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\* Past President \*\* Founder

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Shannon Boyle, LCSW	Executive Director
Evol Sweeney, M.A.	Associate Program Director
Salina Barnao, LMSW	Social Worker
Mohanne Charles, LMSW	Social Worker
Ashley Samonte, LMSW	Social Worker
Stephanie Tapoler	Events & Office Coordinator
Jo-Ann Hertzman B.A., B.F.A.	Senior Grant Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison
Victoria Haller	Office Assistant

## SAVE THE DATE

Designer Handbag Bingo *October 2016*  
 25th Anniversary Groundbreakers' Gala, *November 10, 2016*  
 Garden City Hotel

## DONATIONS

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

Astoria Bank	Reading All-Stars Program
BankUnited	Financial Literacy Program
The Dunkin Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation	General Support
The Estée Lauder Companies	Reading All-Stars Program
Gotham City Networking Foundation	General Support
Insperty Services, LP	Food Assistance
Jericho Brookville Lions	Education Programs
Dorothy H Krahm Charitable Foundation	General Support
Leonard Bus Company, Inc.	Food Assistance
Long Island Power Network	General Support
New York Community Trust - Horace & Amy Hagedorn Fund	General Support
Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund	Reading All-Stars Program
The Slomo and Cindy Silvan Foundation, Inc.	Reading All-Stars Program
Saint Aidan Parish Social Ministry	Special Memories / Holiday Support
United Church of Rockville Centre	Special Memories / Holiday Support
The Thomas N. Weldon Fund	General Support

## 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, Newsday Publisher; Dale Cole, Community Affairs Project Manager, Newsday; Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground and Paul Fleishman, VP of Public Affairs, Newsday.

## NEW GROUND HOSTS OPEN HOUSES MARKING 25TH ANNIVERSARY

In January and April, New Ground hosted Open House events welcoming all to take a tour of our programs and services and learn more about how we are changing lives for those in need on Long Island. Please call us for details on our future open house events in July and October.



Photo taken at January 15th New Ground open house. *From left to right:* Máiréad M. Barrett, Founder and Board member, New Ground; Dorothy Goosby, Councilwoman, Town of Hempstead; Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground and Robert Suarez, AVP Community Development at Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

## ASTORIA BANK 16TH ANNUAL KIDS TOOLS FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM



New Ground received much-needed school supplies and backpacks thanks to Astoria Bank's 16th 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, Back Row, left to right: Astoria Bank Assistant Community Relations Manager Rebecca Martinez, New Ground Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison Jo-Ann Hertzman and Astoria Bank Community Development Account Manager Cathy Jusino. Front Row, left to right: Suffolk County Girl Scout Sophia, Nassau County Girl Scouts Julianne, Madeline and Evangeline.

## 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 Silvan Foundation, Inc. This is the fourth year in which the Silvan Foundation is supporting our Reading All-Stars Program.

# NEWS from the GROUND

Spring 2016 Newsletter



New Ground Inc.  
 211 Fulton Avenue  
 Hempstead, NY 11550  
[www.NewGround.org](http://www.NewGround.org)

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



April 2016

Dear Mr. “M”,

*I don't think that you would remember me but my name is T.W\*. and you used to tutor me in chemistry when I was going to High School. I had found your email address when I was going through my contacts on my phone and immediately remembered that I had never thanked you for all your help. You helped me with more than just school work, because of you I never stop giving up on any thing that I work hard for. Now I'm in college and every lesson that you taught me about study and breaking things down to get a better understanding of things is working. I owe a lot of gratitude and much more to you. I hope that you are doing well and really want to say thank you to you for helping me mature in to a great young man. Thank you again*

Sincerely  
 T.

T.W. participated in the New Ground program from 2004 – 2013, receiving assistance through our Reading All-Stars, Tutoring and Education Assistance Programs during this time. When he came to New Ground he was reading 3 grade levels below his permanently housed peers. Following years of hard work with New Ground, he graduated with honors from high school and is now studying engineering in college.

\*Names have purposefully been omitted to protect the privacy of all New Ground program participants.



# REFLECTIONS ON 25 YEARS OF BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

## NEW GROUND FOUNDER MÁIRÉAD M. BARRETT, OSU



Living in a shelter with homeless families was a life changing experience for me.

During the mid-to-late 1980s, Long Island NY had an influx of refugees fleeing war-torn Central America, burdened by hopelessness and helplessness. Many parents could barely read and write; struggling mothers needed to learn how to provide healthy food for their babies and families. Three Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk and two from other congregations were committed to creating a house that would be a place of refuge for those among us whose needs were great. A house manager was hired to assist us as we went out to work at full-time jobs to pay rent and assist in supporting the house. Despite our best efforts, the other nuns and I soon realized that we were attempting to put a Band-Aid on a hemorrhage.

For five years, I responded to the daily situations that arose with the work of my hands and mind, and the love of my heart and soul. I refer to this time as my immersion period because that is when the philosophy and program design for what would become New Ground was born. I realized that in order to have progressive and successful outcomes for 100% of the persons with whom we engaged we needed to combine the disciplines of education and social work. The importance of trained educators and social workers would allow us to engage our clients while keeping them motivated and inspired to acquire work that would ultimately help them to support themselves and their families.

We opened our New Ground doors on January 15, 1991. Today, 25 years later, New Ground's design includes professional social workers and educators as the primary staff who interact with the families and veterans we serve. The core of New Ground's philosophy is that we are a "place of freedom" for families and veterans - whether adults, youth or children. Persons who, with our help, can and will walk that road to freedom. We are the trusting ones who help each individual take advantage of the oasis that is New Ground. We travel as companions as they grow toward freedom and the full capacity to live happy and productive lives. Over time, our clients become educated, professionally developed, and ready to live in a world beyond survival, thus breaking the devastating cycle of homelessness.

## THE 21ST ANNUAL NEW GROUND GOLF TOURNAMENT AND DINNER

New Ground will host its 21st Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner on Monday, May 16 at the Cherry Valley Club, located in Garden City. This year's honoree is Stony Brook resident Michael Kelly, the President of Kelly Development. Michael brings over 20 years of industry related experience to the development of The Riverwalk. New Ground will proudly recognize Mr. Kelly for his ongoing efforts to redevelop Long Island as well as for his work in the community. 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 email [golf@newground.org](mailto:golf@newground.org) or call 516-564-4764 ext. 125.



## 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.

## NEW GROUND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHANNON BOYLE, LCSW



Thanks to our philosophy and resources, New Ground is able to tailor our assistance to ensure every resident's success. Over the past 25 years, we have enhanced our various programs and services to assist residents in the Long Term Housing Program as different needs have arisen. All go through the same intensive screening process to enter, confirming they are ready and interested to do the hard work required. All meet with their New Ground Social Worker on a weekly basis to outline their goals and take the necessary steps to achieve them while tracking their progress. Tutoring, education assistance and education advocacy have been offered since the very beginning, helping both children and adults to be successful in school. In 2004, New Ground launched our Reading All-Stars Program when it became apparent that homeless children were reading well below grade level due to frequent school transitions and absences, and the devastating impact this had on overall academic performance. At the same time the HomewardBound@NewGround Program was created to assist residents graduating from the program who needed a final helping hand to secure independent housing. In 2006, our Financial Literacy Program was formalized to provide targeted guidance and resources to adults struggling to overcome the barriers of bad credit and tremendous debt.

Our critical programs and services are working - New Ground residents realize success! Over 80% of the families served have secured permanent housing upon leaving, accomplishing most or all of their program goals. Almost every June since 2002 100% of school-aged children were promoted and/or graduated; since 1991, 94% of all children were doing well academically by the time they left New Ground. Parents have also focused on education, with 92% of families having at least one adult begin an education program and 68% completing this before leaving us. In 25 years, 100% of families increased their household incomes while with New Ground.

These successes have driven us to expand, working to serve more homeless families in need on Long Island. In 2012 we launched our JumpStart Program, offering intensive social work and education services to families on the wait list for the Long Term Housing Program. This allowed more homeless families to receive assistance without expanding available housing. Our generous supporters make the work of New Ground and these successes possible. We are grateful to all of you for making a difference in the lives of parents, Veterans and children in need.

## NEW GROUND BOARD PRESIDENT EDWARD MCDUGAL

As President of the New Ground board, we are starting the process of acquiring our own homes. It will be a long process but we enter it knowing that each additional home will provide one veteran or one family the opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. So as I reflect on the past, and join in celebrating New Ground's 25 years, I also look forward to the next 25 years with the hope that long before our 50th anniversary, New Ground will no longer be necessary. However, until then New Ground will continue to be a bastion of hope for those we serve.

- Ed McDougal: New Ground Board Member since 2000, Board President 2012 - present



## NEW GROUND NAMED 2016 CHARITY PARTNER FOR LONG ISLAND ELITE

New Ground was thrilled to learn that we have been selected by the Long Island Elite (LIE) to be their official charity partner for 2016. We look forward to working with the members of this group throughout the year ahead. Long Island Elite's mission is to cultivate the development, growth and leadership capabilities of young business professionals across Long Island. The LIE is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for local not-for-profit organizations and other agencies that make a difference on Long Island. New Ground is grateful to have been chosen for this honor.