

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways in which you can help change the lives of homeless Veterans and families struggling on Long Island. Please consider the following options if you would like to make a lasting impact:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a Donation today | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of Appreciated Securities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase my gift through my company's matching gift program | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a restricted gift to a specific project or program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Donate a vehicle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a Stock/ Investment transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Donate a property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host a food, clothing, or supply drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Naming rights opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of Life Insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Include New Ground in my estate planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate sponsorships for New Ground special events |

Call for more information and help change lives now and for generations to come!
(516) 564-4764

or visit our website at www.newground.org

PLANNED GIVING

Create a meaningful way to honor your relationship with New Ground that will yield significant tax advantages and financial rewards. By making a bequest through your will or trust, or naming New Ground as a beneficiary of other assets, you will have a lasting impact on Veterans and families in need and create your own legacy of support. A consultation with an attorney and/ or tax advisor is typically required.

If you would like to learn more about ways to include New Ground in a will or other estate planning, please contact us at 516-564-4764.

DONATIONS

Special thanks to the following corporations, organizations and foundations for their support:

Jericho Brookville Lions Club	Education
KIHOMAC, Inc.	General Support
Long Island Real Estate Group (LIREG)	Renovations Support
Natalie Bailey & Herbert J. Kirshner Foundation	General Support
New York Community Trust - Horace & Amy Hagedorn Fund	General Support
Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, Inc.	Education
Veterans Support Foundation	Veterans Program

4TH ANNUAL DESIGNER HANDBAG BINGO

New Ground's 4th Annual Designer Handbag BINGO takes place on Friday, September 15, 2017 at St. Agnes Parish Center in Rockville Centre. The evening begins at 6:30 PM and includes dinner, wine, 50/50 raffle, balloon pop prizes, and of course 10 rounds of BINGO for the chance to win a designer handbag!

Special thanks to our Co-Chairs Sheila McDougal and Jenny Tzakas and their dedicated committee for all of the hard work year after year. All proceeds from this event support the many social work services and educational programs designed to help New Ground's homeless Veterans and families become self-supporting and independent. For more information please visit: www.newground.org.

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Evol Sweeney, M.A.	Associate Program Director	Mohanne Charles, LMSW	Social Worker
Stephanie Tapoler	Events & Office Coordinator	Ashley Samonte, LMSW	Social Worker

SAVE THE DATE

Designer Handbag Bingo	September 15, 2017	17th Annual Groundbreakers' Gala	October 18, 2017
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NEWs from the GROUND

Fall 2017 Newsletter



New Ground Inc.
70 Acorn Lane
Levittown, NY 11756
www.NewGround.org

"Compañeros take heart - though your roots be torn, they will grow again in NEW GROUND..."
Sanctuary: The Spirit of Harriet Tubman



NEW GROUND'S NEW HOME!



This September, New Ground is relocating to our new office building located at 70 Acorn Lane in Levittown. The new site provides a larger space for our afterschool Reading All-Stars Program. Special thanks to the Long Island Real Estate Group (LIREG) for grant funding that will assist us in renovating the new reading program and food pantry spaces to best accommodate our students, Veterans and families. Moving a few miles east will also allow easier access to New Ground services by the Veteran Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) families we now serve in Suffolk County.



OVER 26 YEARS OF BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS



MISSION STATEMENT

We maintain that the key to breaking the cycle of homelessness is not only to provide short-term assistance to homeless families and veterans, but to work at eliminating its root causes so these individuals can become, and remain, self-supporting. We identify, and then respond to, those at risk with programs that provide educational, technical, and emotional support. This empowers these families and veterans to function independently. Working in collaboration with institutions in the public and private sector, NEW GROUND is able to involve existing agencies to better respond to the growing needs and challenges of Long Island's homeless population.

THE 17TH ANNUAL GROUNDBREAKERS' GALA CELEBRATION



New Ground will host the 17th Annual Groundbreakers' Celebration on Wednesday, October 18th at the Garden City Hotel. The evening begins with cocktail hour at 6:30 PM followed by dinner with silent auction, grand raffle and raffle baskets throughout the evening. A Color Guard presentation will be made by the Marine Corp. Co-Chairs are Joanne Meyer-Jendras and Lois Kuster, and Honorary Co-Chairs Senator Kemp Hannon and the Honorable Steve Israel.

This year's honoree and recipient of the Groundbreakers' Award is Charles C. Russo, Esq. Charlie is the senior partner at the firm Russo, Karl, Widmaier & Cordano, PLLC. A graduate of the University of Vermont and Hofstra Law School, he spent several years as an assistant district attorney prosecuting major felonies in Suffolk County and remains active in the practice of criminal law. He has embraced a lifelong dedication to young people. For 37 years he has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and legal counsel to Hope House Ministries which provides family services, counseling and residential facilities for young men, the homeless, and families in need. His roots in this area of service stem from his days at Melville House, a residential home for young men where he lived for six years. He credits that experience and his employment at the Nassau County Children's Shelter with significantly shaping his sensitivity and commitment to the homeless and youth in crisis.

For the past 34 years Charlie has been the founder, fundraiser, and "man in the red suit" for a project known as Christmas Magic, which enhances the holiday spirit for families in crisis and for the children who seek only to experience the magic of Christmas. He is also a Founder and Board Member of Empire National Bank in Islandia, New York. As a result of his efforts, Charlie was recently presented with the prestigious New York State Bar Association Root/Stimson Award.

New Ground is also proud to recognize longtime supporter and member of New Ground's Advisory Board Robert Fusaro, this year's recipient of the Máiréad M. Barrett Founder's Award. This annual award is presented to individuals who have given their time, talent and/or expertise to benefit New Ground Veterans and families. The Máiréad M. Barrett Founder's Award bears her name as she set the example for all the rest who follow. Sr. Máiréad founded New Ground to address the recidivism seen in the homeless population circulating through Nassau and Suffolk County shelters. While working in a Long Island homeless shelter, she had first-hand experience with families who were stuck in a cycle of poverty and homelessness. Following crises that made rent impossible to afford, families in the shelter worked hard to get back on track, save money, obtain employment and secure new housing. However, a few months later the same family would be right back in the shelter. Sr. Máiréad recognized this was due to a lack of support and necessary education and life skills vital to breaking the cycle. Bob Fusaro has demonstrated great dedication to the mission of New Ground, assisting with our organizational growth in new areas as well as increasing services to a larger number of households.

Please join us in recognizing the tremendous efforts of Charlie and Bob benefitting the Long Island community, and support New Ground to continue to help our Veterans and families achieve their dreams. For information on tickets, grand raffle (5 night stay in a 1-bedroom villa at Disney's Old Key West Resort with round trip airfare for two), journal ads, and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at 516-546-4764 x125 or gala@newground.org.

NEW GROUND RECEIVES DICTIONARIES FROM THE MINEOLA-GARDEN CITY ROTARY CLUB

For the second year in a row, the Mineola - Garden City Rotary Club made a large donation of new dictionaries to all New Ground students. At the beginning of each year, New Ground outfits students of all ages with required school supplies. The Mineola - Garden City Rotary Club recognized a good dictionary is a key item for academic success and began supplying these to many students in need in the community. New Ground students from elementary school through college will put these to good use in the coming months as they tackle their various courses and subjects.



From left to right: Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground; Mineola - Garden City Rotary Club members Adam Karol, Agent, State Farm; Jennifer Ferrara-Poupis, Manager, Coty Inc.; Althea Robinson, Publicity Consultant & Project Manager; Joanne Meyer-Jendras, Retired Educator, New Ground Board of Directors; and New Ground Associate Program Director Evol Sweeney.

NEW GROUND EXPANDS SERVICES

Message from Executive Director Shannon Boyle

This year we have continued our work to *break new ground*, to grow and serve many others like Sharon* who seek to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty on Long Island. Expanding our services in 2016 to assist homeless Veteran households in the Northport VA HUD-VASH (Veteran Administration Supportive Housing) Program was our first step.

Since our inception in 1991, New Ground has been the service provider for homeless families and Veterans living in temporary, reduced cost housing. Our focus has been on delivering essential resources and guidance in areas directly impacting a family's ability to live independently as contributing members of society. Along the way we have created new programs and services as the needs and challenges of Long Island's homeless have changed, allowing us to adjust when necessary to continue to achieve success.

Over the past few years New Ground has seen the number of housing units for the Long Term Housing Program diminish. Without this critical housing resource, families and Veterans lose the stability they require to focus on long-term goals to get their lives back on track. Thus New Ground has taken steps to add the housing component to what we do.

This fall we will purchase our first Long Term Housing Program units where we will provide a stable temporary home for Veteran families while they take advantage of all the programs and services we offer, and achieve their self-defined goals to break their cycle of homelessness.

We need your help! Please consider making a donation to specifically assist us with securing and preparing the housing for incoming homeless Veteran families. Contact us at 516-564-4764 to learn how you can have a direct impact on those fighting to create a brighter future for their families.



EMPLOYEES OF MAPFRE IN GARDEN CITY

SPONSOR NEW GROUND VETERANS PROGRAM BARBEQUE

MANY THANKS to the employees of the MAPFRE Insurance Office in Garden City for sponsoring a New Ground BBQ this summer for the Veteran and active Military families at Mitchel Field. Over 70 residents attended and were treated to a feast of barbecued specialties, salads, desserts, and more. Activities were also provided for the children, taking advantage of the beautiful day to appreciate the outdoors. Everyone relaxed and enjoyed the festivities, mingling with all the MAPFRE and New Ground volunteers and staff, catching up with neighbors, and making new friends. HUD-VASH families present took advantage of this opportunity to sign up for additional New Ground services and upcoming workshops covering topics on parenting and financial literacy.



Pictured left to right, the MAPFRE Garden City Employees whose generosity made this barbeque event for Veteran and Military families possible.

SHARON'S STORY

Just over two years ago, Sharon* and her young son came to New Ground from a homeless shelter. She was just twenty-one but had already experienced a lifetime of loss and trauma. Brought to this country as a young child and adopted, she was asked to leave when her adoptive family learned she was unexpectedly pregnant at age eighteen. Homeless and pregnant with nowhere to turn, she entered the public assistance system through the Department of Social Services.

Luckily Sharon was placed in a shelter for young mothers that provided numerous services with dedicated staff that assisted her in taking the initial steps back to the future she had always dreamed. But shelter stays are time specific, and when her months were up she had only done the preliminary work to be able to live independently and support her family. Then Sharon found New Ground, applied to the Long Term Housing Program and following our rigorous screening process, was accepted and moved into her housing unit.

Sharon immediately began weekly social work sessions and outlined the goals she knew would give her family a stable, successful future. Already enrolled in college, she utilized New Ground's Tutoring, Education Assistance and Education Advocacy Programs over the next two years to complete her degree, graduating this past May with her Bachelor Degree. While in school fulltime, Sharon consistently juggled two - three part time jobs to support her family's meager budget. She also worked weekly on her finances, budgeting, improving her credit and beginning to save so she would have housing opportunities when her income increased.

All of her hard work and sacrifices were worth it; with her new degree Sharon secured a fulltime position earning \$60,000 this summer. Over the past year she and her New Ground Social Worker also took steps to achieve her dream of homeownership. She successfully completed the process for the Nassau County Down Payment Assistance Program. Over the next few months Sharon will utilize her new income to continue to increase her savings and then begin the process of finding the house she will purchase for her family, and she will finally secure what she has been seeking since she was orphaned over twenty years ago - a home of her own.

Sharon's success and that of many others would not be possible without the support of all of you who continue to give to New Ground, helping to change lives now and for generations to come.

**Names have been changed to protect the confidentiality of the families in our program.*

NEW GROUND STUDENTS ARE BACK TO SCHOOL

In August, New Ground Social Workers and Associate Program Director Evol Sweeney collected school supply lists for children in our Veterans and Long Term Housing Programs to begin our yearly process of outfitting every student with all the necessary tools for a successful academic year. The last day of the month we held our annual Back To School Workshop for all parents to review steps they can take to help their children succeed. Presenters including teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators from various local districts offered tips on how to stay involved, navigate school resources, trouble-shoot issues, and best communicate with school personnel throughout the upcoming school year. While parents met with the professionals, educational daycare and dinner was provided to the children in attendance by our New Ground tutors and social workers.



During the workshop New Ground distributed individualized school bags outfitted with each student's required supplies so they have all they need on their first day back to school.

Special thanks to the many whose generous donations once again helped meet our students' needs this year:

Astoria Bank **Kids Tools For School** Program
Church of St. Aidan, Parish Social Ministry
Janet & Rudi DeWinter
Nassau BOCES
United Church of Rockville Centre