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SAVE THE DATE

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|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Designer Handbag Bingo | September 2017 |
| 17th Annual Groundbreakers' Gala | November 2017 |

DONATIONS

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

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Central Synagogue Sisterhood | Special Memories/ Holiday Support |
| The Congregational Church of Manhasset Women's Club | General Support |
| The Dunkin Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation | General Support |
| Jericho-Brookville Lions Club | Education |
| Joy in Childhood Foundation | General Support |
| Long Island Power Network | General Support |
| Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund | Reading All-Stars |
| Saint Aidan Parish | Special Memories/ Holiday Support |
| Senior Umbrella Network of Nassau | General Support |
| The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. | Reading All-Stars |
| Stewart Manor Homemakers | Special Memories/ Mother's Day |
| The Thomas N. Weldon Fund | General Support |
| United Church of Rockville Centre | Special Memories/ Holiday Support |
| Wells Fargo | Long Term Housing |

NEW GROUND'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD LAUNCHES THE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS CHALLENGE



On February 17 New Ground's Young Professionals Board launched the Random Acts of Kindness Challenge to benefit the homeless in honor of National Random Act of Kindness Day. This challenge is far from over as we continue to rally support and spread awareness about what homelessness looks like on Long Island.

Please join us in this challenge! Like our Facebook page (facebook.com/newgroundinc) and copy the challenge into your status. Simply share a picture of your random act of kindness helping the homeless community with the challenge instructions.

Don't forget to tag New Ground and three friends to take the challenge, helping continue to spread awareness about homelessness and benefit those in need!

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 supports our Reading All-Stars Program, providing critical reading skills development to New Ground children pre-K to 12th grade.

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 fifth year in which the Silvian Foundation is supporting our Reading All-Stars Program.

LONG ISLAND ELITE 2016 CHARITY PARTNER DONATION



We extend our special thanks to the Long Island Elite (LIE) for selecting New Ground to be their 2016 charity partner. As this was also New Ground's 25th Anniversary, it was a very important year as we remembered the many parents, teens, children, and Veterans that have come through our doors and worked hard to change their lives. The 2016 Groundbreakers' Gala was the most successful event in New Ground history, raising just over \$233,000. The LIE played a significant role in this. Pictured above are LIE Board Members presenting a check to New Ground for \$60,000 in funds and services. The LIE's support will have a lasting impact on many children, youth, parents, and Veterans in need.

NEWs from the GROUND

Spring 2017 Newsletter



Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness.

New Ground Inc.
211 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550
www.NewGround.org

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



Dear Shannon,

I wanted to first take this time to thank you and New Ground for all of the assistance that was given to my family which led us to being homeowners. Thank you for the guidance in all aspects of our lives which has steered us to where we currently are, stable. I would like to share that I was fortunate enough to have received the grant to assist me with \$10,000 towards my closing costs and \$15,000 towards home improvements. The girls are doing well too! Kate* got an A+ already for one of her college classes this semester that ended already. Paige* is also doing great. They had state exams this week and her teacher informed me this afternoon that she did very well so far. And she received an award for her performance in common core. We're all just so grateful to New Ground for all you did to help us come so far.

Thank you again,

Yvette*

Following eight months in our JumpStart Program, this homeless family was accepted into the Long Term Housing Program where they accomplished many goals in areas of education, financial management, employment, parenting and health, eventually achieving homeownership after just over 3 years. This single mom and her 2 girls have a tremendous future ahead of them thanks to all those supporting New Ground who made this possible!

All names have been changed to protect our families' confidentiality

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.

MELISA'S STORY

"My greatest accomplishments in the New Ground program were HOME OWNERSHIP (Melisa shouts happily), clearing up my credit, going back to school and learning how to be disciplined. The New Ground staff and program helped us out tremendously. The staff was always so very patient and anything – and I mean anything! – that we needed or needed help to do, they helped us and if they didn't have the answers to the problem they put us in touch with the person that did. They always encouraged me and when I actually achieved the goals I was applauded. It made me feel good, and want to try even harder to reach my goals. They have all the tools that you need to succeed – it's up to you to use them for your success."

Melisa* came to New Ground unable to afford market rent and struggling to support her two sons. She worked extremely hard over the next six years to make her dreams for her family come true.

"The most difficult thing in the program for me was being disciplined with me and my boys. Who wants to tell their kids no you can't do this or no you can't have that. I just made sure they understood what I was trying to do for them and myself. How they had to learn to be patient. Everybody has to play their part. I think the program worked for me because I was determined and dedicated to myself and my boys and I really, really wanted them to have a better life. I was willing to do whatever I had to do to reach my goals. I utilized all the available avenues New Ground offered that helped me and my boys to achieve our goals and any suggestions that my Social Workers made, I did. No, it was not easy at all! A lot of hard work but well worth it in the end."

After accomplishing a school program, increasing her income, paying off all debts, and improving her credit score, Melisa became a homeowner.

"Thank you so very much New Ground! I reached my goals because you guys were there to help and guide me. I love you all!"

TAMI'S STORY

"We were living in such a bad place, all the mold and cold was so bad for the kids and all our health. But it was the best I could do back then. I wasn't making enough money to afford better. I needed some assistance. I wanted to do a lot better for myself and my children. I wanted to further my education so I could make more money and maybe one day buy us a house. I wanted to give my kids something to strive for when they got older and finished school."

After moving into the Long Term Housing Program, Tami* began school almost immediately to earn her high school diploma. She had dropped out of high school when her oldest son was born and held many low paying jobs over the next decade. She was extremely focused on her program goals, working fulltime to pay the bills, attending school part time and raising her three children. She worked with a New Ground tutor for months to finish the required work and pass the necessary tests. Upon completion, she was eligible to participate in her school's graduation ceremony. New Ground staff members were thrilled to attend and cheer Tami on as she walked across the stage and received her diploma.

"Looking back I think that was one of the best moments for me. I think part of me felt like it would never happen. And to have my kids there watching me get my diploma was a blessing. I am so thankful for it. Then I was able to go to college and I think that really helped my kids see that they could do it too, that school was important. We used to sit around the table all doing our homework together. Even the youngest who wasn't even in school yet! He made up stuff to do, like coloring and whatever, so he could be with the rest of us."

Tami and her three children moved into their market rent apartment after almost five years with New Ground. She successfully achieved most of her goals in education and employment, and was able to afford a permanent safe place for her family.

NEW GROUND EXPANDS SERVICES

Message from Executive Director Shannon Boyle

In addition to marking the 25th Anniversary of New Ground in 2016, another historic moment was reached this past year - **the expansion of our programs and services to reach a significantly wider collection of families struggling with homelessness and poverty on Long Island.**

In December, we expanded our intensive Social Work and Education services to include homeless Veteran families participating in the Northport VA HUD-VASH (Veteran Administration Supportive Housing) Program. Now the **New Ground Veterans' Program** offers our services to **over 400 Veteran households** in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Veterans and their families in this program receive weekly comprehensive social work services. All families create Individual Service Plans outlining the goals they want to accomplish and all of the steps necessary to meet these. Some of the services offered include financial literacy skills, career development, education assistance and advocacy, and our Reading All-Stars and Tutoring Programs.

The **Financial Literacy Program** has thus far been the most utilized by new Veterans and their families, assisting with drafting and realizing their self-defined financial goals as this is a key step to breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty and maintaining stable permanent housing. New Ground Social Workers assist Veteran families to manage their financial circumstances through goal setting, budget development and maintenance, a review of banking options as well as debt management and credit report repairs. During social work sessions, tips and tools for tracking income and expenses, and planning for savings are reviewed regularly. Social Workers assist with accessing credit reports, reviewing and understanding what impacts their scores, implementing strategies to build positive credit and preventing identify theft.

In March, New Ground launched a third evening of our **Reading All-Stars Program** to begin to provide these critical reading skills to children in our new Veteran households. Students again have the opportunity to complete individually tailored online reading enhancement programs to increase their silent reading skills and comprehension alongside trained tutors and reading specialists. As their performance improves, the level of difficulty increases while their results are tracked throughout, generating immediate detailed reports on overall performance and specific improvements. New Ground students participating in this program have shown tremendous growth not just in areas of reading but in all school subjects evidenced by improving report cards, as comprehension and strong silent reading skills are essential for overall academic success. We are looking forward to having this impact on an ever greater number of children in need on Long Island.

In the coming months New Ground will be providing various workshops to HUD-VASH families both at the Northport VA and Mitchel Field in Nassau County, as part of our **Parent Workshop Program**. Initial topics will include financial literacy issues such as *Budgeting Basics*, *Understanding Your Credit Report*, and *Building Positive Credit* as well as parenting skills in *Setting Limits with Teens*, *Addressing Bullying*, and *Raising Healthy Kids*. Our workshops allow more parents and families to benefit from this essential information.

At New Ground we are eager to embark on the next quarter century of our programs and services reaching ever increasing numbers of homeless families and Veterans in need on Long Island, assisting with completion of their goals to affect the long term changes necessary to secure a successful future.

THE 22ND ANNUAL NEW GROUND GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER

New Ground will host its 22nd Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner on Monday, May 22 at the Cherry Valley Club, located in Garden City. This year's honoree is Huntington resident Grant Havasy, a third-generation real estate developer, managing partner of Blue & Gold Homes and President of The Long Island Builders Institute (LIBI). New Ground proudly recognizes Mr. Havasy for his ongoing efforts to redevelop Long Island as well as for his work in the community. A developer of communities for people 55+, Blue and Gold Homes has built nearly 1,000 homes in Nassau and Suffolk counties as well as Putnam County, New York.

The Golf Tournament includes brunch, golf, competitions on the course, cocktail hour, raffle baskets, and dinner. Additional dinner tickets and sponsorships are available. Your participation helps to raise much needed funds to benefit the increasing numbers of homeless Veterans and families participating in New Ground programs and services.

For information on golf registration, dinner tickets, 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 or call (516) 564-4764 ext. 125.

