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SAVE THE DATE

22nd Annual Golf Tournament & Dinner May 22, 2017
Cherry Valley Club, Garden City

DONATIONS

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

Astoria Bank Reading All-Stars Program

The Estée Lauder Companies Reading All-Stars Program

Investors Foundation Education Assistance Program

Natalie Bailey & Herbert J. Kirshner Foundation General Support

New York Community Bank Veteran's Program

Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, Inc. Education/Literacy

The Rona Jaffe Foundation Reading All-Stars Program

TD Charitable Foundation Reading All-Stars Program

Women's Group UUCSR Transportation Assistance

ASTORIA BANK

17TH ANNUAL KIDS TOOLS FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM

New Ground received much-needed school supplies and backpacks thanks to Astoria Bank's 17th Annual Kids Tools for School program. The supplies helped children and adults in our program be better prepared for school this year.



Picking up school supplies at Astoria Bank's Distribution Day, left to right: Astoria Bank representatives Ashley Blaskey, Marketing Communications Coordinator, Wendy O'Neill, Senior Manager, Public Relations, Cathy Jusino, Community Development Account Manager, Irene Ferrall, V.P. for Marketing Communications, with Bill Entwistle, General Manager of Village Office Supply, Jo-Ann Hertzman, Senior Grants Specialist & Community Affairs Liaison of New Ground, and Rebecca Martinez, Astoria Bank's Assistant Community Relations Manager.

WELLS FARGO DRIVE BENEFITTING VETERAN FAMILIES

Heartfelt thanks to all the Wells Fargo employees who participated in a large collection of much needed school supplies, food and household items to assist New Ground families and Veterans during the back to school season. Pictured here from left to right are Wells Fargo employees Patricia Kennedy, Ed Thomas, Robert Carleo and Asha Sheikh.



INVESTORS FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT FOR EDUCATION ASSISTANCE



New Ground was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Investors Foundation to support our Education Assistance Program. This is the third year we are receiving support from the Foundation. 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 Jennifer Smith, Community Development Officer at Investors Bank.

NEWs from the GROUND

Fall 2016 Newsletter



New Ground Inc.
211 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550
www.NewGround.org

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



Message from Executive Director Shannon Boyle

Our 25th year of serving the homeless on Long Island has been an opportunity to reflect on all those who have sought help from New Ground and all the lives that have been forever changed by their time here. We have also spent a great deal of time this year working toward our future, determining ways we can help meet the increasing need for assistance.

In recognition of this Silver Anniversary, we have hosted seasonal Open Houses at the New Ground office, inviting all of you to come and learn more about the work we do directly from our program staff. On October 21st we have our fall Open House from 11:30a - 2:30p. Please drop in for a tour and spend an hour getting to know more about us.

On behalf of all those we have served since 1991, I thank you for making it possible for New Ground to change so many lives for the better. We hope you appreciate the testimonials included here from families who have benefited from our program.





REFLECTIONS ON 25 YEARS OF BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

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.

BETH'S STORY

"I love my new place, my new job, my whole new life! I knew as soon as I saw my new place that it was just right for me and my daughter. It is huge! The rooms are really large and it's quiet but also really easy to get places from our building. And my daughter is doing so well in her new school. She loves her teacher and has made a bunch of new friends. Sure leaving New Ground was hard. I thought I had everything. But once I found my place I think I was able to see how much more I could still have."

Beth came to New Ground shortly after graduating high school with a very young child. She had never lived on her own but was determined to accomplish certain goals that would allow her to support her family for the future.

"I was really young when I started. I know I was hard to work with. I think I thought I knew it all already. Boy was I wrong! It was really hard to let someone in, and have the program telling me how to do things. I know I fought it at first. But by the end I really came to see how it was all for me, for my family, to help us succeed. New Ground taught me a lot of things I never learned growing up. Wouldn't it be great if they had classes like that in school! Like how to budget, and make good choices, and be smart about credit. No one teaches that stuff, at least no one I knew. I had to learn it late when I was struggling to handle my baby girl and everything."

During five years in the program, Beth completed a vocational program and college credits toward an Associate Degree, secured a fulltime job in her new career field with benefits and significantly higher earnings, increased her credit score and paid off her debts, and purchased an affordable, reliable vehicle. She then applied to moderate-income housing and in a very short period of time, was accepted and able to move into her new apartment.

"I'm so grateful to New Ground, for everything that happened and for all the help. I can't imagine where I'd be without all of you."

BOB & SUSAN'S STORY

"It's hard, thinking back to that time. It was really hard and sometimes it's surprising to think how we survived. We tried so hard to avoid going into a shelter. Me sleeping in a park and everyone else hopping from relative to relative. They made us spend down all our savings and my retirement before they would even help us anyway. All that money we spent on hotels and motels. If a landlord had just been willing to rent to us, we could have saved so much. But our credit was really bad by then."

Bob's family became homeless when he lost his job following long absences necessary to care for his very ill son. Although his wife Susan was still working, it was not enough to support the family of five and afford rent. The family came to New Ground from a homeless shelter.

"We are just so grateful for all that New Ground did to help us. All the hard work to help me get a job, and then an even better one. And helping Susan land her great job and then prepare for the test for her promotion. It was just great. We really needed the help to get our credit back in order, and it all really paid off. Susan and I had dreamed of owning our home but then when Sam got sick and we lost everything we never thought it was going to happen. But New Ground never gave up."

"Slowly we started to see we could do it if we worked on what was needed. All the different things our Social Worker kept bringing to us, the applications and resources, really made a difference. We were really happy she was with us when we signed all the paperwork and got the keys and officially became homeowners. It just wouldn't have happened without her and New Ground."

TINA'S STORY

Tina and her three daughters became homeless when her landlord decided to sell his home and she could not find an affordable rental option on her severely limited income. She spent her time with New Ground securing employment, improving her credit, ensuring her daughters' academic success, and saving to move into independent housing.

"This program is a blessing. I was blessed by New Ground, blessed with tutoring, blessed with guidance from my Social Worker, blessed over the holidays and for Mother's Day. I have had my down times too – it's really hard to do all that New Ground is asking to help you succeed. But when I sit back and think and see how it's all to help you, to get you out of the poverty and hopelessness. This program is just a blessing."

Tina made sure her daughters graduated from high school and went on to higher education to have a different and better future.

"I get emotional and tearful just thinking about it all – because of all that my children have because of New Ground. They made it. They graduated and are successful. But they also appreciate me and all that I went through at New Ground because they know what it's done for them. New Ground made me strong so I could make them strong."

Tina graduated from New Ground into her own market rent apartment in 2009. But she has remained in touch, stopping by or calling just to say hello and always to reminisce and say thanks.

"You have done so much for me. It's hard to let New Ground go! I stay connected because I am so thankful. It's special to have people in your life who know you so well, and care about you and your children year after year. It's a true blessing that I am thankful for every day. I love New Ground!"

THE 16TH ANNUAL GROUNDBREAKERS' GALA CELEBRATION

New Ground is hosting its 16th Annual Groundbreakers' Celebration on Thursday, November 10, at the Garden City Hotel. The evening begins at 6:30 PM and includes cocktails, dinner and dancing, silent auction and raffle baskets. Co-Chairs are Joanne Meyer-Jendras and Deborah Farrell. Stephen Ryerson is this year's Honorary Co-Chair. For our 25th Anniversary, we also have the **Dancing After Dark Cocktail Party** at 9:30 PM in the Posh Lounge for those looking to extend the evening and others who prefer a later start for their night out. 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.

In recognition of our 25th year of helping families and veterans break the cycle of homelessness, we will honor lifetime members of **New Ground's Giving Circle** for their ongoing dedication and commitment to support the work we do with those in need. As New Ground was selected by the Long Island Elite (LIE) earlier this year to be the official charity partner for 2016, LIE members have been raising awareness and funds to support our homeless families and Veterans. The main focus of the LIE's charitable initiative for New Ground is centered on our fall Groundbreakers' Gala. The Long Island Elite's mission is to cultivate the development, growth and leadership capabilities of young business professionals across Long Island. The LIE is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for local not-for-profit organizations and other agencies that make a difference on Long Island. New Ground is grateful to have been chosen for this honor in 2016.

For information on tickets, grand 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

