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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:

Astoria Bank	Reading All-Stars Program
Congregational Church of Manhasset Women's Club	General Support
Elena Melius Foundation	General Support
Leslie Digital Imaging	General Support
Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation fund	Reading All-Stars Program
Natalie Bailey & Herbert J Kirshner Foundation	General Support
The Dorothy Krahm Charitable Foundation	General Support
The Estate of Olive Reedy	Education Assistance
The Fishlinger Foundation	Education Assistance
The NY Community Trust / Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund	General Support
The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc.	Reading All-Stars Program
Religious Education Committee UUCSR	Transportation Assistance

Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund, Awards Grant to New Ground



New Ground was awarded a \$25,000 grant through Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation fund. This grant is in support of our Reading All-Stars Program. Photo taken at Newsday Charities Grant Reception. From left to right: Gordon McLeod, Publisher, Newsday; Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground; Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground; Dale Cole, Community Affairs Project Manager, Newsday; and Paul Fleishman, VP of Public Affairs, Newsday.

New Ground Receives Grant from the Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc.

New Ground recently received a grant of \$8,300 from the Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. This is the third year in which the Silvian Foundation is supporting our Reading All-Stars Program.

New Ground Receives Grant from Nassau County Bar Association WE CARE Fund.

New Ground is grateful for the ongoing support it receives from the Nassau County Bar Association WE CARE Fund. This grant was awarded in support of New Ground's Tuition Assistance Program. Photo from left to right: Peter Levy, Co-chair, WE CARE Fund; Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground and Kathleen Wright, Co-chair, WE CARE Fund.



Astoria Bank 15th Annual Kids Tools For School Program



New Ground received hundreds of backpacks and much-needed school supplies thanks to Astoria Bank's 15th Annual Kids Tools for School program. The supplies helped children and adults in our program be better prepared for the academic year. Picking up school supplies at Astoria Bank's Distribution Day, left to right: Melissa Kaiser, Astoria Bank Levittown Branch Manager, Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground and Rebecca Martinez, Assistant Community Relations Manager, Astoria Bank.

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THE Groundbreaker

NEWS FROM NEW GROUND SPRING 2015

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



Message from Executive Director Shannon Boyle

When working to affect change in the lives of the disadvantaged, New Ground has learned that the more hands involved the better the outcome. We work alongside many organizations to best assist our residents in reaching their goals; ultimately securing permanent housing and future independence. Our challenging times make finding affordable housing on Long Island like locating a needle in a haystack. Despite hard work while with New Ground those we serve struggle to find an affordable home upon completion of our program. It is no longer just enough to increase their education, secure stable and good paying employment, clear up their credit and improve their credit score and save the funds necessary to move. Our coordination with other nonprofit agencies in the community including Habitat for Humanity Nassau County, Community Development Corporation (CDC), and Long Island Housing Partnership (LIHP) is essential to our families' successes.

In addition to aiding our graduates secure permanent rental housing New Ground has helped some families and veterans with achieving homeownership. Working closely with other human service providers enables us to connect our participants with programs including Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program, the LIHP's First Time Homebuyer and Down Payment Assistance Programs, and CDC Financial Fitness Health and Wealth Program to see their dreams come true. In May 2015, we honor the Long Island Housing Partnership for their decades of making affordable housing a reality on Long Island. A recent New Ground graduate utilized all of these programs to successfully secure home ownership. This mother and her two sons now have a very permanent place to always call home.

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:

- **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 joining one our many committees.

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

Special Memories Summer Camp Program

As the temperatures rise and the spring weather is finally here, many of us begin to look forward to the coming of summer and all the joy it brings. During springtime children begin to anticipate the end of school. However, for New Ground parents the summer often comes as a burden. Our families live on very tight budgets. Free breakfast and lunch for their children at school means having just enough money to pay for rent, transportation costs to get to work, and for daycare. During summer months without the benefit of free breakfast and lunch programs, food costs can sometimes double for New Ground families. They must rely heavily on our food pantry to supplement their increased household needs.

Another challenge for our working parents is finding a safe place for their children when they are not in school. For families that qualify for daycare assistance through the Department of Social Services, their children will go to the same providers for full days instead of just before and after school. These parents will not see an increase in their daycare costs. However, as many working homeless families strive to improve their circumstances and increase their incomes they become ineligible for this assistance. Suddenly they must choose between continuing to work and leaving their children home alone. Affording daycare for a few hours after school and fulltime coverage during the summer is a tremendous difference. We anticipate this struggle and assist parents caught in this position through our Special Memories Summer Camp Program.

New Ground provides financial assistance for our children to attend summer camp based on the needs of the family. Our social workers help parents to assess their situation, determine what would work best, locate local options and assist in enrolling their children. In the summer of 2014 we assisted 26 children through this program. We extend special thanks to our donors for supporting this program, and their understanding of just how important summer camp is for both the children as well as the parents working so hard to get ahead.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a child to attend summer camp, and ensuring the family can continue making progress toward their goals, please contact us at 516-564-4764 ext.125 for more information.

Save the Date

New Ground's 15th Annual Groundbreakers' Gala
November 12, 2015
Carlyle on the Green
Bethpage State Park

The 20th Annual New Ground Golf Outing and Dinner



Peter Elkowitz, CEO



James Britz, Senior VP

New Ground will host its 20th Annual Golf Outing and Dinner on Monday, May 18 at the Cherry Valley Club, located in Garden City. This year's honoree is the Long Island Housing Partnership (LIHP), a not-for-profit which provides housing opportunities to those who, through the ordinary, unaided operation of the marketplace, would be unable to afford decent and safe homes in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. New Ground will recognize Peter J. Elkowitz, President and Chief Executive Officer and James Britz, Senior Vice President for their leadership and commitment in the affordable housing arena and their support of Long Island neighborhood revitalization projects. The day includes brunch, golf, competitions on the course, cocktail hour, Chinese auction and dinner. Your participation will help to raise much needed funds which will benefit the homeless families and veterans in New Ground's Program.

For information on golf registration, dinner attendance, grand raffle (1 week stay in a 2 bedroom condo at the Legends Golf and Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with round trip airfare for 2) and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.newground.org or call 516-564-4764 ext. 125

Generous In-kind Donations Help Our Families



United Nations Federal Credit Union donates much needed food for our families' Thanksgiving Day meals.



Saint Aidan's Holy Name Society purchased, assembled and donated quality bookcases to help our families establish at home libraries.

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.