Generation Committee. The results and learnings of the pilot committee structure will help to inform future planning and governance practices for the Foundation more broadly.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Year of Funding	Purpose
Carbon Cycle Initiative	\$20,000	6th	General operating support
Climate Collaborative	\$20,000	5th	General operating support
Coming Clean	\$25,000	12th	Networks in Action: Unleashing the Power of Collaboration for Environmental Health and Justice
Ecdysis Foundation	\$30,000	2nd	1000 Farms Initiative
GreenWave	\$30,000	2nd	General operating support
GRID Alternatives	\$25,000	7th	Enroll Opportunity Youth in GRID Alternative's Renewable Energy Workforce Development Program
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.	\$25,000	16th	General Operating Support
Women's Earth Alliance	\$25,000	6th	US Grassroots Accelerator Project
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>		

### GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### [Ecdysis Foundation](#)

*Estelline, SD*

Ecdysis Foundation conducts relationship-intensive, systems-level, farmer-driven science that is catalyzing the evolution of a regenerative food system. The mission of Ecdysis Foundation is to use research, demonstration, and education to help fuel the evolution of a regenerative food system, and the 1000 Farms Initiative, which the Foundation's grant will support, is their main mechanism for accomplishing this mission. Scaling regenerative agriculture globally will require coordination and harmonization of field assessments on a level that has never been attempted. According to Ecdysis, science has not reached consensus on optimal approaches for monitoring ecosystems to reflect regenerative farm outcomes. Nevertheless, there is a sense of urgency in describing these systems to support changes to our food system. Through the 1000 Farms Initiative, Ecdysis monitors a wide array of systems traits (chemical, physical, and biological) to address the urgent need for data and the long-term relevance of the systems-data that are



generated. Ecdysis' strength is producing and communicating primary scientific research, and they actively collaborate with other entities whose strengths lie in this and other aspects of the regenerative agriculture movement.

## ❖ 2023 Discretionary Grants

In 2023, the trustees of the Sills Family Foundation again opened its discretionary grantmaking program to a wide 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 60 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and totaling \$200,000.

Donor(s)	Organization Name	Purpose*	Grant Amount
Adam Iarussi	Mixteca		\$2,500.00
Anonymous	Jewish Voice for Peace		\$1,000.00
Art Sills and Sarah DeBlois	Academy of the City Charter School		\$5,000.00
Art Sills and Sarah DeBlois	Cambridge Friends School		\$10,000.00
Art Sills and Sarah DeBlois	School is Open		\$5,000.00
Art Sills and Sarah DeBlois	Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports		\$10,000.00
Deborah Iarussi	Power of Two, A Project for the Fund of the City of New York		\$7,500.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	350.org		\$1,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Amazon Frontlines		\$3,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	American Friends of Combatants for Peace	Israel	\$2,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	American Friends of the Parents Circle - Families Forum	Parents Circle	\$2,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Jgive	Shores Fund	\$1,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Junglekeepers		\$3,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	SPUN   Society for the Protection of Underground Networks		\$2,000.00
Eliyahu and Rachel Sills	Sunrise		\$1,000.00
Jackson and Yoshi Hobbs	Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors		\$6,000.00
Jackson and Yoshi Hobbs	Oregon Wild		\$3,000.00
Jackson and Yoshi Hobbs	Renewables Northwest		\$3,000.00
Jackson and Yoshi Hobbs	Utopia Washington		\$3,000.00
Jacob Iarussi	Kentucky Health Justice Network		\$3,000.00

Jacob Iarussi	Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson	No More Deaths	\$3,000.00
Jordan Sills	Health Care for the Homeless		\$1,000.00
Laila and Talia Iarussi	Brigid Alliance		\$3,000.00
Laila Iarussi	Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project		\$3,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Al Otro Lado		\$3,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	ArtsWestchester	Teen Tuesday	\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Brennan Center for Justice		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Community Resource Center		\$3,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Giving Circle		\$1,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Grannies Respond Abuelas Responden		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	King Baudouin Foundation United States	Fundacao Aristides de Sousa Mende	\$7,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	New Rochelle Council on the Arts		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	New Rochelle Public Library Foundation		\$1,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Solidarity Engineering		\$5,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Team Brownsville	Angry Tias and Abuelas	\$2,500.00
Leah and Eric Sills	The Blue Card		\$1,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	The Sharing Shelf		\$2,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	University of the Aftermarket Foundation	For scholarships only	\$5,000.00
Leah and Eric Sills	Vanguard Theater Company		\$1,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Afghan-American Foundation		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Afghans for a Better Tomorrow		\$3,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Bishop O'Dowd School	Scholarship Fund	\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Choose Love		\$5,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	For the People		\$3,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Keeping Our Promise		\$2,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	My Yute Soccer		\$1,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Noor Islamic Cultural Community Center		\$3,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Oakland Unified School District	Equity Fund	\$5,000.00
Matthew and Malaak Sills	Redwood Day School	Scholarship Fund	\$2,000.00

Matthew and Malaak Sills	Uplift Afghanistan		\$2,000.00
Peter Sills	Business Capacity Development Alliance	Canary Impact Fund	\$4,000.00
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
Peter Sills	Witness to Mass Incarceration		\$1,000.00
Susan and Larry Sills	Disalced Inc		\$8,000.00
Talia Iarussi	North Brooklyn Angels		\$3,000.00
Tess Hobbs	Wasatch Adaptive Sports		\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$200,000</b>

\* Unless denoted otherwise, all gifts are for general operating support