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RECORD-BREAKING INNKEEPERS' BALL FOR THE INN event raises over \$1.4 million to fight hunger and homelessness on Long Island

Hempstead, NY (May 25, 2016) –The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) welcomed 525 supporters to its largest annual fundraiser, The INNkeepers' Ball, raising \$1.475 million to support its programs that serve the hungry and homeless population of Long Island. The event, which was held just a few weeks after the 34th anniversary of the Hempstead-based organization, featured a performance from the Nassau Police Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums band and appearances by News 12 Long Island's Carol Silva and 1969 NY Jets Center John Schmidt.

This year, the affair was held on May 11th at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale. The event committee bestowed the 2017 Humanitarian of the Year Award to Frank C. Barker, founder of The Barker Organization, and The Life and Work of Msgr. Thomas J. Hartman, known to many as "Father Tom." It was the first time in The INN's long history that the award was given posthumously. The two men were close friends, and Frank Barker requested early on that The INN acknowledge Father Tom as his co-honoree. The "Seven of Us" award, given to groups that exemplify a unique giving spirit, was presented to the staff of the Long Island Marriott, not only for having hosted the INNkeepers' Ball for many years, but for their support of The INN through volunteering and donations.

"Our honorees for this year's INNkeepers' Ball were incredibly special," said Rob Kammerer, INN Board member and event committee chairperson. "As a philanthropist, Frank Barker is committed to helping people on Long Island and The INN is honored to be on the list of his many favorite charities. We remember Father Tom Hartman as not only a friend of Frank's, but also as a longtime supporter of The INN. The staff of the Long Island Marriott have collected donation items, volunteered at the soup kitchen and have supported The INN's mission all along the way. We are thrilled to be able to acknowledge them in this way."



1st Photo: Jean Kelly, INN Executive Director & Frank Barker. 2nd Photo: Jean Kelly, Traci Arnold Warzer, original "Seven of Us" artist and Nicky Hendricks from the Long Island Marriott. 3rd Photo: Shiela Mohrman, sister of Msgr. Tom Hartman & Jean Kelly.

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ABOUT THE INN

The mission of *The INN* (Interfaith Nutrition Network) is to address the issues of hunger and homelessness on Long Island by providing food, shelter, long-term housing and supportive services in a dignified and respectful manner for those who seek the organization's help.

Founded in 1983 as a single soup kitchen run by a small group of concerned volunteers, *The INN*, a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, has grown to deliver its services through 10 soup kitchens in 14 locations, three homeless shelters, and a Long Term Housing Program consisting of 20 housing units for families and housing for up to seven veterans. Currently, more than 5,500 meals are served each week.

A dedicated staff, committed volunteers and broad-based community support help *The INN* maintain its position as one of Long Island's largest private social service agencies; *The INN* is ranked among the most cost-effective charities in the United States. For more information, please visit www.the-inn.org or call (516) 486-8506.

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