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New Ground thanks the following ...

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The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund at LICF General Support
The Natalie and Herbert J. Kirshner Foundation Literacy Programs
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Astoria Federal Savings recently awarded a grant to New Ground to support the Reading All-Stars Program. From left to right: Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground; Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground; Diana Panameno, Branch Manager, Astoria Federal Savings; Evol Sweeney, Education Coordinator, New Ground.

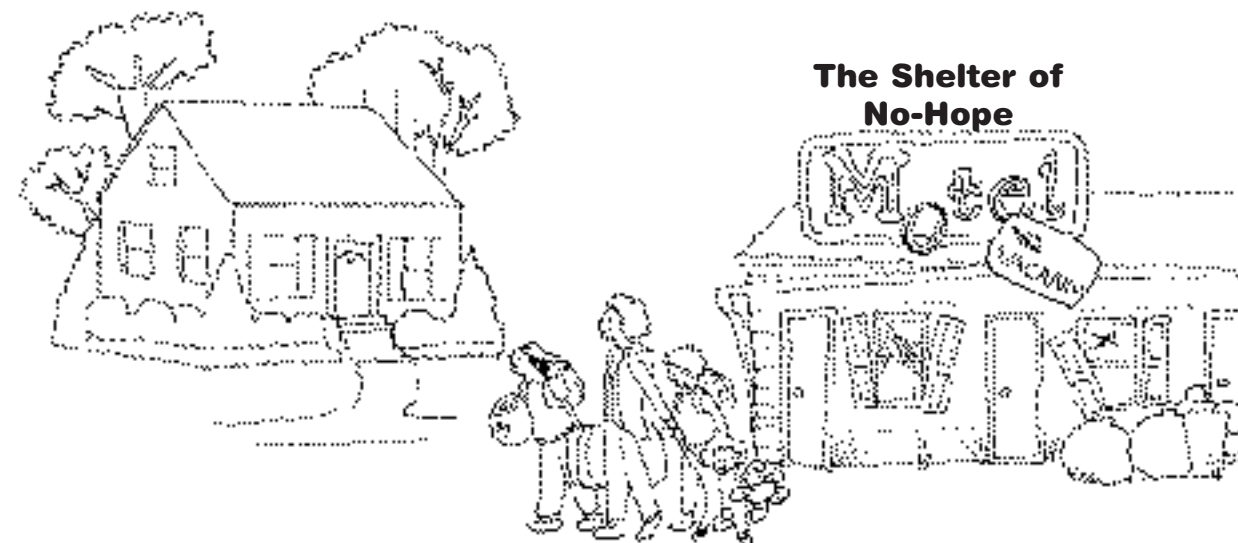
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NEW GROUND
211 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550
Website: www.newground.org



"Compañeros, take heart - though your roots be torn, they will grow again in New Ground..."

Sanctuary: The Spirit of Harriet Tubman



You can Help End the Cycle of Homelessness!

NEW GROUND NEWS

To The New Ground Staff

Hello everyone. You may know us as the "L" Family at the Huntington House. We just want to tell you all how much you all mean to us. You are all special people because you help make our lives easier in many ways.

You give us hope for a better life when we fell down in the beginning. We were prepared for school because you all made that possible.

We thank all the people who donated to you so you could help us. We realize that things don't just appear magically. Its hard working people like yourselves who work together to help make life comfortable for my family and many others. Your program is truly a blessing and my family and I intend to get out of it as much as possible and hopefully in the end we will make you all proud.

The "L" Clan

(A letter from a New Ground family written Fall, 2007)

WISH LIST

- Gift Certificates to Local Food Stores
- Canned & nonperishable food items to keep our food pantry stocked
- 10 New Comforter Sets for girls ages 3 – 12 years old
- 10 New Comforter Sets for boys ages 3 – 12 years old
- Professional Tutors, for children & adults, various areas of Nassau & Suffolk Counties

SPECIAL MEMORIES PROGRAM - SUMMER CAMP



Drawing by 7 year old in the New Ground Program. Self portrait with her Social Worker, presented as a thank you for attending camp this past summer.

New Ground strives to provide every child in the program with an opportunity to attend summer camp, with the intention of ensuring each child has a summer to remember. When they return to school in the fall they too can write about what they did over the summer with positive memories of this experience. As the warmer weather comes, we are again making plans to enroll our New Ground children in day or sleep away camp. If you are interested in supporting our camp program please call New Ground for more information.



From left to right: Emmet Agoglia Esq., President, New Ground Board of Directors; Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground; The Honorable Joseph A. Suozzi; Marguerite Suozzi; Sandy Rubin; Jim Rubin; Helene Wrotniak Suozzi; Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi

NEW GROUND'S 7TH ANNUAL GROUNDBREAKERS' CELEBRATION

On November 1, 2007, New Ground hosted its 7th Annual Groundbreakers' Celebration at the Carlyle on the Green, Bethpage State Park. New Ground was proud to honor the Honorable Joseph A. Suozzi & Marguerite Suozzi and Jim & Sandy Rubin. A live auction was conducted by Nassau County Executive, Thomas R. Suozzi. Honorary Co-Chairs for the evening were Thomas R. Suozzi & Helene Wrotniak Suozzi and Lou & Mary Carnesecca. Proceeds from this event will support the many critical services and educational programs designed to help New Ground's homeless families and veterans become self-supporting and independent.

ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM

Thanks to All of Our Generous Donors, the Holidays of Thanksgiving and December were a tremendous success.

- "I helped mommy with the mashed potatoes! I pushed them down in the pot and made them soft all by myself. They were the best part of dinner too." - 6 year old girl in the LTH Program.

- I got a bicycle! See! It's a real grown up one, with no training wheels. I found it with a bow and everything right in front of the tree. Mommy said Santa got it here." - 8 year old girl in the LTH Program

- "I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for always remembering me and thinking of my family. It means so much to E. and I, and we really do appreciate it." - From a thank you card from N.C., mom in the LTH Program

This year 27 New Ground families including veterans with their children received turkeys and trimmings for Thanksgiving. These families also received gift certificates for parents to shop for their children's holiday presents. A total of 75 children were provided for, helping to make this time of year as exciting and memorable as it was for their permanently housed peers.

MISSION STATEMENT

We maintain that the key to eliminating the problem 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 enabling them 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.

A Message from the Executive Director, Shannon Boyle, LMSW

This past school year has been an exciting time for both the children of New Ground and our parents. In the fall, a new **Adult Employment Empowerment Program** took place. Parents in our Long Term Housing Program came in for an 8 session course on developing the necessary skills to advance their **careers** and employment potential. This course was facilitated by a career counselor, Barbara Spinelli, who volunteered her time and expertise to assist these adults. Barbara's assistance included creating resumes, learning interviewing and on the job skills, investigating career options and evaluating each individual's interests and abilities to find the right career path. All of our participating parents learned how to use a computer to create their resumes, and more importantly what they can strive for in the workplace. 50% of parents in the course were unemployed when it started. Since then, these parents utilized their resumes and have found **employment** taking the first steps to securing a career of their choosing.

To meet the ever-changing needs of those in our program, a new 4 session course took place in March titled **Coping with Stress in Work,**

Parenting, and Life. As the title suggests, this was to directly assist our parents with juggling the multiple aspects of life and the stress that comes with them. Our parents are all struggling to survive on limited incomes while trying to keep their affairs in order and **pay down debts.** They are investigating or already participating in educational programs that will result in **significant advancement** in a career and income. In addition, they continue to run a household that provides a nurturing environment for their children. This course brought together New Ground parents who are experiencing the same **challenges** to provide them with helpful hints to keep moving forward and support from those in the same positions. New Ground has always faced a challenge of making group activities work because of the scattered-site nature of the housing. To **eliminate barriers** of participation, assistance with transportation was provided as well as daycare for those parents that had no one to depend on for childcare.

The New Ground Social Work Team will continue to create these supplemental group learning environments along with the individual/family work we do ensuring that our families and veterans are advancing and **reaching their goals** in the most supportive environment possible.

THE 13TH ANNUAL NEW GROUND GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year a change is in the air! New Ground is hosting the Annual Golf Tournament on the first Monday in May - 5/5/08 - and at a new venue: the Hamlet Golf and Country Club at Commack. We hope that you will consider joining us for a gorgeous day out while at the same time supporting the work we do to make a difference in the lives of homeless families and veterans on Long Island.

New Ground is also excited to have our first Honoree at this Event. Kevin Rowley of Classic Construction has spent the past 15 years building homes for handicapped and disabled Long Islanders, working hard to see this population appropriately housed. Please join us on May 5th to honor Kevin and support the New Ground Program. For more information, please call Sharon at (516) 564-4764 x125.

ARE YOU AWARE?

- 75% of homeless children test below their grade level in reading.
- When children are homeless, they are twice as likely to repeat a grade.
- Children in homeless situations experience developmental delays that hamper academic achievement at 4 times the rate of their permanently housed peers.
- Homeless children are 4 times more likely to have behavioral disorders, 3 times more likely to show signs of a learning disability, and eight times more likely to show signs of developmental problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The New Ground Reading All-Stars Program provides reading assistance through a computer based silent reading program operated by a professional Reading Specialist and licensed professional teachers. Over the past 4 years, children participating in this program have increased their reading abilities on average by two grade levels.
- The New Ground Tutoring Program offers individual tutoring to all school age children for assistance with homework and in particular subjects to ensure academic success.
- New Ground Social Workers and the Education Coordinator attend school meetings with parents to ensure that all of our students are receiving the academic services necessary to guarantee success in school.