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New Ground receives grant from Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund

New Ground receives a grant in the sum of $18,000 from Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund. This grant supported our Reading All-Stars Program. Photos taken at recent Newsday Charities Grant Reception.

From left to right: Fred Germer, Publisher; Newsday; Jo-Ann Hermann, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison; New Ground; Dale Cole, Community Affairs Project Manager; Newsday; Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground; and Paul Heilman, VP Public Affairs, Newsday.

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You can help New Ground save money and the environment. When you give us your email address, you’ll help us cut the costs of paper, printing and postage. When we send you notices electronically, rather than through the mail, we can spend more on programs and services. New Ground will not sell or give your email address to another party. Please provide your email address to be part of our online community by contacting Diane Longo at (516) 564-4764 ext 125 or dlongo@newground.org
Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness for Over 20 Years

Greetings and welcome to New Ground, where for over 21 years we have been helping families and Veterans break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for showing an interest in the work of our dedicated staff. As I am sure you are aware, more and more families on Long Island are in need of what New Ground provides. In fact, families wait over two years to begin the screening process to enter the Long Term Housing Program. Serving more families and Veterans sooner requires more funding. To make this happen we recently implemented many new and creative ways for you to help.

We have established the capability to take appreciated securities as donations. This is especially important this year, since the tax outlook beyond 2012 is very cloudy. So I ask those of you doing the tax planning this year to consider making a contribution to New Ground via appreciated securities.

We are also extremely grateful to an anonymous couple who has given us a $25,000 matching grant to launch our new sustained giving campaign. Sustained giving is when donors pledge a specific amount on a monthly basis. Your pledge would trigger a match. For instance, if you signed up for $100/month, your gift would be matched so that New Ground would actually receive $200/month for the next year. I am pleased to announce that as we launch this campaign, members of our different boards have already pledged $1,155/month, for a total of $13,820 per year.

Often donors wish to make contributions in memory of a loved one. You can acknowledge a friend or family member by donating to our charity in their honor. These Memorial gifts help to keep alive the legacy of an individual’s life and achievements. It is a meaningful way to pay tribute and show how they live on in your heart. Like all other gifts, this donation will be recognized by New Ground.

We invite you to join us in any of these efforts to support more families and Veterans. Thank you so much for your past support. Without you, none of New Ground’s work would be possible. With your continued generous support, additional mothers, fathers, children and Veterans will receive New Ground’s services and have a chance to throw off the shackles of poverty and homelessness.

For more information on these and other creative ways to give, including Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities and Life Insurance Gifts, please contact Diane Longo at dlongo@newground.org or (516) 564-4764 ext. 125.

Edward F. McDougall, Jr.
President, New Ground Board of Directors

12TH ANNUAL GROUNDBREAKERS’ CELEBRATION – RESCHEDULED! NEW DATE: THURSDAY DECEMBER 20, 2012

Due to Hurricane Sandy and the subsequent stormworst, New Ground’s 12th Annual Groundbreakers’ Celebration originally set for Thursday November 8, 2012 has been rescheduled to now take place on Thursday December 20, 2012. This event will be at Carlyle on the Green in Bethpage State Park. Our honorees are: Thomas and Eileen Lamberti of Garden City and St. John’s University Peter J. Tobin College of Business. Please consider supporting this event; you can still purchase sponsorships, journal ads, and tickets. Funds raised go directly to continue the critical services we provide to Long Island’s homeless families and Veterans. In the aftermath of these storms, our residents need your help more than ever. For more information, please visit our event website at www.newgroundgala.org

A Message From Executive Director Shannon Boyle, LMSW

Twice a year this newsletter brings you thanks as well as accounts straight from the lives that have been forever changed by their experience at New Ground. It is always an honor to tell you about the lives that have been impacted through your support and commitment to the poor and homeless on Long Island. Once again, here is a story of a young man and his family who entered our Long Term Housing Program eighteen months ago. He was a junior in high school at the time and anxious about what his future would hold as his parents had their hands full with five children, two jobs and the inability to afford a place to live.

In June, this young man graduated from high school and was crowned Prom King by his peers. He secured 15 scholarships from various sources to provide him over $15,000 in tuition assistance towards his first year of college where he is studying engineering. Other family members are also working to achieve their goals, with his father taking courses for a vocational certification to advance his earning potential. Both parents are employed and have begun to clear up their credit and debts accrued while homeless. The following is a letter recently received by our Education Coordinator Evol Sweeney from this new college freshman as he embarks on his brighter future.

Hey Ms. Sweeney! I just wanted to thank you for everything and all the help and assistance you’ve given to me and my family. I wish I had the time to create a scrapbook because I truly could read all the things I’ve been through ever since my family joined New Ground. There’s so much I want to thank you for. Through your emails and taking time to sit down with me and sort out my priorities, I really feel as though you’re my real guidance counselor. I have to admit living in [Southern Nassau] has been awesome, the sea breeze, the people, the opportunities, and more. I also wanted to thank Ms. Rosenfeld (Jackie) and the entire New Ground staff and volunteers. I remember when I first stepped foot in the building, I wanted no part but look at my senior year and all of these scholarships and my internship. I believe it’s all tied to New Ground’s assistance and care. This organization is wonderful and I know you will continue to help my family towards greatness. THANK YOU!

Thank you so much, M.

PS. Everything at college is going smoothly now, I really like it here. It’s so sunny but it rains out of nowhere. My professors seem cool, I think I got lucky because everyone else also talks down about theirs. The paper clips and folders have really come in handy and I found a mentor towards engineering, so I have someone with that experience down here. Alright so until next time, adio!

Sincerely,

Shannon Boyle

JUMPSTART PROGRAMS OFF TO A TERRIFIC START

To begin to address the critical needs of the more than 50 families on the Long Term Housing Program waitlist, New Ground launched our JumpStart Program this past April. It has been our goal to provide program services to more than the current 25 families and 7 Veterans in our Long Term Housing Program (LTHP). The new JumpStart Program has the capacity to serve up to five families at a time, thereby allowing us to reach a total of 30 families. Since beginning, two families have been successfully transitioned from JumpStart into the LTHP. A third family is in this process and will be moving into their new home within the next month. This was made possible by the successful graduation of three families from the LTHP. Our JSP families are working on the same goals of education, employment, and financial literacy. In one such family, a single mother of two children returned to school in September to earn credits at a SUNY college for her Bachelor Degree. She was forced to drop out of school over a decade ago. She is carrying a 4.0 average in both of her courses, and attends tutoring at New Ground every Thursday evening alongside her children to ensure that she does well despite how long it’s been.

Special thanks to Wells Fargo and the WE CARE Fund for recent grants to support this new program.