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Shannon Boyle, LCSW	Executive Director
Evol Sweeney, M.A.	Associate Program Director
Jemma R Binder, LMSW	Social Worker
Salina Barnao, LMSW	Social Worker
Mohanne Charles, LMSW	Social Worker
Cynthia Panzarella	Resource & Internal Operations Coordinator
Jo-Ann Hertzman B.A., B.F.A.	Senior Grant Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison
Brianna Schiotis	Office Assistant
Dalcha Lema	Social Work Intern

## Donations

We thank the following corporations, organizations and foundations for their support:

Investors Foundation	Education Assistance Program
Jericho Brookville Lions Club	Education Programs
Long Island Power Network	General Donation
Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor Inc.	Tuition Assistance Program
Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee	General Donation
Roslyn High School - Athletes Helping Athletes	General Donation
The Estée Lauder Companies	Reading All Stars Program
The Rona Jaffe Foundation	Reading All Stars Program
Women's Group UUCSR	Transportation Assistance
Wells Fargo Foundation	Long Term Housing Program & Jump Start Program

## UUCSR Donates Funds for Transportation Assistance



Jo-Ann Hertzman recently visited the Women's Group at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR). The Women's Group has generously donated funds towards the transportation needs of our families and veterans. Left to right seated at table: Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground and Maria Ceraulo, President, Women's Group UUCSR with other members of the Board of the Women's Group.

## Investors Foundation Awards Grant for Education Assistance



New Ground was awarded a generous \$5,000 grant from the Investors Foundation to support our Education Assistance Program. This funding provides: SAT study courses, graduation fees, musical instrument rentals, after-school activities such as debate club, sports and drama society, uniform costs, scientific calculators, fees for school trips, eye glasses, college application fees, and much more. These expenses are not covered by the school districts however they expand a child's education and contribute toward a well-rounded academic experience that best prepares them for the future. Left to right: Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground and Janet Dombal, Assistant Branch Manager at Investors Bank, Wantagh Branch.

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# THE Groundbreaker

NEWS FROM NEW GROUND FALL 2014

NEW GROUND INC. 211 FULTON AVENUE, HEMPSTEAD NY, 11550



## Message from Executive Director

Every New Ground resident first comes to us seeking a way out of their cycle of homelessness and poverty. After undergoing our intensive screening process and being accepted into the program, families and veterans outline their goals with their social worker and begin their journey. Although their path includes outstanding accomplishments, it is also full of setbacks. For almost ten years we have celebrated a 100% school promotion- graduation rate. This past June, two students could not reach this goal.

One, a seven year old boy with learning disabilities and mild behavioral issues, is repeating the second grade. After many meetings with his school, medical and developmental providers, it is clear that his repeating the grade will allow him more time to mature and master the skills necessary for the third grade. Although disappointed, his parent and all of us want what is best for him.

Our second student entered New Ground with just a few months left of high school. He was already failing every subject; his parents believing this was a direct result of their homelessness. Their most recent place to stay after two years of constant moves was a rundown trailer with mold, leaks and insufficient heating. This young man could not concentrate on schoolwork or see the importance of it while worried about where his family would be next. He received intensive tutoring upon entering New Ground, but it was just not enough to catch up in time. This school year he is attending the evening school program to complete the required courses to be awarded his diploma. And we are providing not just the necessary educational supports, but also the security of a place to call home and a stable future for his family. In September he saw his father begin a GED program and his mother start college, both demonstrating just how important education is to future independence.

These students as well as their families and all of us are committed to the hard work and diligence needed to overcome setbacks and continue on their paths to success.



## Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness for Over 20 Years



To assist our families and veterans achieve their goals, you can make a difference in the lives of those we serve:

- **Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving and/or December holidays** - Please help make this time of year special for those in our program who cannot afford these celebrations. New Ground will provide a specific wish list for the family you adopt. General donations, at this time include turkeys, roasts, hams, fresh produce and gift cards to local supermarkets.

- **Organize a food drive in your neighborhood** - Help keep our food pantry stocked with nutritional items to help supplement our families' very tight budgets.

Other options: host a hygiene or household item drive to help our families stretch their limited earnings.

- **Consider donating your time as a volunteer** - Various ways we can utilize your time and expertise to benefit those we serve include tutoring, homework help, or join one of our fundraising committees.

For further information on volunteering, supporting any of our programs or to receive this newsletter in electronic format please contact: CPanzarella@newground.org

## Celebrating our Successes

At New Ground, we have been very busy with the usual back to school tasks. Our students continue to make academic strides and we are happy to share some updates with all of you who make this possible. In June, a few New Ground staff members attended the high school graduation for Tom\* and Tina\*, a brother and sister who have been a part of our program for many years. Both graduated with honors, all set to pursue their different future careers through college placements this fall. Tom first came to us reading 3 grade levels below his peers. Through their participation in our **Reading All Stars Program** both students significantly improved their silent reading skills. Tom fully reached and then surpassed his appropriate grade level. Through our **Education Assistance Program**, Tom and Tina obtained assistance with SAT prep courses, college application costs, and graduation fees to ensure that they successfully finished high school and secured college placements. Both students also received services from our **Education Advocacy Program**, helping the family to navigate the very difficult process of college decisions, financial aid, and scholarship applications. Tina is now enrolled at a local college working toward a degree in Psychology while Tom is pursuing his degree in Engineering. Their mother is extremely proud of their accomplishments and grateful to New Ground for all of the opportunities and assistance we provided.

The past year has proven very successful for many families in the **Long Term Housing Program** as they have achieved their goals. We celebrated five families moving on to various independent housing situations, of which Tom and Tina's family was one. They moved into their own home when their mother became a **homeowner**. This past May, another family graduated from New Ground into a market rent apartment in Suffolk County. After five and a half years with us, this single mother improved her household income and credit score to be able to afford a place of her own. The entire family accomplished a great deal toward education goals as well. In the spring, mom graduated from college with her Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies. In June, her daughter graduated from high and her son from the eighth grade. They are thrilled with their new schools, new home, and for mom, a new career path which she worked so hard to achieve.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our parents, children and veterans. Thank you for helping Tom, Tina and so many others on Long Island who are caught in the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

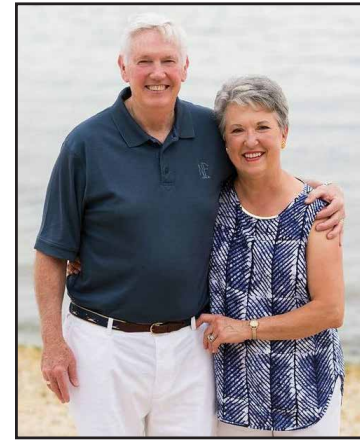
\*Names have been changed to protect confidentiality

### Save the Date

**New Ground Golf Outing  
Monday, May 18, 2015**

Cherry Valley Club  
Garden City, NY 11530

## New Ground's 14th Annual Groundbreakers' Celebration



Jim and Mary Jo Cowan

New Ground is hosting its 14th Annual Groundbreakers' Celebration on Thursday, November 20, at the Carlyle on the Green, Bethpage State Park and will honor Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Farrell Fritz, P.C. and Jim and Mary Jo Cowan. The evening begins at 6:30 PM and includes cocktails, dinner and dancing, silent and premiere auctions. Co-Chairs are Thomas and Carol Whalen. Proceeds from this event will support the many critical services and educational programs designed to help New Ground's homeless families and veterans become self-supporting and independent.

We will proudly recognize Bethpage Federal Credit Union and Farrell Fritz, P.C. for their ongoing dedication and commitment to support the work we do with those in need. We are also privileged to honor Jim and Mary Jo Cowan who have been married for 48 years. Jim served in the Vietnam War during 1970. Upon his return, Jim and Mary Jo moved into Rockville Centre where they raised their six children. The Cowan's are now the proud grandparents of 13 grandchildren. In the early 1970's, the Cowan's began a youth program at St. Agnes Cathedral Parish. Since 1985, the Cowan's have also been partners in business, appraising commercial real estate. The Cowan's were introduced to New Ground in 1998 and continue to be devoted to the families, children and veterans we serve. Jim has been a member of our Golf committee for over a decade and also is a member of our Advisory Board. Mary Jo serves as an ambassador of New Ground speaking about our mission to everyone she meets. Most recently, the Cowan's marched in the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's

Day Parade proudly holding our New Ground banner.

For information on tickets, raffle (trip to a Grand Mayan Resort - a week stay in a lavish 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom Grand Master Suite -includes round trip airfare for two), journal ads and sponsorship opportunities, please visit: [www.newground.org](http://www.newground.org).

## New Ground Receives Charitable Donation from Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee



Left to right: Edward McDougal, Jr., President, New Ground Board of Directors, Máiread Barrett, Founder, New Ground, Sean O'Rourke, Grand Marshall, RVC St. Patrick's Parade, Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground.

New Ground is honored to have been chosen by the 2014 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee as the local recipient charity. Through the generosity of parade supporters and various fundraisers held throughout Rockville Centre, the RVC Parade Committee donated \$30,000 to New Ground to support the programs and services we provide to our homeless families and veterans. This honor brings many great things to those we serve, including exposure to many people who have never heard of our work and mission. This experience has far exceeded our greatest hopes and dreams.

### 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.