

TIMES ARE TOUGH RIGHT NOW BUT THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways in which you can help change the lives of homeless Veterans and families struggling on Long Island. Please consider the following options if you would like to make a lasting impact:

- Make a donation today
- Make a gift in honor of a loved one or special occasion
- Donate a property/ home
- Select a specific program to support
- Match your gift through your company's matching gift program
- Naming rights opportunities
- Donate a vehicle
- Gifts of Appreciated Securities
- Sponsor an event
- Adopt a Family for the Thanksgiving or December holidays

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!

- Join a Committee
- Host a food or supply drive
- Provide Tutoring Services

Call for more information and make a difference in your community now and for generations to come!
(516) 564-4764 or visit our website at www.newground.org

PLANNED GIVING

Create a meaningful way to honor your relationship with New Ground that will yield significant tax advantages and financial rewards. By making a bequest through your will or trust, or naming New Ground as a beneficiary of other assets, you will make a lasting impact on Veterans and families in need and create your own legacy of support. A consultation with an attorney and/ or tax advisor is typically required. Creative ways you can remember New Ground:

- Bequests
- IRA Rollover Gifts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Life Insurance Gifts
- Gifts of Property
- Charitable Lead Trusts

If you would like to learn more about ways to include New Ground in a will or other estate planning, please contact us at 516-564-4764 x125.

THANK YOU!

We are truly grateful for the overwhelming support received during the pandemic. Many thanks to the following Corporations, Organizations and Foundations for your generosity, which allowed our social workers to be there every step of the way for New Ground's Veterans, parents and children as they faced so many new challenges due to COVID-19.

Dunkin Donuts Joy in Childhood Foundation	Nutrition/ Hunger Relief
Waldorf Family Foundation	COVID-19 Emergency Support
Long Island Community Foundation, COVID-19 Long Island Philanthropic Response Fund	COVID-19 Emergency Support
Capital One	General Support
BankUnited	General Support
Valley National Bank	COVID-19 Emergency Support
Macquarie Group	COVID-19 Emergency Support
Wells Fargo Foundation	Veterans / Long Term Housing Program
Broadridge	COVID-19 Emergency Support
Insperty	COVID-19 Emergency Support
Flushing Bank	COVID-19 Emergency Support
The Natalie Bailey & Herbert J. Kirshner Foundation	Education Programs
Nursing Sisters of the Sick & Poor, Inc.	Education Programs
BYEZ Foundation	Education Assistance Program
Veterans Support Foundation	Veterans Program
The Sunshine Foundation	Veterans Program

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NEWs from the GROUND

Fall 2020 Newsletter



New Ground Inc.
70 Acorn Lane
Levittown, NY 11756
www.NewGround.org

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



WE HAVE A NEW LOOK COMING SOON!!



Keep an eye out for the launch of our newly designed website this Fall! With the world going virtual, we are excited to share an updated website with information about New Ground, support for our Veterans and families as well as a place to keep our community together.

www.newground.org



OVER 29 YEARS OF BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS



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'S GROUNDBREAKERS GALA IS GOING VIRTUAL! TUNE IN NOVEMBER 12TH 2020 AT 7:00PM



With all the challenges of the past months, we are excited to invite you to the 20th Annual Groundbreakers Gala to help us raise critical funds to support Veterans, parents and children caught in the vicious cycle of homelessness and poverty on Long Island. Due to COVID-19, we have made the decision to host a virtual event this year allowing all to join us on November 12th anywhere in the world from the comfort of your own home. We are very grateful to many for making this event special, including our Co-Chairs Matt and Marguerita DeLuca and Gala Committee Members. The event will include a special presentation by the Marine Corp. Color Guard and a touching performance by the 2018 Fame Show Choir National Champions, Uniondale High School's "Rhythm of the Knight" as well as a virtual auction and award presentations.

We are thrilled to honor **Edward McDougal**, longtime supporter and current Board President with the *Thomas Whalen Memorial Award* for his outstanding commitment to see our Veterans and families succeed. As Board President these last 8 years, Ed has been instrumental in providing direction and strategic growth for New Ground. Although Ed will remain involved after his term ends in December, this is a special opportunity to pay tribute for his tremendous leadership throughout the years.

In recognition of their dedication and ongoing volunteer efforts as Co-Chairs of New Ground's Golf Tournament the past 7 years, we will present the *Mairead M. Barret Founders Award* to **Larry Davis and Ira Prager of Davis & Prager, P.C.** In addition to helping grow our annual golf event and bringing in new supporters, Larry and Ira's leadership helped raise over \$700,000 in support of New Ground's Veterans and families.

"Long before the Coronavirus came to Long Island, New Ground's Veterans and families were suffering and needed help. Unfortunately, their struggles have been exacerbated by the current situation and your support is needed now more than ever before. We hope you will consider joining us for this fabulous event!" - Shannon Boyle, New Ground's Executive Director

PLEASE JOIN US! Tune in for the event program, applaud our honorees, and dance to the music of the Uniondale Choir - all from the comfort of your home. And all to support the many on Long Island who are struggling to survive.

To learn more: text **Groundbreakers to 41444** or contact Diane Serenita at (516) 564-4764 x125 or events@newground.org

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to the CARES Act, there are many tax benefits this year to help you make the most of your donations in 2020! Designed to help our nation recover from the pandemic, the CARES Act has five important implications for charitable giving including: a new charitable deduction for Non-Itemizers, higher deduction limits, increased deduction limits for corporations, required minimum distributions waived, and a waiver of penalties when retirement funds are used for coronavirus purposes. Please consider taking advantage of these benefits, and making a donation to New Ground this year when your support is so greatly needed!



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHANNON BOYLE

It seems a long time since our last newsletter as the world is a very different place. The impact of COVID-19 has been disastrous on all of us, and it is the same for our Veterans and families. Throughout the pandemic, New Ground remained open and worked hard to meet the growing needs of those we serve. Program staff spent months delivering the most basic necessities including food, baby items, and household supplies. We also provided gloves, antiseptic wipes, hand sanitizer and other essential safety materials. Equally critical was our counseling and mental health check-ins for the many who felt alone and isolated during such frightening times. We are continuing to offer all this on top of our usual services, and more recently, back to school supplies for the new school year.

Our goal has been to keep our Veterans and families from falling further into poverty and homelessness during this crisis. We have been surprised by the successes achieved despite the pandemic and economic crisis, and the resiliency of our Veterans, parents and children. This summer we celebrated as two of our JumpStart Program families graduated from homelessness into market rent apartments. Jenifer* was working with us on many long-term goals since 2012. Living doubled up in an overcrowded home had been detrimental for her and her now 10 year old son but she could not afford a place of her own. With New Ground, she completed a Medical Assistant program and secured fulltime employment in her new field. She then also worked part time at a convenience store to more quickly pay down her debts, improve her credit and increase her savings. Early on she was spending hundreds of dollars in transportation costs to pick her son up from school on time. New Ground assisted with a car donation, funding to get the car on the road and her first year of car insurance. This afforded Jenifer the opportunity to aggressively save money for a new home. Through intense budgeting and savings planning with us, she secured her own apartment and moved in on July 1. They are settling into their new neighborhood, and her son was excited to begin his new school this fall.

Another JumpStart Program family moved into a market rent apartment on September 1 after over a year of homelessness. Valerie* and her 3 children became homeless when she fled her marriage due to domestic violence. Although she continued working fulltime and could afford market rent, her credit score was very poor and she had no savings. She was staying between family and local hotels, with her children often living separately from her and intensifying her distress. Valerie worked diligently with her New Ground Social Worker to address her credit issues and debts, improve her credit score and begin to save. She followed a tight plan which ultimately allowed her to successfully secure her new apartment in a good school district. Her children began the school year in new schools, with space at home to conduct remote learning as required. During the last week of August, New Ground helped outfit Valerie with various items for her new home to be sure the family had all the furniture and supplies necessary. During a recent visit to the office, her youngest son could not stop talking about his new home and bedroom, and how happy he was to finally be with his mom and siblings again.

What Jenifer and Valerie accomplished is tremendous. In a recent 2020 Out of Reach report on housing affordability, there is nowhere in the United States that an individual can work 40 hours/week at minimum wage and afford a modest 1-bedroom apartment. In New York State, the numbers are worse with renters required to earn \$32.53 hourly, or to work 110 hours/week at minimum wage, to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit. We know that the impact of COVID-19 on these numbers have not yet begun.

We will see a greater number of homeless on Long Island in the coming months as Veterans and families face evictions for their inability to pay rent because of greater unemployment. At a time when the need is so great, we are faced with yet another challenge - the inability to bring people together to help fundraise to support our programs. Please consider making a donation today, and help provide critical services to families like Jenifer and Valerie, so we can continue to change lives now and for future generations.



WE ARE GOING VIRTUAL

NEW GROUND HEROES CHALLENGE

To kick off New Ground's 30th Anniversary year, we challenge you to **walk/ wheel/ run 30 miles in 30 days** at your own pace OR choose your own adventure to raise awareness and support for New Ground's Veterans and families.

The virtual challenge will take place Oct 1st - Oct 30th, with a live celebration on the final day of the month. Check out our event page for **Heroes Challenge** more ideas. Whatever your age or ability, you can take part. After all, we're not looking for superheroes.

We're looking for **New Ground Heroes**.
TEXT **NGHEROES** to 71777 to learn more or contact events@newground.org



24-HOUR LONG BEACH BOARDWALK BIKE RIDE IN SUPPORT OF HOMELESS VETERANS



OVER \$26,000 RAISED FOR HOMELESS VETERANS!

This Summer Rob Carlo, a local Long Beach resident and retired FDNY challenged himself to ride his bike for 24 hours on the Long Beach Boardwalk in support of New Ground's homeless Veterans. The event kicked off the evening of August 26th and ended 24 hours later on Rob's birthday

with lots of supporters joining his ride along the way. We are blown away by the incredible support from the community and for Rob's selflessness as he took on the incredible task. Thank you for raising over \$26,000 for homeless Veterans in need and for bringing awareness to the homeless Veteran issue in our area.

THE UNICORN NETWORK FIELD DAY EVENT BENEFITING NEW GROUND

Thank you to all the Young Professionals that came out in support of The Unicorn Network's Field Day Event that benefited New Ground. The cancelation of in-person fundraising events due to restrictions put in place because of COVID-19 has left us with a gap in fundraising. While we can't be together in person at our traditional fundraisers, support from groups like these are critical during these challenging times and we couldn't be more grateful!



GENEROUS FOOD DONATION FROM CHURCH UNLEASHED

Hunger among New Ground's Veterans, parents and children became even greater these past few months as we navigated the challenges brought on by COVID-19 including accessibility to basic food needs. Many thanks to Board Member, Megan Fay and members of Church Unleashed for their tremendous donation of food that we were able to distribute out immediately. It's times like these that truly show us the power of community.

THANK YOU LONG ISLAND ELITE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT & FRIENDSHIP!



With the scarcity of PPE supplies throughout the pandemic, New Ground was relieved to be the recipient of face masks, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizers so our social workers could continue their critical work with the Veterans and families while remaining safe.

On behalf of our Veterans and families, **THANK YOU** to everyone else who went out of their way to donate food, household items and PPE these past months!