



ANNUAL REPORT 2013



The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective U.S. justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.

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Dear Friends,

At The Sentencing Project we view our work on justice reform as having three components – research, public education, and advocacy. During 2013 I believe we made substantial progress in all these areas, and contributed to the changing national climate for reform.

Our *research* documented both disturbing trends and signs of hope. Our analysis of life imprisonment uncovered the striking fact that one of every nine people in prison is serving such a sentence. We also identified an intriguing shift in the racial dynamics of incarceration, particularly among women, noting that the black/white disparity ratio had been cut in half in the first decade of this century. And we found that there is a continuing trend of states closing prisons, with 17 doing so over the past three years. Each of these policy reports received national press coverage and helped to launch a dialogue around the factors contributing to these developments.

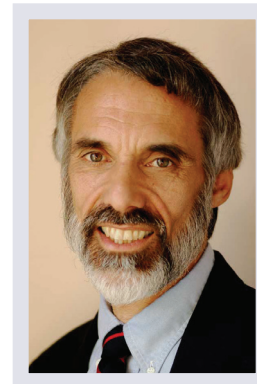
Our *public education* work is ongoing, and takes place both at a national and a local level. We're quite proud that our policy analyses and commentary are regularly featured in national media and editorial commentary. But we also place great value in working with policymakers and advocates around the country, as well as delivering conference and workshop presentations to a wide variety of audiences each year.

Our *policy advocacy* this year was rewarding, and demonstrated once again the need to “stay the course.” Policy change in criminal justice and juvenile justice does not happen overnight, and needs to be built on a foundation of long-term education. At the federal level, we and our many allies were able to pave the way for introduction of the Smarter Sentencing Act, legislation that would make substantial reductions in the excessive length of mandatory drug penalties. In Oregon, our collaboration with a state senator over five years led to that state becoming the third in the nation to adopt racial impact statement legislation designed to project any disparate effects of proposed sentencing policy. And in Delaware and Virginia, we saw longstanding campaigns successfully increase access to the ballot for people with previous felony convictions.

These successes are encouraging, but of course we still have a long way to go in shifting public policy to a more balanced and constructive approach to dealing with crime and justice. We appreciate the support of our many colleagues and friends in these endeavors, and are confident that we will see more progress in the year ahead.



Marc Mauer
Executive Director



RESEARCH

that promotes change

the is... sentenced to three life terms in prison. He has been incarcerated for more than 20 years and is now in his mid-40s. Despite a recommendation for commutation and immediate release by the prosecutor and sentencing judge in this case, Mr. Aaron's petition for clemency has failed to receive support from the Office of the Pardon Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, but growing media attention around the case has led the White House to note that there is an ongoing review of his application.

In 2013, reports by The Sentencing Project investigated the dynamics, major trends and social impacts of the U.S. criminal justice system and identified pathways for reform.

Polices that disproportionately affect women

A Lifetime of Punishment: The Impact of the Felony Drug Ban on Welfare Benefits found that the 1996 welfare reform legislation passed by Congress subjects an estimated 180,000 women in the 12 most impacted states to a lifetime ban on welfare benefits for all drug offenders; 25 others impose a partial ban. The racial disparities that have characterized the war on drugs have led to the ban having its greatest effects on communities of color. The report concludes the ban is harmful to reentry goals, and that there is no evidence that it prevents drug abuse or welfare fraud.

A LIFETIME OF PUNISHMENT: THE IMPACT OF THE FELONY DRUG BAN ON WELFARE BENEFITS



THE SENTENCING PROJECT
RESEARCH AND
ADVOCACY FOR REFORM

Life sentencing

Despite a substantial, long-term drop in serious crime and modest declines in prison populations in the U.S., The Sentencing Project's research determined that the number of prisoners with life sentences has continued to rise, reaching nearly 160,000 nationally.

1 in 9

people in prison is serving a
life sentence

Of these, 49,000 people are serving life without parole, a 22% rise since 2008 and a nearly 300% rise since 1984. *Life Goes On: The Historic Rise of Life Sentencing in America* also found that nearly half of all lifers are African American and one-sixth Latino, and about 10,000 lifers have been convicted of nonviolent offenses.

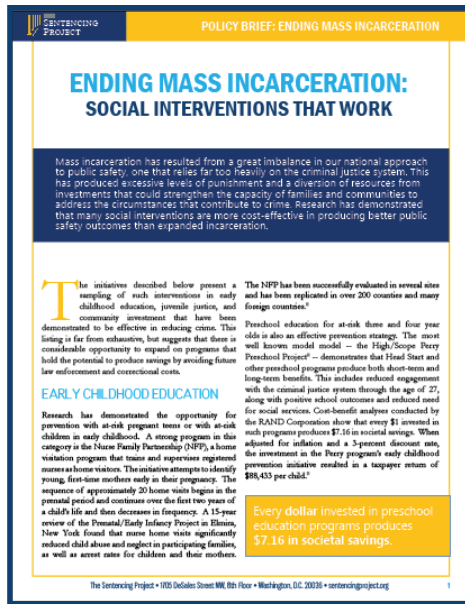
LIFE GOES ON: THE HISTORIC RISE IN LIFE SENTENCES IN AMERICA



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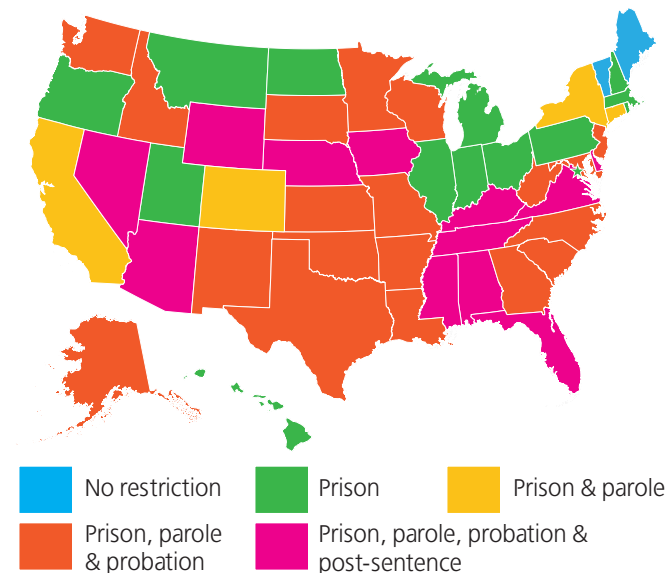
Shifts in racial composition

The Changing Racial Dynamics of Women's Incarceration analyzed a dramatic shift in the racial composition of the women's prison population. In 2000, African American women were incarcerated at six times the rate of white women. By 2009, that disparity had dropped by half, to less than three times the white rate. The report also found that between 2000 and 2009 incarceration rates nationally dropped 9.8 percent for black men and by an even larger 30.7 percent for black women. The report analyzed changes in drug offending, socioeconomics and other factors that may explain these shifting trends.



Felony disenfranchisement and civic participation

In *A Primer on Felony Disenfranchisement*, The Sentencing Project provided an overview of state felony disenfranchisement policies, including their history, impact and state-level reform efforts, and placed those policies in an international context. In a related commentary published by *The Huffington Post*, The Sentencing Project's executive director, Marc Mauer, and Christopher Uggen, Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, noted that a new Census Bureau report highlighting higher African American voting rates than whites in the 2012 election actually understated the magnitude and impact once disenfranchised voters are factored in.



Felony disenfranchisement policies by state

Approaches to reducing crime

Research has demonstrated that many social interventions are more cost-effective in producing public safety outcomes than expanded incarceration. *Ending Mass Incarceration: Social Interventions That Work*, a policy brief, discussed various interventions in early childhood education, juvenile justice, and community investment that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing crime.

Private prisons

In our 2012 publication, *Too Good to be True: Private Prisons in America*, The Sentencing Project documented the ineffectiveness of these institutions. A follow-up report this year, *International Growth Trends in Prison Privatization*, documented the expansion of the use of private prisons and immigration detention facilities in at least 11 nations on

14%
of the revenue for America's second largest private prison company, The GEO Group, came from international services in fiscal year 2012

five continents. Reports from a number of countries indicate that private prisons have experienced problems relating to violence, drug use, and inefficiency in operations.

ADVOCACY

for state & federal
policy change

The Sentencing Project worked closely with policymakers and activists on reform strategies, coalition formation and planning, media outreach, communication strategies and advocacy campaigns designed to increase prospects for change.

FEDERAL REFORM

Reducing prison expenditures

Throughout FY 2013 and FY 2014 federal budget deliberations The Sentencing Project worked with more than 25 criminal justice, civil rights, and faith organizations in opposing new federal spending to expand the already oversized federal prison system. We urged appropriators to reject any new spending that would increase federal prison capacity or expand contracting for private prison beds without providing funding for drug treatment programs that could reduce overcrowding.

Human rights and criminal justice

The Sentencing Project prepared and submitted two reports for the review of U.S. compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: one on felony disenfranchisement in conjunction with the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights and other civil rights groups, and one on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The reports documented that the U.S. is not in compliance with this multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966.

Mandatory minimum sentences

The Sentencing Project and the ACLU jointly filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the plaintiff in *Alleyne v United States*. We raised the argument that sentencing factors such as drug quantity that may lead to the imposition of a mandatory sentence need to be proven in court; otherwise current practice is inconsistent with sound sentencing policy and contributes to racial disparity. In a 5-4 decision, the Court agreed, holding that the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires that any such factors be subject to a rigorous burden of proof.

The Smarter Sentencing Act

The Sentencing Project's leadership in working with Senate members and criminal justice advocates—as well as our media outreach—fostered bipartisan support for the *Smarter Sentencing Act*, legislation that would reduce overly harsh penalties for drug offenses and allow judges greater flexibility in sentencing.

Preserving access to federal benefits

The Sentencing Project helped to build a successful campaign to raise concerns about

an amendment to the bipartisan farm bill that would have banned food stamps for life for people with certain felony convictions.

STATE REFORM

Promoting racial impact statements

The Sentencing Project's work with a key state senator in Oregon over a period of five years contributed to bipartisan passage of a law that gives state legislators the ability to obtain data on how proposed sentencing policies would impact racial minorities, making Oregon the third state to adopt racial impact statements. We also spoke at public and legislative events in Arkansas to support advocates in their efforts to have racial impact legislation enacted in that state.

Convening state advocates

The Sentencing Project brought together a group of state-based advocates, formerly incarcerated activists and faith leaders from across the country to focus on issues of sentencing reform, racial justice, and reentry, and to share successful strategies for reform.

Resources for educating state policymakers and building public support

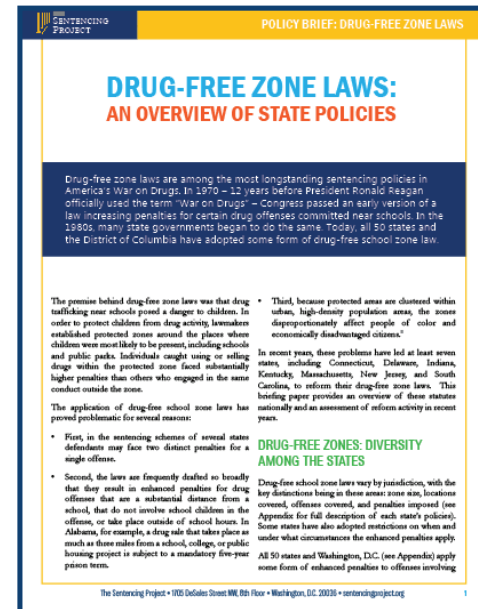
In addition to participating in webinars and conference calls and responding to requests for technical assistance, The Sentencing Project published the following reports, briefing papers and fact sheets for use by advocates:

The State of Sentencing: Developments in Policy and Practice, a report that highlights reforms in 24 states in the areas of sentencing, probation and parole, collateral consequences, and juvenile justice.

On the Chopping Block: State Prison Closings, a report that illustrates the growing trend of states to downsize or close their prisons. It also highlighted the impact of reforms in sentencing and parole policies that have resulted in less demand for prison as well as states' need to reduce budget expenditures

The Science of Downsizing Prisons—What Works. This policy brief analyzes policy initiatives that have been implemented successfully at the state level, especially those that have addressed incarceration rates and lengths of stay.

State Collateral Consequences: Legislative Roundup, published in collaboration with the ACLU, Crossroad Bible Institute, National Employment Law Project and the National H.I.R.E. Network. The report documents policy changes at the state level with respect to (1) “ban the box”; (2) employer negligent hiring protections; (3) expungement and sealing of arrests and convictions; (4) federal public benefits opt-out legislation; and, (5) felony enfranchisement.



Drug-Free Zone Laws: An Overview of State Policies. This briefing paper provides an overview of state sentencing policy in the application of drug free zones. All 50 states and the District of Columbia enhance drug penalties in drug free zones, but in many

cases these penalties apply to offenses that take place far from a school zone or other protected area.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

School safety

In early 2013, in the wake of the Sandy Hook, Connecticut tragedy, The Sentencing Project submitted written testimony to a U.S. Senate panel considering proposals for reducing gun violence in communities and schools. We argued that sustainable public safety is most effectively achieved not by placing more police in schools, but by involving an array of stakeholders to work collaboratively on evidence-based youth safety interventions.

Immigration and child welfare

Children of immigrants are a fast growing population, and the criminal justice system has become a key player in the deportation of their parents. The Sentencing Project and First Focus joined forces to publish *Children in Harm's Way*, a collection of essays explaining how children are harmed when the criminal justice, immigration enforcement, and child welfare systems converge to incarcerate and deport a parent.

Federal advocacy

The Sentencing Project meets regularly to educate Capitol Hill policymakers on a variety of issues, including school safety, dismantling the “school to prison pipeline,” disproportionate minority contact and best practices in delinquency prevention, treatment and alternatives to incarceration.

Leadership within the juvenile justice community

The Sentencing Project's advocacy efforts over the past year were designed to build support for a more comprehensive approach to juvenile justice. Our staff co-chairs the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition as well as the Youth Reentry Task Force, and we collaborate with the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth on the issue of juvenile life without parole.

BUILDING

public support for reform

Over the past year, nearly 200 newspapers, radio stations and prominent websites cited The Sentencing Project's publications or interviewed our staff, including the following:

ABA Journal
ABC Good Morning America
ABC News
Aiken Standard
Al Jazeera America
Alabama Live
Albert Cobarrubias Justice Project
AllAfrica.com
American Prospect
American Thinker
Amsterdam News
Anniston Star
Arise TV
Athens Banner-Herald
Atlanta Daily World
Atlantic Cities
Atlantic Journal Constitution
Baltimore Sun
Bangor Daily News
Battle Creek Enquirer

Bay State Banner
BBC News
BBC-TV
Bend Bulletin
Between the Lines
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BillMoyers.com
Black Voices News
Boston Globe
Brown Univ. Daily Herald
Business Insider
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Canberra Times
cecildaily.com
Center for American Progress
Centerforce
Chatanooga Times
Chronicle of Social Change
Cincinnati.com
Citizens Voice
City Limits

CNBC.com
CNN.com
ColorLines
Columbus Dispatch
Concord Monitor
Connecticut Mirror
Cornell Daily Sun
Correctional News
Daily Progres
Dallas Morning News
Democracy in Action
Des Moines Register
Detention Watch
EBONY.com
Economic and Political Weekly
EIN News
eNews Park Forest
Enid News & Eagle
Eurweb.com
Final Call

Florida Courier
Forbes.com
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
Forward Times
Fox 45 Baltimore
Fox News
Fox News Latino
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Gothamist
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Harvard Law Record
Hernando Today
HoumaToday.com
Howard U. District Chronicles
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Iowa Gazette
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New Republic
New York Daily News
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Officer.com
Omaha World Herald
Opposingviews.com
Oregon Statesman Journal
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PBS Religion and Ethics Newsweekly
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Writing Off Lives

“At the same time, however, the number of people in prison for life has more than quadrupled since 1984 and continues to grow at a startling pace. The zealous pursuit of these sentences began in the 1970s, becoming something of a fad; it is past time to revisit the practice. **A new study from the Sentencing Project, a research group, found that one in nine inmates, about 160,000 people, is serving a life sentence.** Nearly one-third of these prisoners are serving life without parole. Many of these lifers were convicted of nonviolent crimes or of crimes that occurred before they turned 18.”

—The New York Times, September 29, 2013

Connecticut Begins to Close Wide Racial and Ethnic Gaps in Prison Population

“Connecticut had the dubious distinction of having the nation’s highest disparity between Hispanics and whites in the prison population in a 2007 study by The Sentencing Project. The main reason for the shift is policy change and reform aimed at reducing the spiraling prison population, which peaked at 20,000 in Connecticut in 2008. Many of these reforms

aim to keep dangerous, predatory criminals behind bars and offer diversionary programs and other options for low-level, nonviolent offenders.”

—The CT Mirror, October 1, 2013

How the American Privatized Prison Is Spreading Overseas

“For the companies that manage for-profit correctional facilities, less crime means fewer contracts and a shrinking market, according to Cody Mason, author of a new report by the Sentencing Project, a U.S.-based sentencing law reform non-profit group. Now, those companies are doing what any other company in their position would do—they’re “looking past the U.S.” and successfully hunting down markets (read prisons and detention systems) around the globe, where prison populations are growing.”

—TIME Magazine, August 23, 2013

Eric Holder Unveils New Reforms Aimed at Curbing US Prison Population

“Reversing years of toughening political rhetoric in Washington, attorney general Eric

Holder declared that levels of incarceration at federal, state and local levels had become both “ineffective and unsustainable.” [...] **Marc Mauer, executive director of The Sentencing Project, an advocacy group for reform, described Holder’s proposals as a “significant development” which he hoped would stimulate debate and effect real change.**”

—The Guardian, August 12, 2013

RAND PAUL: The Devastating Collateral Damage of an Insidious Drug-War Weapon

“If I told you that in America almost 1 million black Americans were forever forbidden from voting, you might think I was talking about Jim Crow 50 years ago, but you would be wrong. **According to the Sentencing Project, a staggering number of nonviolent individuals who have been released from prison, are not on probation or parole and who have committed no further crimes, are forever prohibited from voting.**”

—The Washington Times, September 20, 2013

Easing the Drug Laws: Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Has Been a Form of American Apartheid

“In Massachusetts, a state with a black governor, **African-Americans and Hispanics are imprisoned respectively at 8-to-1 and 6-to-1 ratios compared to whites, according to the Sentencing Project,** a national think tank that has long advocated for alternatives to incarceration. That is a higher ratio than any state in the Deep South.”

—Boston Globe, August 14, 2013

Time for Legislature to Do Right by Young Offenders

“If you think... we need to clear the legal attic of these relics of the tough-on-crime 1990s, you have plenty of company. **Last year, in a report called The Lives of Juvenile Lifers, [The Sentencing Project] found that overwhelming numbers of these young offenders came from broken and violent homes, and struggled in school, and were exposed to criminal activity at a very young age.**”

—Tampa Bay Times, June 14, 2013

INFORMING & EXPANDING PUBLIC DEBATE

Graphic novel

Race to Incarcerate, first published in 1999 by The Sentencing Project's Executive Director, Marc Mauer, has become an essential text for those active in the U.S. criminal justice reform movement. Working with Sabrina Jones, an acclaimed author of politically engaged comics, in 2013 the book was adapted into an engaging



comics narrative designed to reach new audiences. *Race to Incarcerate: A Graphic Retelling* portrays the tragic consequences of mass incarceration, particularly as they disproportionately affect people of color.

The book was selected as one of the “Great Graphic Novels” of the year by the American Library Association.

Newsletters and web-based tools

The Sentencing Project continued to produce monthly *Disenfranchisement* and *Race and Justice* newsletters that report nationally on policy developments, research, organizing activities and news/editorial coverage. We also regularly update the [interactive map](#) on our website that allows users to search by state for incarceration rates and state corrections expenditures, life imprisonment, voter disenfranchisement and other key facts.

Webinar series

The Sentencing Project instituted a Webinar Series in 2013 entitled *Unlocking Justice*. The first four live, online, interactive events have covered *The Historic Rise in Life Sentences in America*; *The Changing Racial Dynamics of Women's Incarceration*, *The Impact of the Felony Drug Ban on Welfare Benefits* and *The Impact of Drug-Free School Zones*.

Public Presentations

Criminal Justice and Allied Practitioners
American Bar Association, Racial Justice Improvement Project
Federal Bar Association of Utah
Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative
Missouri Association of Social Welfare
National Association of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists

Academic and Research Institutions
American Society of Criminology
American University
Columbia University School of Public Health
DePaul University Law School
Faulkner University, Jones Law School (AL)
Ford Foundation Public Interest Fellows Program
Gallaudet University
George Washington University
Georgetown University Law School
Loyola Marymount University
Morgan State University
National Academy of Sciences, Panel on Incarceration and Health
National Communications Association
Norwalk (CT) Community College
Rutgers University
Urban Institute
University of California-Santa Barbara, Multicultural Center
University of Illinois-Chicago, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
University of Michigan School of Public Health

Justice Reform Advocates
AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Observance
AFSCME Women's Conference
Center for American Progress
Feminist Majority Foundation
Memphis Peace and Justice Center Conference
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
New Southern Strategy Coalition Campaign Meeting
Ohio Justice Policy Center
PEN World Voices Festival
Public Safety & Justice Campaign
Philadelphia FIGHT, Prison Health Care and Re-entry Summit
Virginia CURE
WISDOM (WI) Annual Meeting

Civil Rights Organizations
Iowa Summit on Justice and Racial Disparities
Kenosha (WI) NAACP
Trotter Group

Religious Organizations
American Ethical Union
Gamaliel Leadership Conference
National Alliance of Faith and Justice, 2013 March on Washington
Northern Virginia Ethical Society
The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

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Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lopez
Lorraine Lyman
M. Lyon
Olivia B. MacDonald
Paul A. Marin
Emerson and Julia Markham
Charles Marlow
Hubert and Rachelle Marshall
Terry M. Marshall and Lesley

Johnson
Wesley B. Mason
Joyce Mast
Edward and Alice Mattison
Margaret S. Maurin
Robert D. McCrie
Stacy W. McDonald
Robert and Ellen Meeropol
Diane Jones Meier
Ruth H. Melville
Hanns M. Merzbach
Jane Meyerding
John and Barbara Miller
Michael D. Morganstern
Thomas G. Mortenson
George and Beverly
Musselman
Ross and Susan Neisuler
Joan M. Nelson
Allan and Martha Noonan
Patricia E. O'Connor
Eric Padol
John Pandiani
Patricia G. Parthe
Lynn Gubisch Patton
Edgar C. Peara
Barry Phillips
Margaret B. Phillips
Michael L. Piccarreta
Anne Powell
Paul A. Redstone
James E. Reilly
David and Victoria Rintels
Teresa Eliot Roberts
Rod Rogers

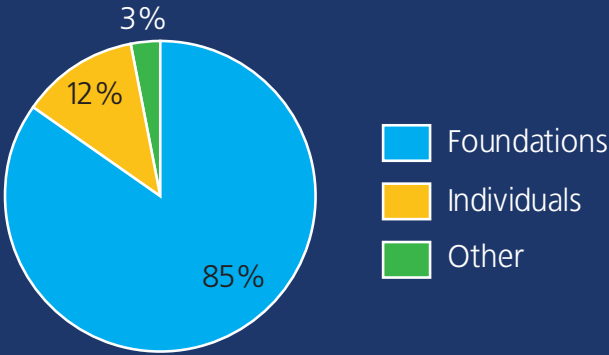
Constancia Romilly
Barbara and Oren Root
David and Deborah
Rothschild
Mark Rowland
Michael G. Ruby
Steven Sanchez
Anita Savio
Dorothy M. Schmidt
Robert F. Schmidt
Connie Schultz
Alan M. Schuman
Elizabeth A. Seagull
Ellen L. Shapiro
Kitty P. Sherwin
Mary Shoiket
Melinda Shopsin
William L. Shuman
Rosanne Siegler
Bernice Silverman
Philip R. Simmons
Lucinda Sisson
Sisters of Charity B.V.M
Arthur J. Slater
The Honorable Terry Smerling
Marcus and Celena Smith
Abbe L. Smith
Geneva Smitherman
The Honorable Andrew L.
Sonner
Sue Sorice
Michael F. Spielman
Helen and William
Stackhouse
Ben R. Stavis

Barbara Anne Steck
Katy Jo Steward
Susan Strasser
Bob A. Summers and Orly
Yadin
Nina Teicholz and Gregory
Maniatis
The Meisberger Family
C. Gomer Thomas and E.
Jane Cameron
Emily Thomas
F. Martin Tieber
Janis M. Torrey
Donald S. Trevarthen
Teresa Van Duyn
John A. Vencill
Kenneth F. Waitzmann
Stephen Warren
Robert Warren
Martin and Sally Weinraub
Marsha R. Weissman
Dana and Richard Wekerle
Harry K. Wexler
Janet Wiig
Alan L. Wilcox
Joseph L. Williams
Elizabeth Wilson
Janet Wolf
Allen Wolk
Nancy Yard
Kurt and Elizabeth Young
Paul Zimmerman
Joseph R. Zwack

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

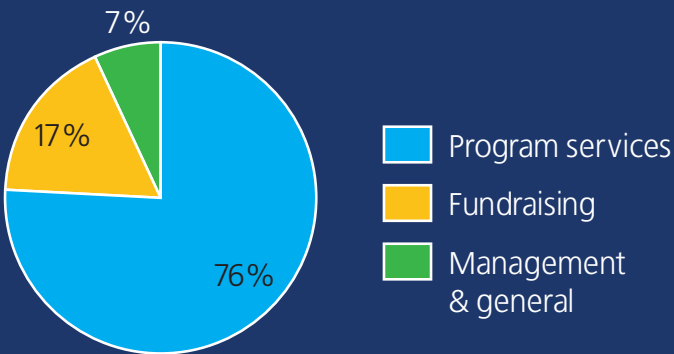
REVENUE

Foundations	1,131,000
Individuals	161,358
Other	39,125
TOTAL	\$1,331,483



EXPENSES

Program services	922,806
Fundraising	211,922
Management and general	81,635
TOTAL	\$1,216,363





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