

NEWS from the GROUND

Fall 2023 Newsletter



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

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF
HOMELESSNESS

*we educate.
we empower.*

Empowering Long Island's Veterans and families to function independently for generations to come.



MISSION STATEMENT:

We maintain that the key to breaking the cycle of homelessness is not only to provide short-term assistance to homeless Veterans and families, 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 HAS BEEN NAMED BANK OF AMERICA'S 2023 NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDERS AWARDEE

This multi-year grant provides extensive leadership training to New Ground staff and the critical capacity-building funds required to best prepare for the expansion of our programs and services that address homelessness and workforce equity on Long Island.

An invitation-only program, this grant is highly competitive with nonprofits selected by a committee comprised of community leaders and past Builders awardees. There have been 39 nonprofits selected as Neighborhood Builders on Long Island since 2005 and Bank of America has invested nearly \$8 million in local nonprofits.



As we prepare to grow our Long-Term Housing Program from two units to 20 by early 2025, this capacity-building support from Bank of America will allow New Ground to best prepare for this dramatic expansion.

SHANNON BOYLE
Executive Director, New Ground



LOOKING BACK AT FUNDRAISING SUPPORT ACROSS ALL SEASONS

24 on the Boards: Rob's Ride - August 26, 2023



Once again, Long Beach's Rob Carlo, celebrated his birthday with his **24 On the Boards** Fundraiser. With his most successful year yet, Rob and his friends and neighbors raised over \$35,000 to help New Ground's homeless Veterans. This was possible thanks to Rob's tremendous dedication and the commitment of the Long Beach community to show up in support of Veterans in need.

Through the generosity of everyone involved, these funds give struggling Veterans a chance to achieve their financial, education and employment goals thereby realizing their dreams for independence and self-sufficiency, and securing a permanent place to call home.

23rd Annual Groundbreakers Gala - November 2, 2023



New Ground hosted its premier fundraising event, the 23rd Annual Groundbreakers Gala, on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at the Garden City Hotel in Garden City, NY. This highly anticipated event celebrated the accomplishments of New Ground's Veterans and families while raising vital funds to continue innovative programming and services to **"Break the Cycle of Homelessness"** on Long Island. The gala featured an evening of elegance, entertainment, and inspiration, all in support of New Ground's mission to provide comprehensive support services to our neighbors most in need.



New Ground recognized individuals and organizations at this year's event for their outstanding contributions to the community and their unwavering support in helping Veterans and families caught in the vicious cycle of homelessness. We were proud to recognize this year's honorees:

Gerri Domenikos, CEO, and Gabriel Domenikos, COO, AirLogix HVAC received the Groundbreakers Award, which recognizes individuals who have made a profound commitment to positively impact our community, thus embodying the spirit of New Ground's mission.



AvalonBay Communities received the **Máiréad M. Barrett Founder's Award** in recognition of their ongoing support of New Ground, specifically its Veterans Program and the Huntington Veterans Home.

Melissa D. Mohan, Esq., Melmo Realty LLC received the **Thomas Whalen Memorial Award for Board Excellence** for her contributions to our organization, her unwavering commitment to the mission, and her exceptional leadership in various capacities.

New York City Marathon - November 5, 2023



New Ground embarked on a new journey this fall at the New York City Marathon. Team New Ground included six dedicated athletes, showcasing both physical skill and a passion for our mission. This venture not only pushed the boundaries of athletic achievement, but also exemplified the spirit of community and solidarity that lies at the core of New Ground. With our runners' support and the generosity of their communities, Team New Ground raised over \$25,000 in support of homeless Veterans and families. We are excited to keep this momentum going with the **2024 New York City Half Marathon on March 17!** If you are interested in running for Team New Ground, contact us today.

A Special Message from Executive Director, Shannon Boyle, LCSW

LONG TERM HOUSING PROGRAM EXPANSION: FROM 2 TO 20 UNITS IN LESS THAN 2 YEARS!

New Ground is again working to expand our critical services to help even more struggling Veterans and families. After the expansion of our JumpStart Program last year, growing our numbers from serving 25 households to 50 at a time, we are now dramatically expanding our Long Term Housing Program (LTHP). By spring 2025, we will have a total of 20 units of housing. Currently, our Huntington Veterans home accommodates 2 Veteran homeless families. Since opening in 2018, both of the original Veteran families accomplished their many goals in education, employment, and financial literacy, and seeing the children doing well academically. In 2021, one family graduated on to a permanent market rent apartment. Just this past September, the 2nd original family purchased their own condo to become a homeowner! This single Veteran mom, with her 9 year old son and 5 year old daughter, now have a very permanent place to call home. As we add another 17 units of housing in the next 18 months, we will create these opportunities for many more households in need.

Toward this end, in 2024, we are renovating a single-family home donated to New Ground by a long-time supporter. This home will be a place for another family to start their life over, receive our intensive Social Work and education services, and work toward their goals to overcome homelessness and poverty. Then, in 2025, we will open our new housing development in East Patchogue. Created in partnership with developer Georgica Green Ventures, this 55-unit affordable housing project will include 17 units of New Ground supportive housing apartments as part of this LTHP expansion. We will add four fulltime and one part time program positions to help these households achieve the same successes seen from the many other New Ground graduating families over the past 33 years. We will have a program space onsite to offer our intensive services and provide our afterschool education programs.



We are very excited to realize this dream of increasing our LTHP knowing the impact it will have on so many. Many thanks to all of you who have helped make this expansion possible, and to everyone for your continued commitment to our Veterans and families. And this is just our first such development! We are working to create additional, similar developments over the next five years as we know this kind of long-term supportive housing model with New Ground's intensive services works to break the cycle of homelessness and help Long Islanders succeed.

RENDERING OF THE GROVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN EAST PATCHOGUE THAT INCLUDE 17 UNITS OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



MAKE AN IMPACT THIS DECEMBER! ADOPT A NEW GROUND FAMILY



Embrace the true spirit of giving this holiday season with New Ground's Adopt-A-Family Program! Join us in spreading warmth and joy by supporting a New Ground Family for the holidays. You can make a world of difference to children and their parents. From essential coats and boots to toys that will delight all ages, your thoughtful gifts will not only bring smiles, but also create lasting memories for families in need. Let's come together and make this holiday season extra special for those who could use a helping hand. You can transform their holiday season into one of hope and happiness.

Join us in making a meaningful impact, one family at a time!

***Visit Our Amazon
Holiday Registry!***



CONGRATULATE OUR FAMILY FOR ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS!



A mother-daughter duo, Tatiana and Amy*, came to New Ground through our College Outreach Program in September of 2022. The family lost their housing after the death of Tatiana's husband and Amy's father, and after an increase in the rent, they were evicted from their home. The family lived in a shelter for a year then moved to Connecticut while commuting daily to school and work. Tatiana and Amy moved back to New York because of the cost and time of travel, but did not qualify for government assistance because Tatiana works full time. Even with working full time, her income was not enough to afford market value rent, forcing Tatiana and Amy to spend their nights at hotels between Queens and Brooklyn depending on the cost of the rooms.

New Ground provided tutoring, college advisement, financial aid application assistance to Amy, who traveled from Queens to New Ground once per week, and Tatiana worked on budgeting, improving her credit, and housing resources. Amy remained on the High Honor Roll throughout her high school years, and was accepted into 13 colleges and universities during her senior year. Tatiana continued to pursue higher education and excelled academically. Amy is now a full time student at University of Albany and Tatiana will be graduating with her Master's Degree in Social Work this December and moved into permanent housing in Queens in October.

While working with Amy to prepare for her move into her dorm room, we created a Back to School Drive benefitting New Ground students of all ages! Our community of supporters jumped into gear to outfit each student with new supplies, and provide the confidence needed to succeed this academic year. From bookbags and lunchboxes to pens, pencils, and notebooks, over 100 school supplies were purchased for our students.

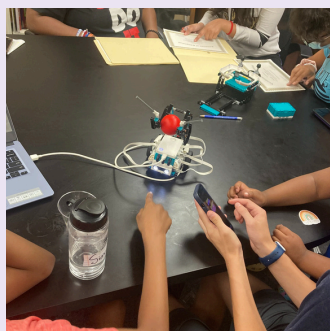
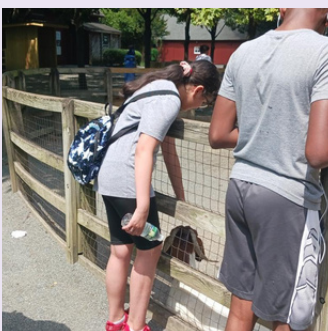
Thank you all for supporting Tatiana and Amy, and all of our students as they work so hard to succeed!

**Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality*

NEW GROUND'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM: ONE FOR THE BOOKS!

Here at New Ground, we firmly believe that education remains a fundamental right for every child, regardless of their circumstances, and education does not stop when the school year ends. For the second year, New Ground hosted students K-12 at our Summer Reading Program. Our program not only focuses on academic growth, but also provides a holistic learning experience for each student. These activities are carefully designed to be both fun and informative, encouraging students to develop their cognitive skills and explore various academic interests.

One of the standout features of the Summer Reading Program is its inclusion of enriching field trips. These excursions allow homeless students to step out of their comfort zones and explore the world beyond their immediate circumstances. From visits to museums and science centers to guided tours of nature reserves, these field trips stimulate curiosity and inspire a love for learning. Our students also have the opportunity to participate in hands-on STEM activities through a robotics course, arts and crafts, and even engage in physical education. The goal is simple; to keep their minds active and foster a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.



FULLY STAFFED AND IN FULL GEAR!

Please join us in welcoming Juliana Fodera, LMSW, and Caroline Lerczak, MSW, to New Ground's team.

Juliana completed her Masters in Social Work at Stony Brook University and began her career with EAC Network's Suffolk County Safe Harbour Program working to develop an additional program called Safe Harbour Mentoring. While at the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center, she worked with adolescents at risk of sexual exploitation as well as those that had a history of exploitation, sex trafficking and abuse. Juliana was employed at an outpatient substance use clinic, Tempo Group, during her masters, and completed her internship at a local middle school. Juliana has filled our newest JumpStart Program social work position, allowing New Ground to expand and serve more families in need.

Caroline completed her Masters at University at Buffalo and first worked on a homeless outreach team in Buffalo where she became the program lead, focused on identifying low-barrier programming and resources to help meet the needs of clients until they moved into permanent housing. She also worked closely with the Homeless Alliance of Western NY, Coordinated Entry, and the City of Buffalo evaluating programs to determine how to reframe them to be trauma-informed and person-centered. She is now our Veterans Program primary Social Worker.

We are proud to once again host three undergraduate Social Work Interns for the 2023-2024 academic year. These students work closely with our Social Work team, and maintain a small caseload of their own. This year's interns join us from Molloy College and Long Island University.



Staff listed left to right

New Ground's Staff Photographed at the 23rd Annual Groundbreakers Gala

Caroline Lerczak, MSW - Social Worker
Juliana Fodera, LMSW - Social Worker
Diane Serenita - Director of Development & Events
Salina Barnao, LCSW - Social Work Director
Casey Grzinic - Fundraising & Office Associate
Evol Sweeney, MA - Associate Program Director
Shannon Boyle, LCSW - Executive Director

GRATEFUL FOR GRANT SUPPORT

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Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation
Fertig Freedom Foundation
The Natalie Bailey & Herbert J. Kirshner Foundation
New York Community Bank
Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, Inc.
Suffolk County Marathon Veterans Grant Program
Valley Bank
Venable Foundation, Inc.

General Support
General Support
Nutrition Program
General Support
General Support
General Support
Education Programs
Veterans Program
Education Programs
JumpStart Program



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*Past President

TIMES ARE TOUGH RIGHT NOW... BUT YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



TRADITIONAL GIFTS

- Make a donation today
- Support a specific program that is meaningful to you
- Donate in honor of a loved one
- Give monthly to amplify your impact
- Naming rights opportunities



GIVE IN UNIQUE WAYS

- Donate a vehicle
- Donate a home/property
- Gifts of Appreciated Securities
- Maximize your gift through workplace matching gift programs



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!

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

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.

Lasting ways you can remember New Ground:

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

If you are interested in supporting New Ground, contact us at 516-564-4764 x125 or visit newground.org

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2024: Designer Handbag Bingo

March 17, 2023: NYC Half Marathon

May 20, 2024: 27th Annual Golf Tournament & Dinner

JOIN ONE OF OUR EVENT COMMITTEES

Looking to get more involved?
Contact events@newground.org