



# Sills Family Foundation

## 2019 Annual Report

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## **History and Mission**

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

The Sills Family Foundation intends to help children from low-income families live up to their highest promise by concentrating on the following three areas:

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

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

## **2019 Sills Family Foundation Grantmaking Overview**

In 2019, the Sills Family Foundation granted a total of \$2,361,114, an increase from the 2018 total of \$2,107,000. Of this, the Board awarded \$1,310,000 through its core grantmaking process, \$33,114 through a new rapid response program, \$320,000 through a special capacity building program, \$259,000 through its arts & culture grantmaking initiative, \$180,000 as trustee-directed discretionary grants, and \$259,000 through a mission driven selection process managed by a group of next generation foundation members. The Foundation awarded a total of 99 grants, 52 grants through its core grantmaking program, 14 arts & culture grants, 13 capacity building, and 20 next generation grants. Grants were made to organizations in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Louisiana, California, Minnesota, and Oregon.

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. Grantees report that this degree of flexibility is uncommon and is highly welcome. The Foundation deeply values the expertise and leadership capacity of our grantees, and value their ability to prioritize where the grants will be best used. This year the Foundation has been able to make an additional 8 primarily multi-year capacity building grants to long-standing grantees. These capacity building grants are intended to support an organization through a period of structural change and internal development.

This year, in addition to its annual grantmaking, the Foundation piloted a “Rapid Response” grant program. The goal of this program is to provide current grantees with access to additional resources that can be used to address urgent, unanticipated needs in which a relatively small amount of money (up to \$10,000) can be utilized to overcome a specific obstacle with a discrete, one-time funding solution. The Rapid Response program is open to all current grantees. In 2019, the Foundation funded four Rapid Response grants.

The Sills Family Foundation continues to focus on programs for families impacted by the criminal justice system. This effort has extended to addressing the inequities in the bail system, preventing juvenile detentions, and providing high quality legal services to low income populations. In considering the rehabilitative opportunities so rarely provided to incarcerated individuals, the Foundation supports higher education and arts programming inside correctional facilities. Our grants also provide support to programs that work to strengthen the parent/child bond during incarceration through supporting transportation for visits, creating child-sensitive visiting areas in correctional facilities, providing parenting education classes to incarcerated parents, as well as supporting families through the re-entry period. The Foundation has begun to play a role in deepening policy makers and service providers' capacity in this field. The Sills Family Foundation is proud to be a member of the NY Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents, as well as the New York Youth Justice Initiative. In the coming year the Directors will continue to engage other interested funders to share knowledge, and to encourage engagement with this vulnerable population.

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

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 2018 and 2019 we continued to offer support to programs working with immigrant and refugee communities.

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

The Next Generation Committee of the Foundation continues to clarify and deepen its focus. This group made grants in three primary areas: addressing climate change, interventions for high-risk youth, and support to high-need immigrant communities.

## **Sills 2019 Strategic Grants**

Grant descriptions are organized by primary focus areas.

### **Families Impacted by Incarceration**

#### **Bard Prison Initiative (a program of Bard College)**

*Annandale-on-Hudson, NY*

The Bard Prison Initiative was awarded \$25,000 to support general operating costs. Through the Consortium for the Liberal Arts in Prison and the Bard Micro-college network, the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) works to redefine the availability, affordability, and expectations typically associated with higher education in America. 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. 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. *(First year of funding)*

#### **The Bronx Defenders**

*Bronx, NY*

The Bronx Defenders received \$25,000 to support its reentry services. The Bronx Defenders challenge the entrenched problems that drive low-income individuals into the justice system by harnessing the power of community organizing, leadership development, impact litigation, and legislative reform. The Bronx Defenders operates on multiple levels: as a provider of holistic defense working one-on-one with clients and families, as a community resource, and as a force for systemic change. Through the reentry advocacy program, the organization helps clients return to the community, continue rehabilitation, and minimize barriers by helping them understand their criminal records and any implications they may have for future education, employment, or other opportunities. Beyond their focus on criminal record issues, the organization provides meaningful referrals to other organizations, support to family members who are trying to navigate a loved one's incarceration or reentry, and pre-entry support to clients who have been recently sentenced. *(Second year of funding)*

#### **Brooklyn Defender Services**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Brooklyn Defender Services received \$25,000 to support its Community Office Family Initiative. Brooklyn Defender Services provides supported legal representation to about 30,000 indigent Brooklyn residents annually. For many of BDS's clients, poverty, trauma, mental illness, and substance abuse are the driving forces behind their involvement in the criminal or child welfare systems. To effectively and compassionately address the challenges their clients face, the organization has created specialized units that provide individualized services to clients with overlapping criminal and family court issues. Grant funding will be used to support to the Community Outreach Specialist to expand BDS's Family Support Initiative to provide area families with greater accessibility to advocacy. The CO responds directly to the need to expand BDS's Family Support Initiative to provide area families with greater accessibility to advocacy, legal and social work services, and legal education. *(Fourth year of funding)*

## **Brooklyn Justice Initiative (Fund for the City of New York)**

*New York, NY*

The Fund for the City of New York was awarded \$25,000 to support the Brooklyn Justice Initiative. Brooklyn Justice Initiatives (BJI) is a project of the Center for Court Innovation, which was founded in 1996 as an incubator project of the Fund for the City of New York, that seeks to re-engineer the experience of criminal court in Brooklyn. Operating in the Kings County centralized criminal court system since beginning operations in 2013, BJI serves as a launching pad for an array of reform initiatives that seek to fundamentally transform the bail system, sentencing, and the way justice-involved individuals are treated. By providing meaningful pre-trial supervised release and post-plea sentencing options, Brooklyn Justice Initiatives seeks to use an arrest as a window of opportunity to change the direction of a client's life and avoid the harmful effects of incarceration. Funding will assist BJI's efforts to establish coalitions with families and community stakeholders to address the root causes of criminal justice involvement, prevent arrests, and provide at-risk youth with the support and care they need to safely and successfully stop the cycle of recidivism. *(First year of funding)*

## **Brooklyn Public Library**

*Brooklyn, NY*

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

## **Circle**

*Barre, VT*

Circle was granted \$25,000 to continue to provide support for Circle's housing and programming options for incarcerated women reentering Washington County, as well as developing family reunification and support models. For over twenty-five years, Circle has provided a range of services including: an emergency shelter for women and their children fleeing domestic violence, a 24-hour toll free hotline, legal and court assistance in filing Temporary Orders and preparing for their Final Orders, community support groups for women who have been or currently are involved in an abusive relationship, prevention programming available to students throughout Washington County, and educational presentations available to community members on the dynamics of domestic violence. *(Sixteenth year of funding)*

## College and Community Fellowship

New York, NY

The College and Community Fellowship received \$25,000 to support general operating costs. College & Community Fellowship's mission is to eliminate individual, social, and structural barriers to higher education for women involved with the criminal justice system. Under the leadership of former CCF student Vivian Nixon, CCF became home to a theater arts program, a peer mentoring program, and is fiscal sponsor to a national advocacy coalition in addition to the original Academic Support Program, serving about 1,000 people annually through outreach and formal programming. To date, CCF students have earned over 330 degrees, ranging from Associate's degrees to PhDs; taken leadership roles in their advocacy work; become peer mentors to women in reentry; and performed with the theater group at universities, correctional facilities, and cultural centers in the Northeast. CCF students' recidivism rate has remained less than 6% over 19 years. Funding will be used to help maintain CCF's strong infrastructure as the organization rapidly expands its direct service through a three-year \$2million contract with the Manhattan DA's Criminal Justice Investment Initiative. *(Fourth year of funding)*

## Correctional Association of New York

New York, NY

The Correctional Association of New York was awarded \$25,000 for general operating support. The Correctional Association of New York (CANY) advocates for a more humane and effective criminal justice system and a more just and equitable society. CANY leverages its unique authority to inspect prisons and report on its findings 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 plans to use funding to enhance its strategic oversight model by partnering in an intentional way with the families and loved ones of incarcerated people across this state. . *(First year of funding)*

## Echoes of Incarceration

Brooklyn, NY

Echoes of Incarceration was granted \$25,000 to support general operating costs. Echoes of Incarceration is an award-winning documentary initiative produced by youth with incarcerated parents. The project explores the issues of mass incarceration and its effects on families, and creates documentary films told from the life experiences of the filmmakers themselves. The project is a collaboration between filmmaker Jeremy Robins and a group of non-profit organizations and advocates around the country. The process starts with intensive filmmaking and advocacy training for youth age 16-22, where they study documentary research, camera operation, cinematography, sound, lighting, interviewing skills, and editing. The crew then researches and pitches ideas, both to panels of criminal justice experts and to professional filmmakers. Funding will be used to support the Teen Workshop Project, which provides hands-on filmmaking workshops for other youth in high schools, foster care agencies, and afterschool programs around New York City. These workshops involve the crewmembers presenting films and speaking about their experiences as children with incarcerated parents and then conducting hands-on workshops with the youth. Funding will also support new initiative to create youth-reported news stories for the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalism organization, The Marshall Project, as a way to bring the voices and insights of youth to new audiences on timely issues. *(Fifth year of funding)*

## Hour Children, Inc.

Long Island City and Bedford Hills, NY

Hour Children was awarded a \$25,000 grant for Hour Children's Prison and Community Programs towards its mission to end the inter-generational cycle of incarceration and to strengthen vulnerable women and children as they reunite, stabilize, and transform their lives. This grant will support Hour Children's post-release community-based programs, which include: 8 transitional and permanent supportive housing facilities; Hour Working Women's Program (job skills training and employment placement support); mental health support; a fully-licensed day care center; an after-school program; thrift shops; a "client-choice" community food pantry; mentoring program and other programs.

In addition to the above grant, Hour Children received a \$25,000 grant to support Hour Children's prison programming at Centers of Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities, and Rikers Island, including transportation and visitation programs, parenting education, advocacy, a teen program, and residential Nursery unit with an infant care center at Bedford Hills. Over the past year, 98% of women in Hour Children programming avoided a return to prison and 100% of children stayed in school and advanced to the next grade level. (*Seventeenth year funding Hour Children; eleventh year funding Bedford Hills*)

## HousingPlus

Brooklyn, NY

HousingPlus received \$25,000 in funding for general operating support to provide women and families with affordable, safe, and stable housing; support reunifying and strengthening families whose lives have been disrupted and negatively impacted by trauma, violence, and incarceration; and increase women and young adults' economic self-sufficiency. HousingPlus 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, in order to build lives of stability and to define and realize goals for themselves and their families. At the heart of the mission is the belief that with safe, affordable housing a woman and her family over time will assimilate into their new community and begin using local services, create their own safety net and seek out neighborhood resources when extra help or guidance is needed. Funding will be used to bolster efforts to address the distinct needs of women in New York City's criminal justice system when they move into HousingPlus housing. (*Eighth year of funding*)

HousingPlus was awarded an additional grant of \$25,000 to support the Beyond Rosie's Campaign. Beyond Rosie's Campaign provides an opportunity for coordination with other initiatives (including Greenhope Services for Women, Hour Children, HousingPlus, Providence House, and Women's Prison Association) focusing on the unique problems women face, with emphasis on effective solutions. Through its work, Beyond Rosie's seeks to achieve three goals: 1) To promote the expansion of alternative pre-detention/incarceration programming to reduce the number of women who are incarcerated in NYC; 2) To play an integral role in the development of a new secure trauma-informed facility for 100-150 people who identify as women that will replace the Rose M. Singer Center by 2020; and 3) Advocate for a permanent reinvestment of funds that support decarceration to services in the community. (*First year of funding*)



## **Howard Center** *Burlington, VT*

The Northern Lights Program (NL) at the Howard Center was awarded a \$25,000 grant for general operating support to sustain its efforts to provide housing and support to women transitioning from prison back to the community. Northern Lights serves 11 women at a time and residents stay between 7 and 12 months. Service providers, staff and volunteers work collaboratively to provide a comprehensive and empowering system of support and accountability. Residents meet regularly with their team of service providers and play an active role in the development of their case plan. Northern Lights' mission is to provide the opportunity for returning female offenders to build the foundation necessary for long-term safety and independence for themselves and their families *(Eleventh year of funding)*

## **Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison** *Ossining, NY*

Hudson Link was awarded \$25,000 for general operating to support the pre-college component of its services. Hudson Link's mission is to provide college education, life skills, and re-entry support to currently and formerly incarcerated men and women to help them make a positive impact on their own lives, their families and communities, resulting in lower rates of recidivism, incarceration, and poverty. The organization has reached over 750 families and children impacted by incarceration through its three major programs: pre college preparatory courses, degree-track college courses, and post-release alumni services. As one of the most essential elements of the organization's work, pre-college is not an independent program but rather an integral part of the overall Hudson Link experience. Funding will continue to support costs related to administration, staffing, and materials for the pre-college program at each of the five prisons where Hudson Link delivers college courses. *(Third year of funding)*

## **JustLeadership USA** *New York, NY*

JustLeadership USA (JLUSA) was awarded \$25,000 to support general operating costs. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. The organization's goal is consistent with their mission - to cut the U.S. correctional population in half by 2030 - while building and supporting leaders and advocates, with a focus on formerly incarcerated men and women. This year's funding will allow JLUSA to pursue Leadership, Advocacy, and Membership campaigns and program activities that drive toward the goal of #halfby2030. JLUSA plans to develop a corps of highly trained leaders from within the Leadership alumni group and within JLUSA staff who can respond to speaking requests and develop and implement technical assistance curricula for other criminal justice organizations. Additionally, JLUSA launched a Train the Trainer (TtT) program this year, which seeks to train and qualify up to 13 course trainers, all of whom have been selected from our JLUSA Leading with Conviction alumni pool. JLUSA will be able to train close to, if not more than, 10,000 people over the next ten years with a nationally distributed group of trainers. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## **Lund** *Burlington, Vermont*

Lund was awarded \$25,000 to support the Kids-A-Part Parenting Program (KAPP). The Kids-A-Part Parenting Program works with women incarcerated at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility

and their families. The organization works to decrease the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) on the children of incarcerated mothers, and to increase the emotional wellbeing and likelihood of a successful transition once released from prison for the incarcerated women. The program provides support to maintain contact between mothers and their children that reflects the needs of the child, engages with children and caregivers during the mother's incarceration and links them to appropriate services, and prepares mothers to return to the community, exploring and planning for their role as mother. KAPP expects to have served a total of 800 people in 2019. *(Thirteenth year of funding)*

### **The Osborne Association**

*Bronx, NY*

The Osborne Association received \$25,000 for continued support of its Youth Action Council (YAC) and Youth Experience Success (YES). The Osborne Association works to reduce reliance on incarceration and provides effective alternatives to address issues of addiction, health and mental health, community violence and poverty that contribute to crime. YES and YAC are two afterschool positive youth development programs for children of incarcerated parents. YES uses principles of positive youth development to foster growth of 50-60 young people ages 13 to 16 per year through skills training, creative arts, and advocacy education. YAC provides education, support, leadership training, and public speaking and advocacy opportunities to teenagers aged 15 to 18. YAC brings together young people with this shared experience, and works to build their skills, self-knowledge, and relationships with peers and family, and from that their confidence and sense of belonging. Members select an advocacy focus related to parental incarceration that they research, discuss, and present to policymakers, practitioners, other youth and the larger social justice community. *(Fourteenth year of funding)*

The Foundation granted an additional grant of \$25,000 to The Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations (OCJAG) which was established in 2016 to consolidate Osborne's advocacy work. The Center currently focuses on two primary issues: 1) children and families of incarcerated parents, and 2) needs of aging adults in the criminal justice system. OCJAG provide regular testimony at legislative hearings in Albany and NY City Hall; meet regularly with elected officials and stakeholders; and hold the See US, Support Us (SUSU) event, a month-long national campaign held for the past four years to raise awareness and increase support for children with incarcerated parents. *(Fourth year funding initiative)*

### **Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a program of the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice)**

*New York, NY*

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City was awarded \$10,000 to support the US-European Criminal Justice Innovation Program. The goal of this program is to provide key decision makers in New York City with the opportunity to reimagine the idea, design and purpose of jails, while engaged in a process of decarceration to reduce the capacity of detention in the city by more than half. This program was designed to bring a delegation of 20 people to see three prisons in Austria and Finland. These facilities mirror the important aspects of the NYC jail system - they are near communities and a significant proportion of those detained are held for shorter lengths of stay, and represent the forefront of innovative jail design. The list of participants include key City Council Members, the Commissioner of the Department of Design and Construction, the Executive Director of the Department of City Planning, and others. Funding was used to support travel expenses for the participants. *(First year of funding)*

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

Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support the Engaging Incarcerated Fathers in Responsible Parenting. Pernet Family Health Service in Worcester, Massachusetts is a Department of Public Health certified home health and social service agency, providing emergency services, in-home care for the maternal-child population in the Worcester area, early intervention services for children with, or at-risk for, developmental delays, and more. The Engaging Incarcerated Fathers in Responsible Parenting assists high-risk Worcester families by supporting incarcerated and recently released fathers develop the skills necessary to transition to self-sufficiency, parental competence, and develop and deepen their roles as fathers and relationships with their children. The program serves the families of incarcerated fathers who have returned home from the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction within the last six months and who want to be a part of their children's lives. *(Eighth year of funding)*

### **Providence House** Brooklyn, NY

Providence House was awarded \$25,000 to support the Women's Justice Program. Providence House is a faith-based, gender-responsive agency with the mission to emphasize the dignity of every person, completely focused in its commitment to provide shelter and support to homeless, abused and formerly incarcerated women and their children in a hospitable, non-violent, compassionate atmosphere. The Women's Justice Program is part of a coalition of agencies working with NYC to provide an alternative-to-detention for women being detained unnecessarily and under adverse conditions on Rikers Island. The effort is designed to keep women struggling with mental illness out of Rikers, providing housing and services while supporting them in meeting their legal and treatment obligations, helping them secure employment or training to enhance their long-term stability, and addressing the trauma and other issues that may have contributed to their involvement with the criminal justice system. *(Second year of funding)*

### **Releasing Aging People in Prison Campaign** New York, NY

The Releasing Aging People in Prison Campaign (RAPP) was awarded \$15,000 to support the general operating costs. RAPP is a grassroots organizing and advocacy project that works to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice through the release of older and aging people from prison. RAPP plays a key role in New York and the greater United States to shift the public narrative around U.S. prisons and punishment to include older adults, people serving long sentences, and those convicted of violent crimes, leading efforts to challenge the concept that endless punishment is acceptable, and that prison reform can be achieved if it is limited to "non-violent, low-level" offenses. Due to RAPP's successfully advocating for codified rule changes and replacing punitive Commissioners with individuals coming from therapeutic and non-prosecution professions, parole release rates more than doubled for all parole applicants, older applicants and those with life sentences—from 20% to 40%. *(First year of funding)*

### **Rehabilitation Through the Arts** Katonah, NY

Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) was awarded \$25,000 for general operating costs. The organization's mission is to use the transformative power of the arts to develop social and cognitive

skills prisoners need for successful reentry. RTA serves 250 prisoners at 5 NYS correctional facilities at any one time, teaching year round in at least one facility every day of the week. Over 25 highly-qualified professional artist/educators travel to remote prisons in 3 NYS counties, teaching a wide variety of artistic media including, theatre, dance, music, writing, and visual arts. RTA's goal is to provide an opportunity for self-development to prisoners who want to change and seek the tools to do so. This year, funding will be used for salaries, program supplies (e.g., art material, books, plays, keyboards, theatre materials), and alumni expenses (stipends for Advisory Committee meetings, transportation, and payment for teaching artists). *(Third year of funding)*

### **St. Mary's Women and Children's Center**

*Dorchester, MA*

St. Mary's was granted \$25,000 to support families and children in two residential programs who have been impacted by incarceration as well as by trauma, abuse, violence, poverty and homelessness. St. Mary's work with families is a unique blend of strengths-based, culturally-sensitive, family-centered supports that allow them to heal beyond their traumatic experiences and skill-building opportunities that empower women to rebuild their lives. Funding will support St. Mary's Home, a residential program for up to 15 pregnant and parenting teens (ages 13-19) and their children at any one time; and Bridge Home, a family-centered emergency diagnostic and residential program for 100+ children from birth to age 12, who have been removed from the home by the Department of Children and Families due to trauma, abuse, and neglect. Funding will enable families and children to receive clinical, trauma-informed care, assessment, programs, and services to help them achieve their emotional well-being and educational and employment opportunities while also addressing the impact of incarceration on their lives. *(Fifteenth year of funding)*

### **Urban Youth Alliance International**

*Bronx, NY*

Urban Youth Alliance International was awarded \$25,000 to support the BronxConnect program which supports employment pathways for court-involved youth. The Urban Youth Alliance (UYAI) is a community and faith-based organization working with urban and court-involved youth and young adults. In 1999, UYAI established BronxConnect to address the youth incarceration epidemic in South Bronx communities of color. BronxConnect's mission is to keep youth out of jail for life, with a programmatic goal to keep youth out of jail, while demonstrating a model of employing formerly incarcerated credible messengers as staff and mentors to build community and increase public safety. Funding will support the organization's alternative to incarceration program's employment services focused on helping participants transition to life after the program. *(First year of funding)*

### **Voice of the Ex-Offender**

*New Orleans, LA*

Voice of the Ex-Offender (VOTE) was awarded \$25,000 in general operating support to continue its work increasing civic engagement of Formerly Incarcerated Persons and their families and supporting the economic sustainability and empowerment of these families VOTE accomplishes its work through grassroots organizing, building coalitions, and prioritizing movement building. VOTE was founded and is run by Formerly Incarcerated Persons in partnership with allies dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against Formerly Incarcerated Persons. Over the past six years, VOTE has cemented its role as the hub of criminal justice reform in New Orleans, and increased its statewide and national impact with a host of policy victories. In the past year, VOTE created voting rights for 40,000 Louisiana citizens through organizing, mobilizing, litigation,

and legislation, and is now shifting to 1) target such potential voters for engagement, and 2) develop a multi-prong strategy to simplify the voter registration process. *(Seventh year of funding)*

### **Volunteers of Legal Services**

*New York, NY*

Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) received \$25,000 for the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project to provide incarcerated mothers with access to volunteer attorneys and law students. These attorneys and law students visit incarcerated mothers on a monthly basis and provide them with a wide range of critical legal services to assist in preserving and protecting their parental rights while in jail or prison. As an organization, VOLS leverages the good will, resources and talents of New York City's leading law firms to provide pro bono legal assistance to the city's neediest residents. This assistance includes "Know Your Rights" workshops, family law consultations, legal information, advice and advocacy about maintaining contact and involvement with their children, planning for their children's care while they are incarcerated, and planning for reunification upon their release from jail or prison. *(Sixth year of funding)*

In addition to funding for the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project, Volunteers of Legal Service (VOLS) received \$25,000 for the Immigration Project. The goal of the Immigration Project is to provide free, high-quality legal services to young New Yorkers, work alongside their clients to support them on the challenging path to being accepted by this country, ensure their voices are heard in response to the anti-immigrant rhetoric in a fraught political process, and advocate for fair and just immigration laws. VOLS provides young immigrants and their families with wrap-around services and guidance on other ancillary issues, such as barriers to college, access to benefits, and assistance with fee waivers and grants for individuals on the path to citizenship. VOLS supports young immigrants applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS); homeless immigrant youth, particularly those who are LGBTQ immigrants seeking asylum on account of their membership in a particular social group; DACA recipients, whose status remains in flux until a likely Supreme Court ruling; and immigrants in temporary protected status (TPS). *(Second year of funding the Immigration Project)*

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

*New York, NY*

The Women's Prison Association received \$25,000 in general operating support for criminal justice-involved women and their families. WPA operates from three community sites in NYC and jail and prison-based offices at Riker's Island, Taconic, and Bedford Hills Correctional Facilities. Women recently released from prison or jail can access emergency assistance, case management, HIV services, mentoring, and legal support through reentry services offered in Brooklyn and Manhattan. In Manhattan's East Village, WPA operates two shelters: Sarah Powell Huntington House for formerly-incarcerated women and their children and Hopper Home, a transitional shelter for women with or at risk for criminal justice involvement. As a complement to client services, the Institute on Women & Criminal Justice pursues a rigorous public policy and advocacy agenda to bring new perspectives to public debates on women and criminal justice and to foster changes in the way public systems deal with women and crime. In 2018, WPA ensured that 110 women and 107 children no longer live in unsafe or substandard housing, and empowered 88% of Alternative to Incarceration program graduates to avoid rearrest. *(Sixteenth year of funding)*

## Community Violence Reduction

### Avenues for Justice

New York, NY

Avenues for Justice was awarded \$25,000 to support general operating costs. Avenues for Justice AFJ works directly with young people to help them understand, accept responsibility for, and gain control of and direct their own lives in a positive, law-abiding manner. Programs serve at-risk youth and youthful offender. AFJ achieves their goals through three fundamental components of their programs: (1) court advocacy, where AFJ staff members appear before judges to recommend that select youth who meet AFJ's criteria are assigned to the organization; (2) youth worker assignments, where participants work with an AFJ youth worker to design a rehabilitation plan that is shared with the court; and (3) prevention programs, through which youth in East Harlem and the Lower East Side access critical services such as employment coaching, academic tutoring, and social work support. Funding will be used to support the court advocacy and crime prevention programs for youthful offenders arrested in Manhattan and at risk youths from East Harlem and the Lower East Side. *(First year of funding)*

### Common Justice

New York City, NY

Common Justice (CJ) received \$25,000 to support general operating for its work in Brooklyn addressing cycles of violence, the harmful effects of incarceration, and the mental and physical health consequences that arise from violent crime. CJ offers an alternative to the traditional adversarial court system that promotes healing and accountability and facilitates the recovery of individuals and communities. The organization, launched in 2009 as a project of Vera Institute of Justice and becoming an independent organization in 2017, aims to transform the system's response to serious crime by offering an opportunity for dialogue and healing as an alternative to a lengthy prison term. The process is designed to make things as right as possible for those harmed by crime, and to hold those responsible accountable to a set of agreements that replace an otherwise lengthy prison term. CJ engages and screens participants, provides urgent and long-term services to harmed parties, prepares parties for their conference, convenes the conferences and supervises responsible parties' completion of the emerging agreements. Common Justice engages in coalition-building locally and nationally, operates a national learning collaborative to ensure healing equity for people of color, and engages in strategic communications to amplify the impact of the lessons learned on the ground. *(Ninth year of funding)*

### Roca, Inc.

Chelsea, MA

Roca was granted \$25,000 to support the organization's work in Greater Boston. Roca's mission is to disrupt the cycle of incarceration and poverty by helping young people transform their lives. Roca uses an evidence-based, cognitive behavior Intervention Model designed to target the highest risk young men. Understanding that meaningful change doesn't happen overnight, Roca's two years of intensive services in life skills, education, and employment, and two years of follow-up are long-term approaches to behavioral change and skill building that incorporate the expectation of relapse into the program design. Roca also works to change policy for high-risk people by implementing the nation's largest pay for success contract, convening four regional working groups in MA criminal justice system leaders devoted to raising the age for adult sentencing, and sharing observations and learnings with government and community partners. With this funding, Roca will provide 390 young

men in its Chelsea and new Lynn program sites with the full range of Intervention Model services including intensive street outreach, case management, and programming in life-skills and CBT, alternative education, and workforce development. *(Third year of funding)*

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

Save Our Streets (SOS) Crown Heights was awarded \$25,000 to support the reduction of gun violence in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. The program is a replication of the Cure Violence anti-gun program model that has been shown to successfully reduce shootings and killings and features five primary components: outreach, public education, community mobilization, faith-based engagement, and use of data. Each outreach worker carries a caseload of up to 15 participants. After identifying and engaging participants, outreach workers help them develop a risk reduction plan that may include anger management, drug treatment, educational support, health services, criminal justice services, or job-training. Funding will sustain the direct work of SOS staff to reduce violence and change community norms around gun violence. Funding will also support Neighbors in Action's therapeutic services programs, particularly the Make It Happen program which provides mentorship, intensive case management, and workshops for young men of color who have experienced community violence. *(Seventh year of funding)*

### **Strategies for Youth** *Cambridge, MA*

Strategies for Youth (SFY) received \$25,000 to support general operating costs. SFY is a national, nonprofit policy and training organization dedicated to improving relations between youth and police. SFY offers training programs for police who regularly interact with youth, for school resources officers deployed in public schools, and for youth, ages 12-18, and parents to reduce parental reliance on police. SFY works to reorient the role of law enforcement to serve as guardians of peace, working in concert with the community to support the positive development of youth. As the core issues the organization focuses on have become national priorities, the demand for SFY to take the lead in state and federal policy conversations has increased dramatically. Funding will support general operating costs to continue to build and expand SFY's communications and fundraising and policy capacities. *(Seventh year of funding)*

## Communities in Need

### Abraham House

Bronx, NY

Abraham House received \$25,000 to support its After School Program. The After School Program provides a safe haven and comprehensive services to help Mott Haven youth (kindergarten through grade 12) move ahead to the next academic grade, graduate from high school and go on to college, and stay free of juvenile delinquency and criminal activity. The after school programming and services include homework help, tutoring, academic workshops, computer access, college preparation activities, and education enrichment with a specific math and reading focus. To further support students' success, the program also serves parents and families as a whole. The mission of Abraham House is to prevent criminal relapse among the incarcerated and to stop the intergenerational cycle of crime by offering individuals, youth, and families affected by incarceration and other societal ills a place of hope and community where lives can be rebuilt, families mended, and lessons learned. *(Fifth year of funding)*

### American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc

New York, NY

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (ACLU) received \$50,000 to support its Immigrants' Rights Project (IRP.) For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the US guarantee everyone in the country. Since the beginning of the Trump administration, nearly 2/3 of the ACLU's legal actions against the administration have been to defend immigrants' rights. The Immigrants' Rights Project has three objectives: 1) curtailing abusive interior enforcement and bringing accountability to ICE and CBP; 2) challenging abusive border enforcement and discrimination; and 3) bringing fairness and due process to the immigration detention and deportations systems. IRP will bring to these efforts the ACLU's litigation expertise, media reach, and the power of its supporters' activism. *(Second year of funding)*

### Brooklyn Community Bail Fund

Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Community Bail Fund received \$25,000 to support the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund. The Brooklyn Community Bail Fund's mission is to ensure equal access to the criminal justice system through direct service, advocacy and public education, with the ultimate goal of ending cash bail. The New York Immigrant Freedom Fund (NYIFF) builds on BCBF's work to end wealth-based pretrial detention for criminal misdemeanors as well as its history of incubating promising new initiatives. NYIFF serves immigrants detained by ICE who are eligible for freedom during the pendency of their cases but at bond amounts they cannot afford. Beyond paying individual immigration bonds, NYIFF will harness its results to strategically and opportunistically influence the larger policy conversation on detention and deportation, in NY and nationally. BCBF hopes that this will become a replicable model for an immigration bond fund. *(Fifth year of funding the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund; First year of funding the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund)*

### Brooklyn Community Foundation

Brooklyn, NY



The Brooklyn Community Foundation received \$25,000 to support the Immigrant Rights Fund, which was created within days of the 2016 election with 100% participation of the board. The Fund was designed to provide immediate and long-term support for organizations responding to injustice and fear in Brooklyn's immigrant communities. Nearly one million immigrants live in Brooklyn, upwards of 22,000 Brooklyn youth are DACA-eligible, and an estimated 172,000 are undocumented. To date the Foundation has raised nearly \$1,194,000 of its \$2 million goal to disperse over four years, but it is quickly outpacing this planned distribution of grants given the intense demand and continuing crisis at the federal level. The fund deploys resources through immediate response grants to respond to urgent pressures set in motion by federal policy changes and executive orders, small grants for civil resistance, and long-term grants for protecting and supporting immigrant communities. *(Second year of funding program)*

### **BronxWorks**

*Bronx, NY*

BronxWorks was awarded \$25,000 to support the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) program. BronxWorks is a Bronx-based settlement house and human services provider with a mission to help individuals and families improve their economic and social well-being. Services include: benefits assistance; programs for children, youth, families and seniors; immigration services; workforce development; HIV/AIDS and other chronic illness programs; health and wellness promotion; homeless services; and eviction prevention. HIPPI is a home-based childhood development and parent education program. It gives parents the tools to be their children's first teachers and helps prepare 3-5 year-olds for success in kindergarten and beyond. *(First year of funding)*

### **Community Connections for Youth**

*Bronx, NY*

Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) received \$25,000 for the Strengthening Families Program. CCFY is a Bronx-based non-profit whose mission is to empower neighborhood and faith-based organizations to develop effective community-driven alternative-to-incarceration (ATI) programs for youth. The Strengthening Families program provides families and young people impacted by the juvenile justice system with the support and opportunities they need to decrease feelings of isolation often felt by parents navigating a complex system alone, and to empower them with the skills needed to meaningfully impact system reform. Through the program, parents are provided with monthly support groups, ongoing parenting workshops, and advocacy training to build individual and family power to impact juvenile justice reform efforts, and youth and family strengthening sessions. *(Eighth year of funding)*

### **exalt Youth**

*New York, NY*

exalt Youth was granted \$25,000 to support general operating costs. exalt is a nonprofit that provides intensive training, paid internship experiences, and ongoing professional, educational, and justice system support to 15-19 year-old court-involved youth in New York City. The organization's mission is to elevate the expectations of personal success for youth involved in the criminal justice system. The organization's powerful combination of structured classes for tangible skill development, individualized support to navigate the education and justice systems, placement in paid internships and an alumni network of resources equips youth with the tools and experience to avoid further criminal justice system involvement. In May 2017, exalt began a strategic planning process to scale to a 40% increase over three years to serve more youth negatively impacted by the

criminal justice system and position itself as a thought leader in addressing systemic challenges facing court-involved youth. Funding will enable them to successfully serve 492 NYC court-involved youth. *(Fourth year funding)*

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

Julie's Family Learning Program was awarded \$25,000 to support general operations of the Adult and Children's Services. Julie's is a community-based family wellness, support and education program that is committed to the development of strong, stable, healthy family functioning. Julie's provides services that enable poor, at-risk mothers and their children to transform their lives and become healthy, successful and economically self-sufficient members of their communities. Julie's provides over 20 different Adult and Children's Services, in keeping with its comprehensive and holistic approach, to approximately 200 disadvantaged, low-income, young mothers and their children from ethnically and racially diverse communities around Greater Boston. Their Adult Services Program has a goal of improving family functioning, home management and parenting abilities with ongoing life skills classes, workshops, and personal and group counseling. Through the Children's Services Program, Julie's is committed to ensuring that each child gains a solid educational foundation and can be empowered with the positive self-image and inner resources that will help them break the poverty cycle. *(Seventeenth year of funding)*

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

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services (LSA) received \$25,000 to support its Parenting and Child Development Program (PCD), which helps East Harlem families whose young children, ages zero to three, are at risk for developmental delays. LSA's mission is to strengthen and improve vulnerable children and families by meeting their basic needs for food, health care, education, and a safe home in the belief that affirming families in their own dignity improves the entire community. Funding will support the PCD Program, which emphasizes, through home visits and on-site socialization groups, ways to improve parent and child interactions and strengthen relationships by helping parents better understand their children's behaviors and development. PCD's five focus areas are language and literacy; exploration, play, and learning; self-regulation and emotional development; attachment security and separation; and connections to resources. *(Fourteenth year of funding)*

### **Make the Road New York** *Brooklyn, NY*

Make the Road New York (MRNY) received \$25,000 to support the Immigration Rapid Response Organizing. MRNY builds the power of Latino and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice through multi-issue, multi-generational organizing, policy innovation, transformative education, and survival services on workers' rights, tenant rights, LGBTQ justice, youth power and policing, public schools and education justice, immigration justice, and climate. These include organizing for city and state policies to protect immigrants, legal representation for those facing deportation, providing "know your rights" workshops and access to direct services, shaping national conversation, and conducting impact litigation. Through its work, MRNY is helping the shape the national conversation on immigration, conducting impact litigation, and pushing for national policy transformation. MRNY is now the largest immigrant base-building organization in New York State and one of the largest in the country, with over 23,000 members. *(Second year of Core Grant funding, funded in 2016-2018 by Next Generation Grants).*

## **Power of Two**

Brooklyn, NY

Power of Two received \$25,000 to support its Community Programs. Power of Two gives children who have experienced early adversity a foundation for success in school and life by fostering a strong and healthy attachment between parent and child. In its evidence-based Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) program, Power of Two helps parents and other caregivers build resilience in children, which in turn protects them from ongoing stress and promotes academic success, physical health, and social and emotional well-being. The organization aims to scale ABC in New York City with the ultimate aim of disrupting the intergenerational cycle of poverty that affects too many families, and of providing a model dissemination strategy for other cities and states. Power of Two started disseminating ABC in 2015 in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and in 2019 will serve over 800 families in Brooklyn and the Bronx. This year, the organization plans to deepen its foothold and impact in Central Brooklyn and the South Bronx through growing the Community Program. *(Second year of funding).*

## **The Reading Team**

New York, NY

The Reading Team received \$25,000 to support general operating costs in their mission to help children at high risk of reading failure become strong readers and writers. The organization engages youth in a wide range of literacy-nurturing lesson and activities so they can succeed in school and in life through three programs: preschool, school-day for four to seven year children, and after-school for k-5. Through its Preschool Program, Preschool Satellite Program, After-School Program, After-School Satellite Program, and Family Literacy Program, the Reading Team serves about 750 children from ages 2 to 11 and their parents. The organization has seen significant improvements in the reading ability of the children who participate in their programs. Funds from the Sills Family Foundation this year will be used for general operating support of the Reading Team's expanding early literacy programs. The organization anticipates serving an additional 60 children next year in both the After-School Program and Preschool Program *(Second year of funding)*

## **Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families**

New York, NY

STEPS to End Family Violence, a project of the Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families, was awarded \$25,000 to support the Community-Based Services program (CBS) and advanced clinical training. STEPS provides holistic support to all survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, with a special emphasis on supporting justice involved survivors, immigrant survivors, adolescent survivors and very young children impacted by abusive partner behavior. CBS serves survivors of intimate partner violence and their children (from birth through adolescence) throughout the five boroughs, including Staten Island. CBS has expanded in the past year and has partnered Sanctuary with Families' clinical team to create an interagency program called the FamilySafe Initiative. The CBS team is currently trained in Child Parent Psychotherapy, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, several versions of Parenting Journey, and Internal Family Systems (IFS) Therapy. With this year's funding, STEPS will be able to continue the tradition of providing post-graduate training to the CBS team by funding each team member's training in EMDR - Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. EMDR is designed to lessen the anguish caused by severe emotional trauma by working to desensitize a distressing emotional memory and then reprocessing that memory to diminish its emotional charge. *(Fifteenth year of funding)*

**Youth Represent**  
New York, NY

Youth Represent received \$25,000 for general operating funds to support comprehensive legal representation for young, low-income New Yorkers. Youth Represent is a holistic youth defense and advocacy nonprofit organization with a mission of ensuring that young people affected by the criminal justice system are afforded every opportunity to reclaim lives of dignity, self-fulfillment, and engagement in their communities. The organization provides criminal and reentry legal representation to youth, age twenty-four and under, who are court-involved or who are experiencing legal problems because of past involvement in the criminal justice system. The organization uses a fee-for-service, community-lawyering model to represent clients. Youth Represent meets youth where they are, traveling to workforce development and youth services programs across the five boroughs - particularly to those neighborhoods most harmed by over-policing - to deliver the organization's community-lawyering model, which combines direct legal representation, Know Your Rights workshops, technical assistance for youth service organizations, and leadership and engagement opportunities for young people. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## Environmental Justice

### Alternatives for Community and Environment

Roxbury, MA

Alternatives for Community and Environment received a \$10,000 grant for the Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP). For twenty-five years, ACE has led the fight for environmental justice in Greater Boston. ACE focuses on building the power of communities of color and low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. The Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project nurtures youth development and leadership in Roxbury through an environmental justice curriculum, organizing and membership program, and youth-led campaigns for environmental justice in Roxbury, Dorchester, and across the City of Boston. Funding from the Sills Family Foundation will support the alternative energy projects ACE's youth leaders are visioning on community garden lots created through their Grow or Die Campaign, which transforms city-owned vacant lots into multi-use gardens where local families living in food deserts can grow healthy food. *(Seventeenth year of funding)*

### Coming Clean

Brattleboro, VT

Coming Clean received a \$25,000 grant to support general operating costs for its Grassroots-to-National Campaign for Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice. Coming Clean is an organization of 185 international, national, state and grassroots groups united together for healthy and just solutions to the problems of toxic industrial petrochemical production, use, and disposal. The organization's mission is to meaningfully contribute to environmental health and justice by radically reducing sources of toxic pollution in people's lives, especially the disproportionately impacted subpopulations of people of color and low-income people; to aggressively advocate for corporate and marketplace changes as a driver for policy solutions; and position environmental health and justice groups as leaders in building healthy, safe and just communities locally and nationally. Coming Clean's current focus is its Campaign for Healthier Solution which targets corporate policies that affect over 20,000 dollar stores in poor areas, and public policies that can improve adverse conditions on the ground and build toward national changes. *(Eighth year of funding)*

### Mercury Policy Project

Montpelier, VT

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a \$25,000 grant to support its Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign. MPP was founded in 1998 and promotes policies to reduce and where feasible eliminate mercury uses, releases, trade and exposure. The organization works to raise awareness and promote policies to reduce and where possible eliminate mercury uses, reduce the export and trafficking of mercury, and reduce mercury exposure at local, national, and international levels. Funding will support the Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign, which works to reduce human exposure to mercury at the local, national, and international levels. The current focus of the Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign is on skin lightening products laced with mercury, dental amalgam contributing to "secondary poisoning" via environmental release and mercury exposure from fish consumption particularly among sensitive populations. MPP is working in coalition with many NGOs to collaborate, build campaigns and co-release reports. *(Sixteenth year of funding)*

**West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.**

*New York, NY*

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) was granted a \$25,000 grant for general operating support. WE ACT is a non-profit, community-based membership organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT's model prioritizes community organizing, education and training, advocacy and research, and public policy development. WE ACT envisions a community that has a) informed and engaged residents who participate fully in decision-making on key issues that impact their health and community, b) strong and equal environmental protections, and c) increased environmental health through community-based participatory research and evidence-based campaigns. *(Twelfth year of funding)*

## Sills 2019 Capacity Building Grants

### Coming Clean

Brattleboro, VT

Coming Clean was awarded a two-year capacity building grant (\$25,000 in year one and \$15,275 in year two) to support upgrading its technological systems. The organization is currently operating with outdated technology systems that haven't been upgraded since 2001. This capacity building project will sufficiently upgrade the organization's technology systems and provide necessary improvements to its communications platform, hub services, activity logging, and donation processing, in turn improve the capacity and functionality of Coming Clean. *(First year of a two-year grant)*

### exalt Youth

New York, NY

exalt Youth was awarded a one-year capacity building grant of \$25,000 to support its board development. To date, exalt has recruited 3 new board members, and their target is to onboard an additional 3 new board members for a total of 18 board members by FY21. Capacity building support will underwrite direct costs to implement these plans, including staff time, board development/training services, recruiting materials and meetings. *(First year of funding)*

### Hour Children, Inc.

Long Island City and Bedford Hills, NY

Hour Children was awarded a one-year capacity building grant of \$25,000 to support developing and implementing an external communications strategy, including digital video content creation. Hour Children expects that these efforts will ultimately result in a marked increase in engagement, including individual donations, such that additional staffing will eventually be paid for out of increased revenue. *(First year of a one-year grant)*

### Make the Road New York

Brooklyn, NY

Make the Road New York (MRNY) was awarded a three-year capacity building grant of \$25,000 each year to support upgrading its database systems and increasing its measurement, tracking, and evaluation capacity. This project will improve database consistency and efficiency across all programs, increase mobile and remote functionality of the database and ease of data entry for staff, and translate their database into Spanish for monolingual staff. *(First year of a three-year grant)*

### Mercury Policy Project

Montpelier, VT

The Mercury Policy Project (MPP) was awarded a three-year capacity building grant (\$20,000 in year one, \$15,000 in year two, and \$15,000 in year three) to support ensuring the continuity and on-going work of MPP through facilitating an orderly, systematic and effective transition in the leadership of MPP. Funds will be used to support: 1) funding a consultant for planning the transition to a new Executive Director and conducting an organizational assessment; 2) the oversight role of the current Director; and 3) the initial integration of the new Executive Director into MPP. *(First year of a three-year grant)*

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

Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a three-year capacity building grant of \$25,000 each year to create an agency-wide trauma-informed-care training and reinforcement program. The organization recognizes that many of the people it serves each year - an underserved population that is largely invisible, with some members of the family living with criminal histories, drug abuse, language, and immigration issues - have experienced some sort of trauma. The organization will incorporate the principles of trauma-informed care into their service delivery model through formal off-site training, orientation trainings for new staff, and ongoing reinforcement of the principles learned in these trainings. *(First year of a three-year grant)*

**Power of Two**  
Brooklyn, NY

Power of Two was awarded a one-year capacity building grant of \$25,000 to partner with childcare providers to strengthen their understanding of attachment theory and trauma-informed practice, as well as to provide professional development opportunities for its team to hone their technical assistance skills. Through these partnerships, the organization seeks to share its expertise with daycare providers and early learning centers to ensure that they provide quality care for children in vulnerable communities. *(First year of a one-year grant)*

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

The Women's Prison Association was awarded a two-year capacity building grant of \$25,000 each year to support its current initiative to dismantle racism and maximize diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at WPA. Beginning this year, WPA has convened a working group of staff to discuss internal issues related to DEI through a racial and intersectional lens. This funding will cover professional fees for Candida Brooks-Harrison, an expert facilitator, as she partners with WPA staff to address racism and oppression at all levels and achieve equitable outcomes for everyone at WPA. *(First year of a two-year grant)*



## **Sills 2018 Capacity Building Grants**

### **Community Connections for Youth**

*Bronx, NY*

Community Connections for Youth was awarded a three-year capacity building grant in 2018 of \$25,000 each year to support the implementation of their new strategic plan. In particular, the capacity building grant will support the organization's efforts to develop data collection tools and processes to help them: a) clearly and consistently measure outcomes and impact across our internal programs; and b) share with a network of affiliates who are seeking to replicate CCFY's approach in their communities. *(Second year of a three-year grant)*

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

*Brooklyn, NY*

Housing + Solutions received a three-year capacity building grant in 2018 in the amount of \$25,000 per year. The intent of the grant is to support the organization's efforts to build its board's capacity, integrate communications strategies with fundraising, and grow donor streams to increase general operating support. *(Second year of a three-year grant)*

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

*East Harlem, New York*

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services received a three-year capacity building grant in 2018 of \$25,000 each year to support their efforts to integrate their EMR (electronic medical records) to the Health Information Exchange, implement mobile ERM, and improve their collection rate by adopting an electronic billing system. *(Second year of a three-year grant)*

### **Roca, Inc.**

*Chelsea, MA*

Roca was awarded a three-year capacity building grant in 2018 of \$25,000 each year to support the evaluation of Roca's intervention model. Internal data suggests that Roca's model offers an effective approach to lifting the nation's forgotten 1% of young people out of violence and poverty, and over the next three years, Roca plans to work with an internationally-renowned evaluator to perform a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the Intervention Model. This will not only enable Roca to study which elements of the model are the most effective, but will also provide information to practitioners and policymakers who are seeking to serve youth in their own communities. *(Second year of a three-year grant)*

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

*New York, NY*

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) was awarded a three-year capacity building grant in 2018 of \$25,000 each year to support major donor fundraising and strategic business plan implementation efforts. The goals of the grant are to increase WE ACT's major giving program and to dedicate staff time to the implementation of their 2017-2021 strategic plan and their 2019-2021 business plan. *(Second year of a three-year grant)*

## **Sills 2019 Rapid Response Grants**

### **Community Connections for Youth**

*Bronx, NY*

Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) received \$8,500 to provide families with backpacks and back-to-school supplies for a Back to School event. Every year, the CCFY community comes together to ensure that children and youth start each school year prepared with the supplies they need. Funding supported this event, which due to budget shortfalls was at risk of not being able to be held.

### **exalt Youth**

*New York, NY*

exalt Youth was granted \$10,000 to support a partnership with the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions (CNUS). The goal of this partnership is to connect formerly incarcerated and justice-system impacted individuals to 10,000 seasonal hiring slots being offered by the UPS corporation. With this funding, exalt was able to move forward with this collaboration and partnership that will lead to direct seasonal, part-time and full-time jobs for formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted individuals who are in need of employment opportunities.

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

*East Harlem, New York*

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services (LSA) received \$10,000 to support technical assistance in preparation of a time sensitive grant application. LSA applied for an Early Head Start grant, since PCD's model is closely aligned with the Administration for Children and Families' Early Head Start Program, and used the funding to engage two consultants who are experts in the field of early childhood to prepare the application.

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

*Worcester, MA*

Pernet Family Health Service was awarded a \$4,614 grant support the purchase of tablets and accessories to prepare for the Department of Public Health's new requirement for agencies to implement an electronic health record and an electronic billing component. This was an unexpected development, which is being phased in from September to December 2019. This new implementation requires agencies to purchase compatible software, tablets and accessories for remote use and the connectability when wifi is not available.

## Sills 2019 Arts and Culture Committee Grants

### Artists Striving to End Poverty

*White Plains, NY*

Artists Striving to End Poverty was awarded a \$19,000 grant to support workshops and general operating costs for ASTEP on STAGE! The ASTEP on STAGE! Program introduces underserved youth in NYC to the transforming power of the arts by bringing performing and visual artists from the Broadway and NYC community to after-school and in-school programs. ASTEP Volunteer Artists delivers 1 to 2-hour classes focusing on drama, music, visual art and dance. The program also partners with NYC organizations serving youth affected by the justice system, incarceration, gun violence, homelessness, immigration status, systemic poverty, and HIV/AIDS. In 2018, ASTEP increased the number of workshops provided through ASTEP on STAGE! from the prior year by 67% - from 161 to 228 workshops, more than doubled the number of students served - from 1,312 to 2,730, and placed 103 Volunteer Teaching Artists. In 2019, ASTEP has been building on this momentum, creating more opportunities for our students to develop social and emotional skills and positive connections to their communities. *(Third year of funding).*

### ArtsWestchester

*White Plains, NY*

ArtsWestchester was awarded a \$40,000 grant: \$21,100 to support art residencies at low-income senior residences in Westchester, and \$18,900 to support art workshops at Westhab's youth and family center. The artist residencies are designed to foster socialization and positive peer interaction through ongoing art-making workshops. These workshops engage participants in challenging and creative activities such as making a mural or participating in a creative music/movement project. Each workshop series is designed to meet the specific needs of the participants. For at-risk youth, the art workshops at the Westhab youth and family center provide opportunities to reinforce self-confidence and one's ability to work cooperatively with peers. For senior citizens, art-making workshops encourage socialization and reinforce cognitive and social skills. *(Eighth year of funding)*

### Bloomfield College

*Bloomfield, NJ*

Bloomfield College received \$25,000 to support scholarships. Bloomfield College is a small Liberal arts institution that is committed to enabling students, particularly those who have been historically excluded from higher education, to realize their intellectual and personal goals. Bloomfield College is the 15<sup>th</sup> most diverse National Liberal Arts College in the United States, with more than half of the students identifying as first-generation US residents and are the first in their families to enroll in college. *(Second year of funding)*

### Brooklyn Ballet

*Brooklyn, NY*

Brooklyn Ballet was awarded a grant of \$20,000 to support the 2020 Elevate Program. Brooklyn Ballet is a professional, not-for-profit dance company dedicated to artistic excellence and education, reflecting Brooklyn's diverse communities. Funding will support the Elevate Program, which brings ballet into public schools and provides between 60 and 180 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at each school the opportunity to participate in 12 weeks of free, in-school ballet classes taught by

Brooklyn Ballet teaching artists. The programs culminate in an end-of-year showcase for students to demonstrate their new skills in front of parents and friends. Students learn to choreograph their own pieces and begin to explore the immense creative, emotional, and physical benefits of dance. Problem solving, comparison and contrast, verbal clarification of movement, and analysis are all addressed in fun yet challenging ways. *(Sixth year of funding)*

### **Brooklyn Museum**

*Brooklyn, NY*

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

### **Brooklyn Public Library**

*Brooklyn, NY*

The Brooklyn Public Library was awarded a \$20,000 grant for its Creative Aging Program, which serves older adults throughout Brooklyn. BPL's Creative Aging Program supports the artistic interests of Brooklyn's older adults. The program is based on a vision for mobilizing the trusted, neutral, information-rich public space of the library to deliver arts education for and with older adults by building effective collaborations between teaching artists and librarians. The programs teach the fundamentals of an art form and provide students with hands-on instruction that builds artistic skills and inspires creativity. Programs focus on visual, literary and performing arts and have included dance, photography, choral singing, painting, collage, poetry, fiber arts, and theater. *(Sixth year of funding)*

### **Community Word Project**

*New York, NY*

Community Word Project (CWP) was awarded \$20,000 to sustain and expand its Collaborative Arts Residency Program, which will serve 3,300 New York City public school students in 60 underserved schools and libraries in the 2019-2020 academic year. CWP residencies will infuse the arts into the public school classroom curriculum to motivate students to be engaged and curious learners as they develop critical, creative thinking and the literacy skills needed to succeed in school and life. CWP provides multiple opportunities for students to engage in cross-curricular activities. The addition of the arts component provides additional points of entry to further engage students who otherwise struggle with accessing the content and curriculum. Grant funds will support Teaching Artist salaries, program coordination, and program supplies. *(Eighth year of funding)*

### **Creative Art Works**

*New York, New York*

Creative Art Works (CAW) received a grant of \$15,000 to provide general operating support to sustain and expand creative education and experiences for at-risk New York City youth. CAW

empowers young people through visual and multimedia arts programs that equip children, teens and young adults with essential tools and skills; connect them with community, academic success and career opportunities; and inspire them to reach for new possibilities. Working in underserved neighborhoods of New York City, in public schools, community and cultural centers, juvenile detention and foster care facilities, CAW provides dynamic creative youth development for youth who otherwise lack access through four core programs: out-of-school-time programs, in-school programs, the public art youth employment program, and community art-making programs. Students are never charged for participation. *(Second year of funding)*

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

*New York, NY*

Girls Write Now was granted \$5,000 in general operating support. Girls Write Now mentors underserved girls to find their voices through the power of writing and community, sending 100% of seniors to college with writing/digital portfolios and self-confidence. The organization offers girls a unique combination of arts education and comprehensive supports, including up to four years of one-to-one mentoring from a professional woman writer; performance, publication and leadership development opportunities; writing and digital skills workshops; college preparation; and the opportunity to create a professional writing and/or digital portfolio. Their goal is to elevate the voices of their girls locally, nationally, and globally through performance, publication, exhibition, online distribution, press, and corporate engagement. *(Fourth year of funding)*

### **Groundswell**

*Brooklyn, NY*

Groundswell was granted \$15,000 for its Master Studio Artmaking Programs. Groundswell's suite of Master Studio (afterschool and summer programs) brings together youth, artists, and community partners to make public art that advances social change for a more just and equitable world. Groundswell projects raise awareness of critical social justice issues, inspire stewardship of public spaces, drive collaboration and civic participation, and strengthen relationships between youth and their communities. Groundswell aims to have its youth participants engaged in programming over a sustained period of time (3yrs and beyond) who will, in the long-term, develop into self-sufficient, self-sustaining adults who identify as creative problem solvers, confident, healthy individuals, and agents of social change. *(Seventh year of funding)*

### **Manhattan Theater Club**

*New York, NY*

The Manhattan Theater Club was granted \$20,000 to support its Giving Voice Programs in 2019-20, including Write on the Edge (WrOTE) playwriting residencies, and the Stargate Theatre theatre-making and job skills development program. The mission of MTC, since 1972, has been to produce innovative theatre of the highest quality by American and international playwrights, with a focus on presenting New York, American, and world premieres. The Giving Voice Programs help young people confronting challenges of poverty, trauma, and involvement in the justice system to transform their lives and give voice to their thoughts, hopes, and dreams through theatre making and playwriting. In total, in 2019-20, the WrOTE program will reach 400-500 students, and the Stargate Theatre programs will serve 20-25 young people ages 16-24 who identify as male and who have been involved with the justice system. *(First year of funding)*

## **Songcatchers** *Larchmont, NY*

Songcatchers was granted \$15,000 to support general operating costs. Songcatchers's mission is to provide low-cost access to high quality music education, training and enrichment for children and families in the New Rochelle area, focusing on the low-income, Black and Latino populations. The organization promotes excellence in an atmosphere that fosters community, mutual respect, self-esteem, leadership development and an appreciation for the arts. Songcatchers works to help students develop a lifelong appreciation of music, as well as develop character, self-esteem and focus through the discipline of regular practice. Throughout the process, students, staff and volunteers will cultivate a sense of community, belonging and joy by engaging with music. *(First year of funding)*

## **POLIN Museum** *Warsaw Poland*

The North American Council for the Legacy of Polish Jews received a grant of \$25,000 to provide support to the POLIN Museum. The POLIN Museum is the first public-private partnership in Poland, created jointly by the government, the local government, and a non-governmental organization. It is a modern cultural institution - a narrative museum which presents a 1,000-year history of Polish Jews. It is also a place for meetings and conversations for all of those eager to learn more about the past and present of Jewish culture, to confront the stereotypes, and to face the perils of today's world such as xenophobia and nationalistic prejudices. By promoting openness, tolerance, and truth, POLIN Museum contributes to the mutual understanding and respect amongst Poles and Jews. *(Third year of funding).*

## **The Public Theater (previously The Shakespeare Society)** *Brooklyn, NY*

The Public Theater received a \$10,000 grant to support The Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble, in partnership with The Shakespeare Society. In FY18, The Shakespeare Society and The Public Theater joined forces under the Public Shakespeare Initiative, of which the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble will be a central and essential program. Now in its thirteenth year, the Ensemble will continue as a program of the Public Shakespeare Initiative, implemented in close collaboration with The Shakespeare Society's long-time, vital community partner The Hunts Point Alliance for Children. Through the Ensemble, approximately 60 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from five schools in Hunts Point will spend an entire academic year learning about, rehearsing, and ultimately performing a Shakespeare play. *(Sixth year of funding)*

## Sills 2019 Next Generation Committee Grants

### ASE Education Foundation

*Leesburg, Virginia*

The ASE Education Foundation received \$15,000 for automotive scholarships. This organizations mission is to provide scholarships to students pursuing training in automotive repair. This fund will provide scholarships to post-secondary automotive repair training programs for low income high school graduates

### Brooklyn Community Foundation

*Brooklyn, NY*

The Brooklyn Community Foundation received \$15,000 to support the Brooklyn School-Based Restorative Justice Project in four public schools in partnership with the NYC Department of Education. The project is targeted to schools with high suspension and/or arrest rates in search of effective alternatives to punitive disciplinary approaches that result in youth ejection from school, entanglement in the criminal justice system, and often, incarceration. In this final year, three community-based organizations will provide restorative justice consultants to continue to: (1) leverage current staff and capacity that has been built over the past four years to grow and strengthen restorative justice practices and interventions; (2) ensure that the school is moving towards facilitating effective whole school participation and continuing to move in the direction of a restorative school culture; and (3) further embed restorative justice into the fiber of the schools. *(Fifth year of funding)*

### Carbon Cycle Institute

*Petaluma, CA*

Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI) received \$15,000 to support general operating costs in its mission to stop and reverse global climate change by advancing science-based solutions that reduce atmospheric carbon while promoting environmental stewardship, social equity and economic sustainability. . CCI achieves its mission through the Ag Carbon Program, which is advancing carbon farming and regenerative agriculture that builds soil carbon and critical ecosystem services on ranches and farms (working landscapes). CCI believes climate change cannot be addressed through mitigation of GHG/carbon emissions alone; solutions must reduce the “legacy load” of carbon in the atmosphere, and these solutions should focus first on restoring natural resources and processes. Funding will support core staffing and operating expenses for CCI to successfully implement its core program to scale carbon farming and regenerative management of working lands across California through building the capacity of the organization’s strategic soil and land management partners (including Resource Conservation Districts and land trusts) and advancing state and local policies to support soil carbon sequestration and carbon farming. *(Second year of funding)*

### Climate Collaborative

*Oakland, CA*

The Climate Collaborative received \$15,000 to support general operating costs. The Climate Collaborative (TCC) launched in March 2017 at the inaugural Climate Day at Expo West. The mission is to bring together concerned businesses from the natural products industry working collaboratively to catalyze bold action, amplify the voice of business and promote sound policy to reverse climate change. TCC will provide hands-on training on carbon farming practices and tools,

bring together virtual working groups on regenerative agriculture and consumer engagement, and host monthly webinars on best practices. Funding will support the core activities of the Climate Collaborative, in providing vital, cost-free support to companies to build their internal capacity to respond to climate change, and to develop industry-wide pathways to collaboratively respond to climate change, so that their suppliers, consumers, and communities are lifted up by their action as well. *(First year of funding)*

### **Community Impact Lab**

*San Leandro, CA*

Community Impact Lab received \$5,000 to support general operating costs. Community Impact Lab believes that by empowering families and working together to tackle challenges in real ways, everyone - especially parents - can live, give, and grow to their fullest potential. Their Lift Me Up Box (LMU) program, the Allied Families Project, the Art+Activism Program, and the Community Energy Conservation Challenge remove barriers to progress by giving opportunities for parents and their children to do social good, build supportive circles, and share knowledge and skills. Funding will help deepen their impact in the form of materials, resources, and incentives for current programs and new programs, and general operating costs including personnel hours, space rental, website, communications and marketing materials, and storage space. *(Second year of funding)*

### **Community Initiatives / RJOY**

*Oakland, CA*

RJOY received \$10,000 in general operating support. RJOY works to interrupt cycles of violence, incarceration, and wasted lives by promoting institutional shifts toward restorative approaches that actively engage families, communities, and systems to repair harm and prevent re-offending. Funding will enable RJOY to reactivate the Re-Entry Circles of Supportive and Accountability (COSA) Project, which provides intensive services and support through the establishment and implementation of circles of support and accountability. This project will serve 8-10 Bay Area youth re-entering the community from juvenile detention and criminal system involvement. In addition, RJOY will use funding to expand the Youth Apprentice Program. *(Seventh year of funding)*

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

*Brooklyn, NY*

Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS) received \$15,000 to support general operating costs, and allow GEMS to enrich its programs and services. From its founding in 1998, GEMS has grown into a nationally-acclaimed organization that is one of the largest providers of services to commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking (CSE) youth in the US. GEMS is dedicated to improving the lives of girls and young women the agency serves through comprehensive supportive services. General operating support will support GEMS' trauma-informed and culturally-competent programs and services. Additionally, funding will support the agency administration, staff time spent on direct services, and the provision of basic needs and supplies (clothing, food, Metrocards, shelter, and stipends, as well as the costs associated with obtaining identification and healthcare). *(Fifth year of funding)*



## **GRID Alternatives**

Oakland, CA

GRID Alternatives received \$20,000 to support its 2020 Greater Los Angeles Solar Career Pathways for Youth Program (SCPYP). GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit solar contractor that installs solar systems on low-income residences and trains volunteers on site in all aspects of solar installation. The organization provides solar installation training to job trainees and assists with placements into solar jobs. GRID has multiple avenues for candidates, including the Installation Basics Training certificate program, which trains individuals in the basic competency and ability to perform key aspects of the installation process, and the SolarCorps Fellowship, which is a one-year paid fellowship program for highly-motivated and enthusiastic people to join GRID full time for thirteen months. Funding will support 4 Solar Career Pathway internship positions for opportunity youth, in addition to a portion of workforce development program personnel to manage interns and the Solar Career Pathways program. *(Third year of funding)*

## **The Guidance Center of Westchester**

Mount Vernon, NY

The Guidance Center of Westchester received \$7,500 to support the Rebound Program. The Guidance Center of Westchester is a multi-service, community-based organization that offers essential and lasting support to those challenged by mental illness, substance abuse, poverty, and homelessness. The Rebound Program provides a positive alternative for high school students who would otherwise be isolated on Home Bound activities to students to develop better learning and social-emotional skills. Currently the Rebound Program serves twenty 9th-12th grade students at any one time, for 12-14 weeks, up to 50 students in a given year. Funding will support two enrichment activities, the Teens under Construction program, which uses Hip Hop, slam poetry, beatbox to express thoughts, feelings, ideas, and values in a positive way; and Magic Box Productions, which provides media arts workshops that help students create photography, video, animation, audio, and web-based projects. *(First year of funding)*

## **Make the Road New York**

Brooklyn, NY

Make the Road New York received \$15,000 to support the Youth Power Project Restorative Justice Program. Make the Road New York (MRNY) builds the power of immigrant and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice through organizing, policy innovation, transformative education, and survival services. Their model integrates multi-issue, multi-generational organizing – on workers' rights, tenant rights, LGBTQ justice, youth power and policing, public schools and education justice, immigration justice, and climate – with an array of wraparound services that create a space of safety and support for entire families. Funds will deepen the project's restorative justice (RJ) work, ensure implementation of recent wins on school climate issues, and generally furthering leadership development and organizing through the Youth Power Project (YPP). YPP's restorative justice approach is part of a larger community school strategy that recognizes that students cannot achieve their full academic potential until their basic needs are met. Restorative justice is crucial to the community school model; it creates a culture of respect and accountability, builds community anchored in shared values, and keeps students on the path to success. Through trainings, mentorship, and support circles, the entire school community plays a role in implementing RJ practices on campus. *(Fourth year of funding)*.

**MISSEY, Inc.**  
Oakland, CA

MISSEY received \$15,000 for general operating costs. MISSEY offers trauma-informed, non-judgmental direct services to commercial sexual exploitation children (CSEC) and transition age youth, and at-risk youth; providing intensive case management, mentoring, a drop-in center, and youth advocacy. Through these activities, youth learn to connect and collaborate with others, uplift their voices and express their truths, explore their passions and interests, and develop the confidence, knowledge, and self-advocacy skills that empower them to lead healthy, self-determined lives. Funding will support MISSEY's capacity building project to strengthen its leadership and infrastructure to ensure that they can effectively support youth, their communities and the broader CSEC movement. The project will assess and strengthen the team of staff and board, and programming in a way that will foster shared learning, and result in stronger systems for consistent and sustainable impact and implementation of efforts currently underway. *(Fourth year of funding)*

**Partnerships for Trauma Recovery**  
Berkeley, CA

Partnerships for Trauma Recovery (PTR) received \$16,500 to support the Mosaic Healing Center. The Mosaic Healing Center is where PTR provides in-depth psychosocial care to their 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. Since launching the Mosaic Healing Center, PTR has provided trauma-informed, globally culturally aware, and linguistically accessible mental health and case management services to nearly 300 refugees and other international survivors of human rights abuses. At the core of PTR's model is the Global Healing & Human Rights (GHHR) clinical training program, which is also provided at the Mosaic Healing Center. Through this program, PTR trains advanced psychology doctoral students to provide trauma-informed, culturally aware, and linguistically accessible mental health care for refugees, asylees and asylum seekers in the Bay Area *(Second year of funding)*

**Refugee & Immigrant Transitions (formerly Refugee Transitions)**  
San Francisco, CA

Refugee & Immigrant Transitions received \$15,000 for its Bridge-2-Success Youth Development Program (B2S), which serves 800+ youth per year in the San Francisco Bay Area. Launched in 2003, B2S is an educational equity initiative spanning two public school districts, San Francisco and Oakland. B2S builds partnerships, collaborates with school teachers and administrators, and catalyzes family and community supports to foster development and increase achievement for disadvantaged newcomer youth. B2S provides an array of targeted academic and enrichment supports to ensure that at-risk youth are achieving academic gains and graduating high school. The program will also be making several changes in the 2019-20 school year, including: 1) expanding individualized tutoring/mentoring thanks to recently received Refugee Youth Mentoring grants from the California Department of Social Services, and 2) replacing the after-school program in San Francisco with a daytime academic assistance program to provide more convenient option for youth who live far from the school and/or have to work after school. *(Third year of funding)*

## **Regeneration International**

*Finland, MN*

Regeneration International received \$15,000 to support the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers for a Green New Deal coalition. Regeneration International works with multiple stakeholders, including consumers, farmers/ranchers, scientists, grassroots activists, and educators in key regions of the world who are committed to building alternative food and farming systems on a regional or national level, through alliance-building and policy work. The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers for a Green New Deal Project, launched in 2019, aims to build grassroots and political support for agricultural policy reforms that will provide farmers and ranchers with the resources and policy tools they need in order to transition to regenerative agriculture production practices that can draw down and sequester billions of excess carbon from the atmosphere, as well as combat the farming crisis, improve rural economic stagnation and food insecurity, and provide a framework of uniting a wide range of climate activists and social justice groups. *(First year of funding)*

## **Rose Haven**

*Portland, OR*

Rose Haven received \$3,000 to support the BLOOM: Wellness and Empowerment program. Rose Haven is the only day shelter and community center for women and children experiencing poverty and violence in Portland. Rose Haven's mission is to maintain a safe and respectful community, while providing guests with resources, supplies and services to assist them in regaining stability in their lives. The BLOOM: Wellness and Empowerment program works with community partners to provide targeted physical, mental and financial wellness activities; enabling women and children experiencing trauma and poverty to become healthy and self-sufficient. The BLOOM program brings volunteer community partners onsite to offer classes and activities around mental, physical and financial health. *(First year of funding)*

## **Safe Passages**

*Oakland, CA*

Safe Passages was granted \$10,000 to support general operating costs. Safe Passages' mission is to disrupt the cycle of poverty by engaging youth and families to build and drive a continuum of services that supports student success and community development. By partnering with over 65 public and private agencies, Safe Passages works to increase parents' access to resources, increase kindergarten readiness of young children, increase high school graduation and college entrance rates, support youth in making career choices that lead to living wage careers, and increase family/caregiver capacity to meet the social, emotional and financial needs of their families. Funding will be applied to the cost of development/fundraising staff time to expand the organization's donor base. In addition, a small portion of the funds will be used to assist a cohort of Safe Passages Union City AmeriCorps Members with transportation costs. *(Seventh year of funding)*

## **Women's Earth Alliance**

*Berkeley, CA*

Women's Earth Alliance received \$17,000 to support the U.S Grassroots Accelerator for Women Environmental Justice Leaders. In some of the most environmentally threatened regions, WEA training graduates are preserving indigenous seeds and plant knowledge key to survival; selling clean cookstoves that save lives and reduce the destruction of forests; modeling the small-scale regenerative farming practices that will feed the planet; protecting dwindling water sources;

staving off destructive and toxic energy extraction; and shaping cultures of peace. In recognition of the critical role that women play in shaping climate solutions and the acute support they need to grow their impact, Women's Earth Alliance (WEA) and the Sierra Club launched the U.S. Grassroots Accelerator for Women Environmental Leaders in early 2019 to support women throughout the U.S. who are taking a lead in building actionable solutions to pressing climate and environmental challenges. This diverse cohort of 20-30 women climate leaders will engage in a 4-month action-driven training program. *(Second year of funding)*

### **World without Exploitation**

*New York, NY*

World without Exploitation (WorldWE) received \$5,000 to support general operating costs. WorldWE is the national coalition to end trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. WorldWE was founded in 2016 to harness, support, and amplify the powerful work being done by anti-exploitation organizations across the nation. Its mission is to create a world where no person is bought, sold or exploited. The organization runs a WorldWE Youth Summit, which brings together over 200 student activities and artists age 16-28 for a day-long, youth-driven, survivor-centered event at Brooklyn Historical Society. They also hold the Now & Next Annual National Convening, which is a two-day educational convening for movement leaders and professionals from a variety of disciplines from across the US. *(First year of funding)*

### **Youth ALIVE!**

*Oakland, CA*

Youth ALIVE! received \$15,000 to fund general operations to help sustain Youth ALIVE!'s interconnected programs staffed by people from the community who do the ground work to prevent violence, help individuals and the community heal, and create engaged young leaders within the neighborhoods hit hardest by violence. The organization works to provide intensive, trauma-informed support, mentoring, case management, violence intervention, conflict mediation, mental health counseling, and leadership training to hundreds of young Oaklanders affected by violence. Funding will contribute to efforts, over the course of one year, to train East Oakland high school students to become violence prevention educators and positive role models to their peers as well as leaders who are deeply engaged in the civic effort for peace and safety. *(Fourth year of funding)*

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

*Mount Vernon, NY*

The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester (YSPW) received \$15,000 to support the Aftercare and Re-entry Program. YSPW provides a home-like alternative to jail for young men awaiting disposition of various criminal charges. The shelter has twelve beds in its residential facility, which serves men ages 16-21, in order to prevent them from entering the adult incarceration system. The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester provides programming to this population aimed at preparing them for their eventual return to their homes and communities, with an overall goal of reducing re-incarceration among youth. Funding will support the rapidly growing vocational/employment component of the Aftercare and Re-entry Program which not only identifies job opportunities for youth leaving detention at the Shelter, but works to develop specific training and employment options that bear the most promise for success. The Vocational Coordinator provides much needed support for the young person who is returning to the family after a period of detention at their residential facility. *(Third year of funding)*

## Sills 2019 Grants Summary

### Strategic Grants

Organization	Amount Awarded	Purpose
Abraham House	\$25,000	After School Program (ASP)
Alternatives for Community & Environment	\$10,000	REEP (Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project)
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.	\$50,000	Immigrants' Rights Project Request
Avenues for Justice, Inc	\$25,000	General operating
Bard Prison Initiative	\$25,000	General operating
The Bronx Defenders	\$25,000	Reentry Support
BronxWorks	\$25,000	The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund	\$25,000	New York Immigrant Freedom Fund
Brooklyn Community Foundation	\$25,000	Immigrant Rights Fund
Brooklyn Defender Services	\$25,000	Community Office Family Initiative
Brooklyn Public Library	\$25,000	TeleStory
Circle	\$25,000	Housing Options and Programming for Battered Women Charged with Crimes
The College and Community Fellowship, Inc.	\$25,000	General operating
Coming Clean, Inc.	\$25,000	Coming Clean's Grassroots-to-National Campaign for Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice
Common Justice	\$25,000	General operating
Community Connections for Youth	\$25,000	Strengthening Families
Correctional Association of New York	\$25,000	Partnering with families to demand accountability for what happens in New York's prisons

Echoes of Incarceration (a project of Ibis Productions, Inc.)	\$25,000	General operating
Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families (STEPS to End Family Violence)	\$25,000	Community-Based Services program (CBS)
exalt youth	\$25,000	Core Internship Program
Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation	\$25,000	SOS Crown Heights
Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation	\$25,000	Brooklyn Justice Initiative
Hour Children	\$25,000	Hour Children Prison and Community Programs
Hour Children	\$25,000	Centers of Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities
HousingPlus	\$25,000	General operating
HousingPlus	\$25,000	Beyond Rosie's Campaign
HowardCenter	\$25,000	Northern Lights
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison	\$25,000	General operating
Julie's Family Learning Program	\$25,000	Adult and Children Services
JustLeadershipUSA	\$25,000	General operating
Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Inc.	\$25,000	Parenting and Child Development Program
Lund	\$25,000	Kids-A-Part
Make the Road New York	\$25,000	Immigration Rapid Response Organizing
Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City	\$10,000	US-European Criminal Justice Innovation Program.
Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center	\$25,000	Zero Mercury Exposure Reduction Campaign
The Osborne Association	\$25,000	The Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations (OCJAG)
The Osborne Association	\$25,000	Youth Action Council (YAC) and Youth Experience Success (YES)

<b>Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.</b>	\$25,000	Engaging Incarcerated Fathers in Responsible Parenting
<b>Power of Two</b>	\$25,000	Power of Two Community Programs
<b>Providence House, Inc.</b>	\$25,000	Women’s Justice Program
<b>The Reading Team</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Rehabilitation Through The Arts</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Release Aging People in Prison Campaign</b>	\$15,000	General operating
<b>Roca, Inc.</b>	\$25,000	Roca’s Intervention Model - Greater Boston (Chelsea and Lynn Sites)
<b>St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children</b>	\$25,000	Supporting Families and Children In Crisis and Impacted by Incarceration
<b>Strategies for Youth</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Urban Youth Alliance International</b>	\$25,000	BronxConnect
<b>Voice of the Ex-Offender (VOTE)</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Volunteers of Legal Service</b>	\$25,000	Immigration Project
<b>Volunteers of Legal Service</b>	\$25,000	Incarcerated Mothers Law Project
<b>West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT)</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Women’s Prison Association</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Youth Represent</b>	\$25,000	General operating
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,310,000</b>	

## Capacity Building Grants

Organization	Amount Awarded	Purpose
<b>2019</b>		
Coming Clean, Inc.	\$25,000	Technological system supports (2019, year 1 of 2)
exalt Youth	\$25,000	Board Development (2019, year 1 of 1)
Hour Children	\$25,000	Capacity Building for External Communications (2019, year 1 of 1)
Make the Road New York	\$25,000	Database Efficiency Improvements (2019, year 1 of 3)
Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center	\$20,000	Transition consultant support (2019, year 1 of 3)
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	\$25,000	Trauma-Informed Care Training (2019, year 1 of 3)
Power of Two	\$25,000	Capacity building partnerships (2019, year 1 of 1)
Women's Prison Association	\$25,000	Addressing Racism and Oppression and Maximizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2019, year 1 of 2)
<b>2018</b>		
Community Connections for Youth	\$25,000	Implementation of CCFY's strategic plan (2018, year 2 of 3)
HousingPlus	\$25,000	Board capacity, communications strategies, and growing individual donor streams 2018, year 2 of 3)
Little Sisters of Assumption	\$25,000	Integration of EMR (electronic medical records) (2018, year 2 of 3)
Roca, Inc.	\$25,000	Evaluating Roca's intervention model (2018, year 2 of 3)
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT)	\$25,000	Major donor fundraising and strategic business plan implementation (2018, year 2 of 3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	



## Rapid Response Grants

Organization Name	Amount Awarded	Grant Purpose
Community Connections for Youth	\$8,500	Providing families with backpacks and back to school supplies for the Back to School event
Exalt Youth	\$10,000	Support incidentals for Exalt, CNUS, and the UPS partnership
Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Inc.	\$10,000	Support technical assistance in preparation of a time sensitive grant application
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.	\$4,614	Costs of tablets and accessories due to DPH imminent implementation of electronic health records
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,114</b>	

## Arts and Culture Grants

Organization Name	Amount Awarded	Grant Purpose
Artists Striving to End Poverty	\$19,000	General operating support
Bloomfield college	\$25,000	Scholarship fund
Brooklyn Ballet	\$20,000	Elevate Program
Brooklyn Museum	\$10,000	PS 1 Partnership
Brooklyn Public Library	\$20,000	Creative Aging Program
Community-Word Project Inc.	\$20,000	General operating support
Creative Art Works	\$15,000	General operating support
Girls Write Now Inc.	\$5,000	General operating support
Groundswell	\$15,000	General operating support
Manhattan Theater Club	\$20,000	Stargate Theater and Write on the Edge programs
Polin Museum	\$25,000	General operating support
The Public Theater (previously The Shakespeare Society)	\$10,000	Hunts Point program
Songcatchers	\$15,000	General operating support
Westchester Arts Council, Inc.	\$40,000	Senior art residencies and after school programs
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$259,000</b>	

## Next Generation Grants

Organization Name	Amount Awarded	Grant Purpose
ASE Scholarship	\$15,000	Automotive repair scholarship
Brooklyn Community Foundation	\$15,000	Brooklyn Restorative Justice Project
Carbon Cycle Institute	\$15,000	General operating
Climate Collaborative	\$15,000	General operating
Community Impact Lab	\$5,000	General operating
Community Initiatives/ RJOY	\$10,000	General operating
Girls Educational and Mentoring Services	\$15,000	General operating
GRID Alternatives	\$20,000	2020 Greater Los Angeles Solar Career Pathways for Youth Program (SCPYP)
The Guidance Center of Westchester	\$7,500	Rebound Program
Make the Road New York	\$15,000	Youth Power Project Restorative Justice program
MISSEY, Inc.	\$15,000	General Operating
Partnership for Trauma Recovery	\$16,500	Mosaic Healing Center
Refugee & Immigrant Transitions	\$15,000	Bridge-2-Success Youth Development Program
Regeneration International	\$15,000	U.S. Farmers & Ranchers for a Green New Deal
Rose Haven	\$3,000	BLOOM: Wellness and Empowerment program
Safe Passages	\$10,000	General operating
Women's Earth Alliance	\$17,000	U.S Grassroots Accelerator for Women Environmental Justice Leaders
World without Exploitation	\$5,000	General operating
Youth ALIVE!	\$15,000	General operating
Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, Inc.	\$15,000	Aftercare & Re-Entry Program
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$259,000</b>	

## 2019 Trustee Discretionary Grants

The 3 trustees of the Sills Family Foundation and their families made a total of 58 discretionary grants, ranging in size from \$250 to \$10,000, and totaling \$180,000.

### Art Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
Academy of the City Charter school	\$5,000
All Souls Unitarian Church	\$10,000
Cambridge Friends School	\$5,000
The Climate Trust	\$750
Crocker Elementary PTA	\$500
Earth Guardians	\$1,500
Gathering for Justice	\$1,000
The Green Belt Movement	\$1,500
High Fives Foundation	\$2,500
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay (Refugees Welcome Fund)	\$500
New York City Audubon	\$5,000
The Ocean Cleanup North Pacific Foundation	\$750
Planned Parenthood	\$5,000
Redwood Day School	\$2,000
Refugee and Immigrant Transitions	\$1,500
School Is Open	\$5,000
Stand.earth	\$1,500
Transitional Youth	\$1,000
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

### Peter Sills

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
A Little Piece of Light	\$5,000
Beyond the Box Initiative, Inc.	\$10,000
Children's Aid	\$2,500
Children's Defense Fund	\$2,500
Corporate Accountability	\$5,000
The Doula Project to Accompany and Comfort	\$10,000
New York Youth Justice Initiative (Fiscally sponsor: FJC)	\$2,500
Public Defender Association	\$5,000

Save the Children	\$2,500
Twinfield Together Program	\$5,000
Vermont Foodbank	\$5,000
Ward Brook Center	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

## Deborah Iarussi

Name of Organization	Grant Amount
<b>Deborah Iarussi</b>	
Center for Disaster Philanthropy	\$2,000
Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence	\$2,000
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society	\$2,000
Hudson Link	\$2,000
The Innocence Project	\$2,000
Kids in Need of Defense	\$2,000
No More Deaths	\$2,000
Planned Parenthood (National Office)	\$2,000
Rett Syndrome Research Trust	\$1,000
Vanguard Theater Company	\$1,000
Vera (SAFE project)	\$2,000
<b>Eric and Leah Sills</b>	
Arts Westchester	\$500
Automotive Aftermarket AACF	\$1,500
Family Services of Westchester	\$2,500
Family Services of Westchester: The Sharing Shelf"	\$2,500
Giving Circle of Westchester	\$500
Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center	\$1,250
Juntos	\$1,000
Mocho Village	\$500
New Rochelle Council on the Arts	\$5,000
NRDC	\$750
Songcatchers	\$1,000
Sousa Mendes Foundation	\$2,500
Team Trees	\$250
Yahad in Unum	\$250
<b>Susan and Larry Sills</b>	
Disalced Inc.	\$10,000
Weill Cornell Medical College (Parkinson's Research)	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>