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Staff

Shannon Boyle, LCSW	Executive Director
Evol Sweeney, M.A.	Associate Program Director
Salina Barnao, LMSW	Social Worker
Mohanne Charles, LMSW	Social Worker
Ashley Samonte, LMSW	Social Worker
Cynthia Panzarella	Resource & Internal Operations Coordinator
Jo-Ann Hertzman B.A., B.F.A.	Senior Grant Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison
Brianna Schiotis	Office Assistant

Save the Date

New Ground Golf Outing and Dinner
Monday, May 16, 2016
Cherry Valley Club | Garden City, NY 11530

Donations

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

Central Synagogue of Nassau County	General Donation
Congressional Church of Manhasset	General Donation
Investors Foundation	Education Assistance Program
Long Island Power Network	General Donation
Natalie Bailey & Herbert J Kirschner Foundation	General Donation
National Grid	Tutoring Program
Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, Inc.	Tuition Assistance
Stewart Manor Homemakers Council	Special Memories Program
TD Charitable Foundation	Reading All Stars Program
The Rona Jaffe Foundation	Reading All Stars Program
Waldorf Family Foundation	Summer Camp Program
We Care Fund (Nassau County Bar Assoc.)	Jump Start Program
Wells Fargo Foundation	Long Term Housing Program & Jump Start Program
Women's Group UUCSR	Transportation Assistance

Investors Foundation Awards Grant for Education Assistance



New Ground was awarded a generous \$5,000 grant for a second year from the Investors Foundation to support our Education Assistance Program. This funding provides: SAT study courses, graduation fees, musical instrument rentals, after-school activities such as debate club, sports and drama society, uniform costs, scientific calculators, fees for school trips, eye glasses, college application fees and much more. These expenses are not covered by the school

districts however they expand a child's education and contribute toward a well-rounded academic experience that best prepares them for the future.

Left to right: Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground and William Cohen-Ramos, Branch Manager at Investors Bank, Wantagh Branch.

New Ground Receives Grant from Wells Fargo Foundation

New Ground is grateful for the ongoing support it receives from the Wells Fargo Foundation. This grant was awarded in support of New Ground's Long Term Housing and Jump Start Programs.



Left to right: Shannon Boyle, Executive Director, New Ground, Ed Thomas, Retail Regional Sales Manager, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and New Ground Vice President and Edward F. McDougal, New Ground President.

UUCSR Donates Funds Again for Transportation Assistance



Jo-Ann Hertzman recently visited the Women's Group at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR). The Women's Group has generously donated funds for a second time towards the transportation needs of our families and veterans.

Far right seated: Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison, New Ground. Far right standing: Sandra Frank, President, Women's Group UUCSR with other members of the Board of the Women's Group.

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THE Groundbreaker

NEWS FROM NEW GROUND FALL 2015

NEW GROUND INC. 211 FULTON AVENUE, HEMPSTEAD NY, 11550



Message from Executive Director Shannon Boyle

Although we are hearing that the economy is beginning to recover and life is improving for some families in New York and on Long Island this is often hard to believe when so many are still coming to our doors seeking assistance. Despite their efforts to work, earn more income and find a safe and healthy place to raise their children, they remain homeless and struggling. At any given time over 90% of able bodied adults in the New Ground Program are employed, however, they are homeless. They simply do not earn enough to afford rent, transportation, food, clothing and the basic needs for their families. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's report for 2015, an adult would need to work 2.9 fulltime jobs or 117 hours per week at minimum wage to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in New York State. Increasing one's earnings to \$25.67 per hour allows for housing to be affordable. This is why New Ground exists and why we see education as the way out of poverty and homelessness.

The parents and veterans in the New Ground program are assisted with returning to school to increase their education so they can secure employment to afford safe housing. In May Sherry* graduated from college to become a surgical technician. Upon graduation she immediately secured employment at \$25.00 an hour in her new field. A few months later she found another fulltime position, increasing her income to \$29.00 an hour. This month she applied to and was approved for a market rent apartment for her family. She is secure in the fact she can afford to support her family and is proud that her three children have a safe place to call home. The many programs and services at New Ground are essential to assist our families and veterans like Sherry to secure the education and life skills necessary to live independently on Long Island.

*Names have been changed to protect confidentiality

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

How you can help make a difference in the lives of those we serve

- **Make Thanksgiving and/or the December holidays special for a child**

Adopt a family who cannot afford the food, gifts and festivities of the season. New Ground will provide a specific wish list for the family you adopt. General donations may include turkeys, roasts, hams, fresh produce and gift cards to local supermarkets.

- **Feed Children and Families in Need**

Organize a local food drive to keep our food pantry stocked with nutritional items to help supplement our families' very tight budgets.

Also needed: hygiene or household item drives

- **Volunteer** Utilize your time and expertise to benefit those we serve.

For information on any of the above please contact Cynthia at extension 125 or cpanzarella@newground.org



Recent Accomplishments and Updates of New Ground Families

These past few months have been a time of celebration for many families here at New Ground. In June 2015, 100% of school aged children in the New Ground Program graduated and/or were promoted to the next grade level alongside their permanently housed peers. Five students graduated from middle school and one from elementary. New Ground parents and veterans also achieved academic success. One veteran graduated from his medical assistant vocational program. A single mother of two sons graduated with her Bachelor Degree. Another single mother of three children graduated with her Associate Degree as a surgical technician. New Ground's Executive Director, Associate Program Director and social workers were in attendance for many of these graduations at the request of our residents, sharing their excitement and joy as they walked down the aisle to accept their diplomas and degrees.

And beyond these academic graduations, we have rejoiced and celebrated many graduations from the New Ground program as families and veterans took their final steps to achieve their goals and become independent members of our communities.

- Tanya* and her two children graduated New Ground and moved into a market rent home following completion of her many education goals, financial and employment goals. After earning her Bachelor Degree, she secured fulltime employment and is now managing her household successfully.

- Lisa* and her two sons completed five years with New Ground and moved into a market rent apartment this summer. She is two courses from completing her Associate Degree and increased her income steadily while in our program. She also improved her credit score, paying off all of her debt. Her sons are doing well academically and they are all thrilled to be living in their own apartment in a brand new development.

- Roger* is a Veteran who graduated from our CMI Program in September. During his five years with New Ground he successfully secured his Commercial Driver License (CDL) and then utilized this to obtain first part time and then fulltime employment, eventually landing a position with significant pay and benefits. He worked diligently to rebuild his relationship with his teenage daughter, pay off his child support and other debts and build good credit. He increased his credit score by over 200 points and secured a market rent apartment upon his graduation from New Ground.

On behalf of Tanya, Lisa, Roger and the many others here at New Ground who are working diligently to achieve their goals we extend our gratitude to all of you for helping to make this happen!

**All names have been changed to protect our residents' confidentiality*

The 15th Annual Groundbreakers' Gala Celebration

New Ground is hosting its 15th Annual Groundbreakers' Celebration on Thursday, November 12, at the Carlyle on the Green, Bethpage State Park and will honor the NYCB Family of Banks and Shannon Boyle, LCSW. The evening begins at 6:30 PM and includes cocktails, dinner and dancing, silent and premiere auctions. Co-Chairs are Joanne Meyer-Jendras and Carol Whalen. 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.

We will recognize the NYCB Family of Banks for their ongoing dedication and commitment to support the work we do with those in need. Eddy Petersen will accept the 2015 Groundbreakers' Award on behalf of the NYCB Family of Banks. New Ground Executive Director, Shannon Boyle will be the 2015 recipient of the Máiréad M. Barrett Founder's Award. This annual award is presented to individuals who have given their time, talent and/or expertise to benefit New Ground residents. The Máiréad M. Barrett Founder's Award bears her name as she is the person who set the example for all the rest who follow. Sr. Máiréad founded New Ground in 1991 to address the increasing number of homeless families on Long Island and the recidivism seen in the homeless population circulating through Nassau and Suffolk County shelters. Prior to founding New Ground, while working in a Long Island homeless shelter, Sr. Máiréad witnessed first-hand families who were stuck in a cycle of poverty and homelessness. These families often came in to the shelter because a life crisis caused them to be unable to afford a place to live. While in the shelter, they worked hard to get back on track, save money, secure employment and then secure new housing. However, a few months later the same family would be right back in the shelter. Sr. Máiréad recognized this was due to a lack of necessary education and life skills required to break the cycle.

For information on tickets, raffle (trip to Disney World-5 night stay in a 1 bedroom villa at Disney's Old Key West Resort- includes round trip airfare for two), journal ads and sponsorship opportunities, please visit: www.newground.org.



*Sr. Máiréad Barrett
New Ground Founder*

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.