



# Sills Family Foundation

## 2013 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 children with incarcerated parents
- 2) Early and elementary childhood education that includes family supports such as medical care and parent education
- 3) Environmental justice, with a focus on contaminants that harm the developing embryo, fetus and infant

In 2012, The Sills Family Foundation launched an Arts and Culture program to help organizations in the New York area serve the community through the intersection of arts, culture and social justice.

## **2013 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview**

In 2013, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$1,177,700, a significant increase from the 2012 total of \$879,000. Of this, the Board awarded \$755,000 through its core grantmaking process, \$50,000 through a special capacity building program, \$76,000 through its Arts & Culture grantmaking initiative, \$180,000 as trustee directed discretionary grants, and \$100,000 through a mission driven selection process managed by a group of next generation foundation members. The remainder was 2012 grants that were paid out by the Foundation in 2013. The Foundation awarded grants to a total of 28 organizations through its core grantmaking program, 7 Arts & Culture grants, 5 capacity building and 7 next generation grants in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, California, Washington State, and Jamaica.

The Foundation primarily makes general operating grants, allowing grantees to use the funds as needed, as opposed to being limited to a particular budget line. Grantees report that this degree of flexibility is uncommon and has been particularly useful during the economic downturn. This year the Foundation has also been able to make additional one-time capacity building grants to long-standing grantees.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to focus on programs for families impacted by the criminal justice system. In the coming year the Directors will be playing a role in convening other interested funders to share knowledge, and to encourage engagement with this vulnerable population. The Foundation will continue to alert some grantees that it will be directing additional funds towards this area, and will be discontinuing certain other grants as a result.

In 2012, the Foundation added an additional focus area, supporting Arts and Cultural Organizations in the greater NY area. This year was the second round of grants in this area, and will be increasing in the coming years. The Sills Family Foundation focuses in particular on organizations that strengthen the intersection of arts, culture and social justice.

The Foundation's second generation is deepening its engagement in the grantmaking process, and has determined that future grants will be directed towards at risk youth and environmental issues. Grants will be made on both the east and west coasts.

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

## **Sills 2013 Strategic Grants**

Grant descriptions are organized by primary focus areas.

### **Incarcerated Mothers and their Children**

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

The Center for Children and Families was awarded \$25,000 to support the implementation and evaluation of the Shared Parenting program at Lund (Vermont). Over the course of the year a study coordinator will travel regularly to the Lund residential treatment site to recruit and consent study participants, observe and audio/video record all group sessions and provide regular consultation to group facilitators, as part of the on-going effort to adapt the Shared Parenting framework to the specific needs of this population of mothers in residential substance abuse and mental health treatment with resulting criminal justice involvement. Shared Parenting uses professionally facilitated group process to strengthen the co-parenting relationship of incarcerated mothers and the guardians of their children in the community. The goal of the program is that over time the child(ren) will experience a more unified adult presence in their lives along with reduced feelings of conflicted loyalty and displaced guilt, the guardian will feel supported, and the mother less isolated and more responsible for her child(ren)'s welfare. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Circle  
Barre, VT**

Circle was granted \$25,000 to develop housing options and programming for battered women charged with crimes and formally incarcerated women reentering Washington County. In recent years, Circle has worked towards integrating gender-responsive strategies, especially those connected to strengthening relationships among children, family, and the community. Through continued research and development, Circle will implement gender sensitive services to incorporate programming and community connections that will increase the rate of successful reentry for incarcerated women. Continued support from the Sills Family Foundation will partially cover salaries and benefits of key shelter staff, shelter resident fund, and material and supply costs. Last year, Circle received a \$5,000 award from the Foundation as part of a challenge grant to build board strength and improve fundraising capacity. *(Eleventh year of funding)*

❖ **Community Works West  
Berkeley, CA**

Community Works West (CWW) received \$55,000 to support multiple projects and initiatives supporting families impacted by parental incarceration. \$25,000 will support the One Family Initiative and its continued implementation of Parenting Inside/Out, an evidence-based parenting curriculum designed specifically for jailed parents at San Francisco County Jail.

One Family is intended to provide meaningful, frequent and consistent opportunities for children to remain connected to their parents during their incarceration. Funds will partially support the salaries of facilitators for the Parenting Inside/Out classes, family support, and child friendly contact visiting in-jail and post release. In the coming year, CWW will focus on developing a therapeutic model to further enhance the curriculum for family therapy reentry challenges and interventions. A second award of \$10,000 was granted to support promotion of Nell Bernstein's book *Burning Down the House: Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice*. Throughout the publication process, Ms. Bernstein has been able to engage young people and seeks to promote their voices and ideas. Funding will allow youth to accompany her during the promotion phase of the book to create opportunities for a wide audience to learn from their experience. \$25,000 was also awarded in support of parent education and contact visiting at two state facilities, Solano State Prison and Chowchilla State Prison. *(Sixth year of funding)*

❖ **Greenhope  
East Harlem, NY**

Greenhope received \$25,000 for general operating support for the Rising Mothers Program and Child Development Center. Greenhope offers comprehensive residential treatment services, supportive housing, and a range of prevention and outpatient programs to formerly incarcerated women, women referred by the courts as an alternative to incarceration, and women from the community who require substance abuse and HIV prevention and treatment services. The specific focus of the Rising Mothers Program, a key component of the Family Services Department, is to provide a therapeutic environment and appropriate support services to begin the process of healing the wounds of attachment disruption between incarcerated mothers and their children and families. The goals of the program are to address the treatment and support needs of mothers diagnosed with a co-occurring disorder (COD) of substance abuse and mental illness while also enabling them to reunite with their young children after incarceration, improve their parenting skills and repair the early mother-child attachments that were interrupted at a critical developmental stage in the lives of their children. These mothers are granted the opportunity to work on their challenges while also reestablishing their parental relationships and forging bonds of attachment with their children. *(Third year of funding)*

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

Hour Children was awarded a \$50,000 grant for prison- and community-based programming. \$25,000 of the grant will support Hour Children's general operating budget, contributing to the costs of various community-based programs, including: supportive housing, Hour Working Women Program (job skills training and employment placement support), mental health support, a fully-licensed daycare facility, an after-school program, and mentoring programs for both children impacted by incarceration and female ex-offenders, pre- and post-release. 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. The mission of Hour Children is 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. *(Eleventh year funding Hour Children; fifth year funding CCBH)*

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

Housing + Solutions received a \$25,000 grant to support Drew House, a Family Alternative to Incarceration program, which provides housing for women who have committed a non-violent felony to live with their children while they fulfill the Court's mandates for periods ranging from eighteen months to two years instead of being incarcerated in NY State Prison. If a participant successfully completes her mandated sentence, the felony charge is dismissed and will not follow her and diminish future employment or housing opportunities for her and her family. After an evaluation demonstrating positive results, Housing + Solutions will continue to expand family services and to replicate Drew House by promoting the model with public officials and other social service agencies. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Lund Family Center**  
**Burlington, Vermont**

Lund Family Center was awarded \$50,000 - a one-time grant of \$25,000 to support the Outcomes Capacity Building Project and \$25,000 for the Kids-A-Part Parenting Program. The Outcomes Capacity Building Project will help integrate data tracking into the daily work of staff in an effort to track the progress of clients through the array of comprehensive services provided by Lund's programs. The Agency Outcomes Project Manager has coordinated a team to gather multiple data points to interpret and report on outcomes systematically across programs and services. The Kids-A-Part Parenting Program supports children of incarcerated parents, as well as their families, to reduce trauma and maintain strong family ties. 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. *(Seventh year funding KAPP; third year of funding organization)*

❖ **Northern Lights (a program of The HowardCenter)**  
**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 houses 11 women at a time for seven to twenty month stays, where they are supported by community providers, service providers, and each other as they develop skills, reconnect with their children, seek employment, improve their health, and make positive connections. Residents meet regularly with their team of service providers and play an active role in the development of their case plan. Northern Lights' mission is to provide the opportunity for returning female offenders to build the foundation necessary for long-term safety and independence for themselves and their families. *(Sixth year of funding)*

❖ **The Osborne Association  
Bronx, NY**

The Osborne Association received \$25,000 for continued support of Children & Youth Services to children with incarcerated parents, including the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and Youth Leadership Program (YLP). Children and Youth Services includes a mixture of after school and weekend programming designed to reduce the common feelings of isolation experienced by children who have an incarcerated parent and build upon their internal assets. The YLP is a 15-session, single-semester curriculum for older youth, developed in response to the young people's need for (and stated interest in) more skills-building activities with their peers. The YAB, consisting of 10-15 members, provides opportunities for young people impacted by a parent's incarceration to connect with other youth in similar situations, build their leadership and communication skills and add their voice to practice and policy reform by presenting to a larger population. Other youth services include creative writing workshops, teen college preparation, recreational activities, prison visiting, case management, etc. (*Eighth year of funding*)

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

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

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

St. Mary's was granted \$25,000 to support the Incarceration Intervention Initiative, allowing staff to determine the full scope of families' needs and to identify ways to support them and their relationships with family members. Staff has received training to better understand the feelings, behaviors and challenges that result from the traumatic experiences and attachment disruptions that come with incarceration. After the initial 18 months of the Initiative, St. Mary's is working to identify best practices for clinicians and case managers to utilize in their daily interactions and case management, as well as starting to establish collaborative relationships with other community agencies. By broadening services, knowledge, and expertise on issues of incarcerations, St. Mary's seeks to respond to and support the loss, hopelessness, anger, and risk of negative outcomes associated with incarceration. The Foundation contributed an additional \$10,000 in honor of St. Mary's long-time President, Judy Beckler, who will step down in the coming year. (*Ninth year of funding*)

❖ **Save Our Streets Crown Heights (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. Outreach workers serve as peer counselors, offering guidance on how to avoid violence. Violence Interrupters' focus on preventing shootings by mediating tense situations before they erupt into violence. Their work often takes place after dark, in the parks, on street corners - wherever the high-risk population congregates. Staff works help identify high-risk or victimized individuals and work with them to create a risk reduction plan that may include anger management, drug treatment, educational support, health services, criminal justice services, or job-training. Funding will support the program's outreach efforts to divert high-risk individuals from gun violence, which includes 4 SOS outreach workers and 4 violence interrupters. *(First year of funding)*

❖ **Strategies for Youth**  
**Cambridge, MA**

Strategies for Youth received \$25,000 to develop standards and training for law enforcement arresting parents in the presence of children. Founded in 2009, Strategies for Youth is a national advocacy and training organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions and reducing disproportionate minority contact. SFY's mission is to promote a youth development approach among law enforcement officers and to expand age-appropriate interventions for youth, while equipping both officers and youth with the tools they need to interact positively. SFY advocates for reduced reliance on the juvenile justice system for minor offenses, and is the only national organization that approaches this issue both from a juvenile justice and from a youth development perspective. *(First year of funding)*

❖ **StreetSafe Boston (an initiative of the Boston Foundation)**  
**Boston, MA**

StreetSafe Boston was awarded \$25,000 in support of its Streetworker Violence Intervention Strategy. StreetSafe aims to contribute to a reduction of violence in Boston by focusing interventions on approximately 20 of the city's most active gangs in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by gang violence. The multi-faceted program includes individual skill-building and competencies, conflict mediation, pro-social development, and access to work and training opportunities. In the last year, SSB convened a "strategy team" of the most experienced Streetworkers to focus on high level conflicts citywide. The group regularly brainstorms innovative interventions, creates detailed violence reports with backgrounds, and updates the "Conflicts and Collaborations" tracker so that all staff are aware of warring and collaborating gangs to improve information gathering and interventions. SSB works to help provide gang-involved youth with a way out of criminal behavior and a path to livable wage jobs. *(First year of funding)*

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

Vera Institute of Justice received \$25,000 to support Common Justice, a participatory justice project in Brooklyn that brings together the victim, the perpetrator, family and community members impacted by a crime for a face-to-face dialogue to determine an appropriate response to the harm caused. The project, launched in 2009, aims to transform the system's response to serious crime by offering an opportunity for dialogue and healing, as an alternative to a lengthy prison term. The process is designed to make things as right as possible for those harmed by crime, and to hold those responsible accountable to a set of agreements that replace an otherwise lengthy prison term. CJ engages and screens participants, provides urgent and long-term services to harmed parties, prepares parties for their conference, convenes the conferences and supervises responsible parties' completion of the emerging agreements. Funding will allow Common Justice to maintain a case load at full capacity, refine its men's groups (M.O.V.E.), and support efforts in identifying new ways of testing and sharing the Common Justice model. *(Third year of funding)*

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

VOTE was awarded \$5,000 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, investing time and resources in collaborative efforts, and prioritizing movement building. Its efforts to increase civic engagement has a dual purpose: to affect criminal justice reform and to build leadership for a broader movement recognizing that the women and men and youth most impacted by mass incarceration also face injustices in housing, access to health care, voting rights, employment, healthy environmental conditions and education, among others. *(First year of funding)*

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

The Women's Prison Association received a \$25,000 grant for general operating support, which is critical to provide a continuum of services to help women re-join their communities, reunite with their families and establish fulfilling, law-abiding lives after a period of incarceration. Their approach prioritizes working collaboratively with women and families toward defining their own goals, laying out plans to achieve them, and taking advantage of an expanded realm of resources and opportunities. General operating funding will support criminal justice-involved women and their families at several sites throughout New York (WPA's Brooklyn Community Office, Reentry Services Center, Huntington House, and Hopper Home). WPA's programs and services help women address the factors that put them at risk of criminal justice-involvement including substance abuse, mental illness, a history of abusive relationships, unemployment and poverty. *(Tenth year of funding)*

## Families in Crisis

### ❖ **American Friends Service Committee Newark, NJ**

American Friends Service Committee was awarded \$25,000 for the Immigrant Children Project, within the larger Newark-based Immigrant Rights Program, is committed to ensuring the rights of children in the immigration process. Through direct legal representation and advocacy, AFSC helps immigrant children obtain legal status and better understand immigration law and how it impacts them. The Project works to influence and improve policy and practice at the local, state and national level toward unaccompanied immigrant children. Funds from the Sills Family Foundation will partially support a full-time children's staff attorney/KIND Fellow, to provide legal advocacy and representation for these children. *(First year of funding)*

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

Community Connections for Youth received \$25,000 for their South Bronx initiative, which mobilizes grassroots faith and neighborhood organization in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx to divert youth from further juvenile justice system involvement. The SBCC initiative began in 2011 and is currently in the process of expanding to serve youth from the Concourse/Highbridge neighborhood. Partner organizations (including Bronx Department of Probation, Corporation Counsel, NYPD, and Department of Education) refer the youth who are typically asked to attend the program for 30-120 days as a form of diversion from formal court processing. The program includes individual strategy plans for each young person, connections to community coaches (mentors), development of neighborhood improvement projects (with neighborhood-based organizations), and a Strengthening Families Program. CCFY continues to engage youth for 3-5 years post-mandate in positive youth development programming through its network of community partners. *(Second year of funding)*

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

Julie's Family Learning Program was awarded \$25,000 to support general operations of their Adult and Children's Services. Julie's is dedicated to helping low-income children and their mothers break the cycle of poverty, and has been providing comprehensive family support and education programs for low-income families in crisis in South Boston for over 30 years. The grant will help support integrated services including high quality child-care, Montessori pre-school, and parenting and life skills education. In the coming year, Adult Services will focus on providing on-site, one-on-one counseling from licensed certified behavior counselors specialized in addressing addictive behaviors that create barriers to stability and growth for adult learners while Children's Services will work to identify and secure additional external resources to support the growing number of pre-school children and parent with learning disability challenges. The organization will also work to transition its co-founders to meaningful, advisory and mentorship roles within Julie's while allowing senior staff to take over day-to-day responsibilities. *(Ninth year of funding)*

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

STEPS to End Family Violence was awarded \$25,000 for the Children's Therapy Program, which provides therapeutic interventions for children to help address the symptoms of trauma experienced after witnessing family and domestic violence. The program offers individual play or art therapy sessions for children, as well as family and parental support sessions, case management, housing, civil legal, and benefits advocacy services to help stabilize the entire family. In addition to family work, STEPS facilitates a Children's Group which helps participants realize that they are not alone in their experience of family violence, as well as the evidence-informed Parenting Journey group for parents to reflect on their own experiences in order to identify both constructive and destructive patterns that they may be repeating as parents. In the next year, the Children's Therapy Program will support therapy sessions and other services for 45-50 children, in addition to the 50 already enrolled. *(Ninth year of funding)*

❖ **Parents Helping Parents  
Watertown, MA**

Parents Helping Parents received \$10,000 in general operating support to further its mission of empowering parents to nurture children and prevent child abuse. PHP was founded in 1979 under the name Parents Anonymous of Massachusetts to prevent child abuse by developing a network of mutual support groups for parents who are isolated, overwhelmed, or too ashamed to ask for help from traditional social service agencies. Currently, the organization offers twenty-three support groups around the state of Massachusetts that served more than 250 parents in 2012. They also maintain a 24-hour helpline that received over 4,300 calls. All of these services are provided by about 80 volunteers who are recruited, trained, and supervised by a small staff. *(First year of funding)*

## Environmental Justice

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

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights was granted \$35,000 for general operating support. AEHR is dedicated to upholding the human right to live in a healthy environment, holding companies accountable when this right is violated, and advocating for public policy that supports this right. General operating funds will primarily be used to manage litigation in the Mossville, LA human rights case. Funding will also provide media support for environmental justice groups to build support in favor of reforming the US environmental regulatory system to protect basic human rights and help AEHR move forward with a lawsuit against the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for permitting the Georgia Gulf/Axiall vinyl manufacturing facility to unlawfully release toxic air pollution in the Mossville community. *(Tenth year of funding)*

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

Alternatives for Community and Environment received a \$25,000 grant for continued support of the *Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)*, which nurtures youth development and leadership through an environmental justice curriculum, organizing and membership program, and youth-led campaigns in Roxbury, Dorchester, and across the City of Boston. Funds from the Sills Family Foundation will allow REEP to support six to eight paid youth organizers who meet four times each week to coordinate events and conduct youth-led environmental justice campaigns. REEP provides personal, academic and career support for young people, holds bi-weekly meets for 20-40 engaged youth activists, and plans to hold at least two member retreats for participants to receive campaign/program training. Additionally, ACE's annual Youth Summit will bring more than 300 young people together to promote environmental security and youth leadership development. The mission of ACE is to empower communities of color low-income populations to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environment justice. *(Tenth year of funding)*

### ❖ **Coming Clean** **Jamaica Plain, MA**

Coming Clean received a \$25,000 general operating grant to help define the vision, focus, strategies, and tactics of the toxics and environmental health and justice movement. Coming Clean works to transform economic injustices, racial discrimination, and pollution-related health disparities into environmental justice, economic justice, social justice and better democracy. In the coming year, Coming Clean is a collaborative of more than 200 organization and 350 organizers from around the US and the globe working in specific joint campaigns and projects to target multiple aspects of critical pollution and chemical exposure problems. Collaborative leaders and participants design and execute projects through seven inter-connected workgroups: Business, Economy & Jobs; Communications; Emerging Technologies; Energy & Chemicals; Fenceline Action; Markets; and Policy Integration. Funding will especially support leadership needs of Coming Clean's EJ/Fenceline Action Workgroup, campaign planning, and programmatic work. *(Second year of funding)*

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

Community In-Power and Development Association (CIDA) was awarded \$10,000 for general support to help continue its mission to protect, educate, and alert the underserved communities in Port Arthur, Texas, of the dangers of toxic chemicals being released into their community. CIDA hopes to transform dilapidated, underserved areas into healthy, safe, and economically vital communities by uniting and educating local residents on the importance of working together to promote healthy change. Presently, CIDA offers after-school, mentoring, health, and job readiness programs aimed at empowering low-income residents. *(Tenth year of funding - grant pending)*

❖ **Mercury Policy Project  
Montpelier, VT**

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a \$25,000 grant to continue to expand their *Zero Mercury Campaign - Exposure Awareness and Reduction* efforts, which seeks to reduce consumer exposure to mercury from the consumption of commercially caught fish, particularly among pregnant women, young children, and disadvantaged populations who subsist on low incomes. Specifically, the campaign engages in research and awareness projects informing families and schools on the risks of mercury exposure, monitoring FDA standards, and seeking to inform developing countries about seafood testing and mercury risks. In the coming year, MPP will primarily focus its research efforts on mercury hair testing of women of child bearing age and in particular (if possible) low income populations. *(Tenth year of funding)*

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

Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN) received a \$25,000 grant for general operating, which will fund its ongoing efforts to hold local industrial plants accountable for negative health effects caused by toxic pollution in the community. In the last year, a chemical company has purchased the town of Mossville and funding will allow MEAN to complete operations, support the transition, and provide legal advice, meetings, and trainings for the local residents. Past Sills funding has been used to support health fairs and symposiums to raise awareness of the connection between pollution and health; fund the travel of environmental health experts to come and make presentations to the local health professionals in the community; offer free screenings to local residents; continue shareholder activism work; and execute the community's soil testing. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## **Sills 2013 Arts and Culture Grants**

### ❖ **ArtsWestchester** **White Plains, NY**

ArtsWestchester was awarded an \$11,000 grant for the Artist Residency Program for Senior Citizens, which provides four multi-session performing, visual and/or art residencies at low-income, county subsidized senior residences in Mount Vernon. The artist residencies are designed to foster socialization by bringing people together for a shared, art-making experience. The artist residencies engage participants in challenging, creative, and productive activities such as designing jewelry, making a mural, participating in creative movement or an oral history project. The sessions are designed to encourage conversation and interaction, as well as reinforce cognitive and social skills. *(Second year of funding)*

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

Brooklyn Academy of Music received an \$11,000 grant in support of Arts & Justice, an after-school arts program that engages at-risk high-school students in a multimedia theater arts curriculum encouraging reflection on social justice and inequality. The program works with students with direct experience with the justice system or loved ones who have been incarcerated, to help participants develop the skills necessary to overcome obstacles, build critical and creative thinking skills, and thrive socially and academically. Students meet up to three days per week after school, explore the theme (this year: *Stop and Frisk*) by developing their own creative work guided by a team of expert teaching artists. The program concludes with a final presentation and publication of a printed anthology showcasing student accomplishments. Last year, BAM received funding for DanceAfrica, an African dance program celebrating African and African-American dance, music, and culture. *(Second year of funding)*

### ❖ **Brooklyn Museum of Art** **Brooklyn, NY**

Brooklyn Museum of Art received a grant for \$10,000 to provide support for their art education school partnership program with PS1, an elementary school located in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. Support will enable the Museum to continue to provide gallery- and studio-based lessons that help reinforce student learning of classroom curricula as well as professional development opportunities for teachers. In the next year, the program will serve approximately 260 students and 10 teachers in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and provide students and teachers with opportunities for sustained exposure to the visual arts as a way to promote lifelong engagement. The Brooklyn Museum's mission is to act as a bridge between the rich artistic heritage of world cultures, as embodied in its collections, and the unique experience of each visitor. *(Second year of funding)*

### ❖ **Brooklyn Public Library** **Brooklyn, NY**

The Brooklyn Public Library was awarded an \$11,000 grant for its Creative Aging programs serving more than 200 older adults at 14 branch libraries throughout Brooklyn. Now in its 4th year, the program is based on a vision for mobilizing the trusted, neutral, information-rich

public space of the library to deliver arts education for and with older adults by building effective collaborations between teaching artists and librarians. Teaching artists and librarians find that they share a vision for positive aging and bring complementary strengths to designing and implementing meaningful programs for older adults. The introduction of an arts-based program model at BPL has been successful in engaging older adult library patrons and providing librarians with important professional development opportunities, including exposure to new knowledge on aging as well as the resources for sustaining programming. *(First year of funding)*

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

Community Word Project was awarded an \$11,000 grant for its Collaborative Arts Residency Program. The program provides a sustained experience in the arts that helps students develop life-long tools and skills including literacy, creative thinking, teamwork, and public speaking, to unlock creative potential and prepare them to take their places as leaders. CWP works closely with partnering teachers to integrate into the classroom curriculum and provides weekly workshops that integrate individual and collaborative creative writing, visual arts, photography, music/rhythm, and performance to ensure that every student can experience success. In the current school year, the program will reach over 1,500 at-risk NYC students through 47 classroom-based arts-in-education residencies in 12 public schools and 5 public libraries. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Groundswell**  
Brooklyn, NY

Groundswell was granted \$11,000 for its public artmaking programs and college access and success initiative, *College Inquiry*. Groundswell's extensive afterschool programs and summer intensives engage economically-disadvantaged NYC youth in the creation of public art for their communities. Programs are open to all students regardless of artistic ability and offer young people opportunities to pursue artistic excellence. From introductory programs for court-involved youth, to summer mural intensives, to in-depth afterschool apprenticeships, to a proven Portfolio Development program, Groundswell enables young people from the most economically disadvantaged backgrounds to excel. *College Inquiry* will help prepare youth for college and careers by teaching them strong work habits, providing them resources to navigate life's challenges, and deepening their relationship to their community and the world. Groundswell's mission is to bring together artists, youth, and community organizations to use art as a tool for social change. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Shakespeare Society**  
Brooklyn, NY

Shakespeare Society received an \$11,000 grant in support of The Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders from the Hunts Point neighborhood spend the school year exploring, researching and performing a Shakespearean play. This year's selection will be *Hamlet*. Through a combination of close reading, comprehension activities, and acting and rehearsal techniques students will develop their capacity for teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. Ensemble members work with the original text, learning to read, comprehend, speak, memorize, and perform a Shakespeare play. Students who participate in the program are better prepared for future academic and creative

pursuits and allow the young actors to share their accomplishments through community performance. *(First year of funding)*

## **Sills 2013 Capacity Building Grants**

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

Community Connections for Youth received a \$10,000 capacity building grant for communications and marketing needs. Funding will strengthen its ability to communicate the message of community reinvestment in juvenile justice reform and support the use of new media to communicate the organization's vision and reach out to families that can benefit from its services. CCFY seeks to bring its message to the general public, emphasizing community reinvestment as an alternative to expensive, punitive options that further alienate youth and families. The organization plans to leverage the skill and wisdom of consultants to help solidify the language expresses its message clearly to all parties.

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

Hour Children was awarded a \$10,000 capacity building grant to support the hire of a Chief Operating Officer. In order to grow its organizational capacity by ensuring programs are maximizing their efficiency and impact, Hour Children is planning to hire a Chief Operating Officer responsible for directing, supervising, and coordinating all clinical and business operations. The diversity of Hour Children's programs, growing demand for its services and continued commitment to providing high quality, effective support requires a critical review of the organization's operations and personnel to ensure that a highly effective and transparent organizational structure is put in place, maximizing the impact and efficiency of our efforts. Additionally, the COO will relieve the ED of some of the day-to-day responsibilities of the programs so that she is able to support Hour Children's fundraising efforts more wholly.

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

Julie's received a \$10,000 capacity building grant to provide capacity enhancements in support of the Organizational Model for Change and Expansion. As Founders Sister Jean and Sister Louise transition out of day-to-day activities, senior staff will assume responsibilities for the positions of Director of Adult Services and Director of Children's Services. This additional funding will support increased compensation for staff's increased responsibilities in these positions and is a much needed investment in order to begin the implementation of the transition phase of Julie's Strategic Plan. Sister Louise and Sister Jean will mentor their replacements over several months, begin to let go of their day to day responsibilities, and can then focus on finalizing the components of the new Family Wellness and Support Program.

❖ **Pernet Family Health Services**  
**Worcester, MA**

Pernet was granted \$10,000 for technology improvements to ensure the safety and privacy of protected patient and client health information. The current system leaves sensitive fathers' and family client information vulnerable to accidental access and is also vulnerable to hackers, viruses, malware, and spyware. The planned, secure, in-house, server-based network will connect all PCs and agency users in both of Pernet's buildings to one central server with the capacity to provide a robust, uniform software package to all users while client information remains secure. This funding will help Pernet to meet federally required HIPAA standards to ensure the safety and privacy of clients' protected health information and improve staff ability to securely share and back up Pernet's online documents, files, and client information.

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

Women's Prison Association was awarded a \$10,000 capacity building grant to further staff and organizational development by further implementing *Moving On: A Program for At-Risk Women*. Last year, a capacity building grant from the Sills Family Foundation was used to train staff in the Women's Risk and Needs Assessment and *Moving On* curriculum. *Moving On* is a gender-responsive cognitive behavioral intervention designed to help women to mobilize and develop personal and social resources that mediate the impact of risk for future criminal behavior. WPA is now preparing to launch a new program: Hopper Home Transitional Shelter for homeless women with or at risk of criminal justice involvement. Funds will be used to provide training on these gender-specific tools for Hopper Home staff as well as any new program staff.

## Sills 2013 Next Generation Grants

❖ **The American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. / House of Love  
Jamaica, W.I.**

The American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. will receive a \$10,000 grant towards the school fees for the children living at the House of Love. The House of Love is a NGO in Jamaica that serves as a group home for high need orphans and other indigent children. *(First year of funding)*

❖ **Communities In Schools of Auburn  
Auburn, WA**

Communities in Schools of Auburn was awarded a \$30,000 over two years to provide integrated support services to at-risk students in five local elementary schools. CISA identifies high needs schools and students within those schools to provide support for their effort to stay in school. The program provides services for students focused on two of the most significant risk factors for dropping out, poverty and lack of academic success. The key features of the CIS integrated support model are: needs assessment (school and student levels), identification of community partners, coordinated service delivery at the school site, data collection, evaluation and modification of service strategies. This model has been shown to produce positive outcomes for the students and schools it serves including higher graduation rates and academic achievement. *(Third year of funding)*

❖ **Community Works West - Project WHAT!  
Berkeley, CA**

Community Works West was awarded \$15,000 for Project WHAT! *(We're Here and Talking)*, a leadership development and job-training program for young people with an incarcerated parent. Project WHAT! raises awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on young people with the long-term goal of improving services and policies affecting these children. It is the only program in California that hires children of incarcerated parents to train social workers, mental health professionals, policy makers and administrators about issues relating to this population. These youth will provide presentations to over 800 service providers, public officials, and youth audiences at schools and organizations throughout the year. The Sills grant will provide funding for a full-time coordinator as well as stipends for two peer mentor youth and four youth advocates for the program year. *(Third year of funding for Next Gen, Sixth year for foundation)*

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

Family Services of Westchester (FSW) was awarded \$10,000 in support of EMERGE (Educating Mothers to Embrace Re-entry and Gain Employment). EMERGE is a parenting education program for incarcerated women to prepare them for re-entry into the community. The overarching goal of EMERGE is to provide parenting and employment skills education to the target population of mothers incarcerated in the Westchester County Department of

Correction (DOC) in order to best prepare them to successfully rejoin their children and families when they are discharged into the community. The Sills grant will help fund an additional part-time staff member to assist the part-time educator in filling a critical need for services (in the form of support groups and case management) upon release and re-entry into the community. *(Fourth year of funding)*

❖ **Getting Out and Staying Out**  
**New York, NY**

Getting Out and Staying Out (GoSo) received a \$10,000 grant to support general operating for a range of supportive services to justice-involved young men from the five boroughs of New York City. These services provide participants with the tools and support they need to live up to their full potential, and to help them to overcome the stigma of their involvement with the justice system. GoSo was established in 2004 to level the playing field for justice-involved young men and is unique in providing continuity of services to participants from initial incarceration to full reintegration into the community. The mission of GoSo is to empower young men to avoid reinvolvement in the criminal justice system by reshaping their futures through educational achievement, meaningful employment, and financial independence. It focuses on individuals' capacities and strengths, as well as developmental needs and emotional well-being to promote their personal, professional, and intellectual growth by providing goal-oriented programming and comprehensive supportive social services. *(First year of funding)*

❖ **Green Chimneys Children's Services**  
**Brewster, NY**

Green Chimneys received \$10,000 for the Career Training Program for runaway homeless and foster care youth identifying as LGBTQ to increase participants' self-esteem, life skills, job readiness and attitudes about work. The Career Training Program is part of Green Chimneys Transitional Living Program, an eight-bed facility that provides housing for homeless youth, medical care, education, life skills and mentoring to underserved youth. These youth have experienced intense discrimination at home, at school and in the community and often they feel isolated, lack self-esteem and suffer from depression. Career Training supports the development of individual, interpersonal, and professional skills through workshops, retreats, internships and networking. The program provides critical independent living life skills and career skill sets that will enhance job possibilities for youth and contribute to ending a cycle of poverty. *(Second year of funding)*

❖ **Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth**  
**Oakland, CA**

Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) was awarded \$15,000 for general operating support for its work in interrupting the cycle of violence and over incarceration through restorative justice. Founded in 2005, RJOY promotes public shifts toward restorative approaches to youthful wrongdoing that actively engage families, communities, and systems to heal harm. A fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, RJOY engages in policy advocacy, training, and programming. Through school-based restorative justice strategies, RJOY seeks to significantly reduce violence, suspensions and expulsions, and create a more caring and closely-knit school community. Funding will allow RJOY to continue its juvenile justice and school programming serving 450 youth and adults as well as carry on crucial

efforts with school partners to develop trainers and curricula, while building restorative justice capacity and promoting best practices district-wide. *(First year of funding)*

## Sills 2013 Grants Summary

### Strategic Grants

Organization	2013 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
Advocates for Environmental Human Rights	General operating	\$35,000
Alternatives for Community and Environment	Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project	\$25,000
American Friends Service Committee	Immigrant Children Project	\$25,000
The Center for Children and Families, Columbia University School of Nursing	Shared Parenting at Lund, Inc.	\$25,000
The Fund for the City of New York	Save Our Streets Crown Heights	\$25,000
Circle	Housing options and programming for battered women charged with crimes	\$25,000
Coming Clean	Strategic plan for environmental health solutions	\$25,000
Community Connections for Youth	South Bronx Community Connections	\$25,000
Community In-power and Development Association	General Operating	\$10,000*
Community Works West (SF Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership)	One Family, promotion of Nell Bernstein's book, and parent education at Solano State Prison and Chowchilla State Prison	\$60,000
Greenhope Services for Women	General operating	\$25,000
Hour Children, Inc.	General operating for community and prison-based programs	\$50,000
Housing + Solutions	Drew House Family program	\$25,000
Julie's Family Learning Program	Adult and Children's Services	\$25,000
Lund	Kids-A-Part Parenting Program and Outcomes Capacity Building Project	\$50,000
Mercury Policy Project	Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign	\$25,000
Mossville Environmental Action Now	General operating	\$25,000
Northern Lights (The HowardCenter)	Northern Lights program	\$25,000
Osborne Association	Children and Youth Services	\$25,000
Parents Helping Parents	General operating	\$10,000
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	Incarcerated Fathers program	\$25,000
St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	Incarceration Impact Initiative and in honor of Judy Beckler	\$35,000
STEPS to End Family Violence/Edwin Gould	Children's Therapy program	\$25,000
Services for Children and Families		
Strategies for Youth, Inc.	Creating standards and training for law enforcement arresting parents in the presence of children	\$25,000
StreetSafe Boston (The Boston Foundation)	General operation of StreetSafe Boston	\$25,000
Vera Institute of Justice	Common Justice	\$25,000
Voice Of The Ex-offender	General operating	\$5,000
Women's Prison Association	General operating	\$25,000
<b>Total Strategic Grants:</b>		<b>\$755,000</b>

\*Pending follow-up

### Arts and Culture Grants

Name of Organization	2013 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
<b>ArtsWestchester</b>	<i>Artists Residency Program for senior citizens</i>	\$11,000
<b>Brooklyn Academy of Music</b>	<i>Arts and Justice Program</i>	\$11,000
<b>Brooklyn Museum</b>	<i>PS 1 Partnership program</i>	\$10,000
<b>Brooklyn Public Library</b>	<i>Creative Aging program</i>	\$11,000
<b>Community-Word Project</b>	<i>Collaborative Arts Residency Program</i>	\$11,000
<b>Groundswell</b>	<i>Core artmaking programs and College Access Initiative</i>	\$11,000
<b>Shakespeare Society</b>	<i>Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble</i>	\$11,000
<b>Total Arts and Culture Grants:</b>		<b>\$76,000</b>

### Capacity Building Grants

Name of Organization	2013 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
<b>Community Connections for Youth</b>	<i>support for communications and marketing needs</i>	\$10,000
<b>Hour Children</b>	<i>support for the hire of Chief Operating Officer</i>	\$10,000
<b>Julie's</b>	<i>support for capacity enhancement for Adult and Children's Services</i>	\$10,000
<b>Pernet</b>	<i>support for technology improvements</i>	\$10,000
<b>WPA</b>	<i>support for implementing Moving On: A Program for At-Risk Women</i>	\$10,000
<b>Total Capacity Building Grants:</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

### Next Generation Grants

Name of Organization	2013 Program/Purpose	Grant Amount
<b>The American Friends of Jamaica*</b>	<i>House of Love School fees</i>	\$10,000
<b>Communities in Schools of Auburn</b>	<i>Integrated Services for Elementary Children</i>	\$30,000 <sup>†</sup>
<b>Community Works West</b>	<i>Project WHAT!</i>	\$15,000
<b>Family Services of Westchester, Inc.</b>	<i>EMERGE</i>	\$10,000
<b>Getting Out and Staying Out (GoSo NYC)</b>	<i>General operating</i>	\$10,000
<b>Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY)</b>	<i>General operating</i>	\$15,000
<b>The Friends of Green Chimneys</b>	<i>Career Training Program</i>	\$10,000
<b>Total Next Generation Grants:</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

\*Pending

<sup>†</sup>Grant to be distributed over two years

## **2013 Trustee Discretionary Grants**

The 3 trustees of the Sills Family Foundation made a total of 29 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$1,000 to \$25,000, and totaling \$180,000.

### **Art Sills**

<b>Name of Organization</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Americans for Peace Now	\$5,000
Cambridge Family and Children's Service	\$5,000
Cambridge Friend School	\$25,000
Colby College	\$5,000
The Guidance Center	\$5,000
School is Open	\$5,000
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports	\$10,000

### **Peter Sills**

<b>Name of Organization</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Children's Aid Society	\$5,000
Children's Defense Fund	\$2,500
Corporate Accountability International	\$5,000
Family Center of Washington County	\$2,500
FJC A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds	
• The Doula Program to Accompany and Comfort - Visiting program for terminally ill patients	\$10,000
• New York Juvenile Justice Initiative	\$2,500
Girl Scouts of America - Troop 3060	
The Castle Bridge School after-school program	\$5,000
Jewish Community Center of Mercer Island Washington	
Scholarships for disadvantaged youth	\$5,000
Rutgers University	
REACH summer program for disadvantaged youth	\$2,500
Twinfield Union School	
Twinfield Together Mentoring Program	\$5,000
Vermont Foodbank	\$5,000
VSA Vermont	
Art programs for the disabled	\$5,000
Ward Brook Center	
Scholarships to send Rwandan children to high school	\$5,000

**Deborah Iarussi**

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
<b>Family Services of Westchester</b> The Sharing Shelf program	\$2,500
<b>Hampshire College</b> Denice O'Neill Scholarship	\$8,000
<b>Michael J. Fox Foundation</b>	\$10,000
<b>New Rochelle Council for the Arts</b>	\$2,500
<b>New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence</b>	\$4,000
<b>Pratt Institute</b> Scholarship for Rome Semester	\$10,000
<b>Songcatchers</b>	\$1,000
<b>Tucker Foundation at Dartmouth College</b> SEAD Program	\$20,000
<b>Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls</b> Scholarship for girls impacted by criminal justice system	\$2,000