Home ownership is a suburban dream for individuals and families alike. It is often an unattainable dream, simply beyond the financial ability of would-be homeowners. For a family seeking the assistance of The INN’s Long Term Housing program, it is even harder to imagine.

(continued pg 5)

The requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout are primarily to plan, develop and demonstrate leadership in a service project that helps the community. Local scouts Matthew Mage and Max Hudson did just that for their Eagle Scout projects which supported The INN.

Eighteen year old Garden City scout Matthew wanted to give people who live on the street, either because they had no choice or they did not feel comfortable in a shelter, some tools to brave the elements. His 22 winter survival kits included backpacks filled with a sleeping bag, wind-up flashlight, a tarp and a hat and gloves. Through fundraisers, Matthew collected money to purchase the items for the packs. He has long supported The INN because, “I believe The INN’s mission...”

(continued pg 4)

The INN operates 14 soup kitchens in 21 locations, serving 5,000 meals weekly across Long Island. Here are highlights from some of our soup kitchens on what’s new.

Freeport INN (Freeport)
The Freeport INN’s temporary location is at the Christ Lutheran Church, 61 North Grove Street, Freeport. Bagged lunches are currently being handed out until the
REFLECTIONS
One Less Guest

We started the week with a simple phone call. It was one of our social workers letting us know that a longtime guest of The INN had passed away over the weekend. We knew that she had recently suffered a stroke and had hoped to recuperate when she was taken to a hospital and passed.

I immediately said a prayer for her spirit and prayed for her adult children left behind. I also said a prayer of thanksgiving that after her many years suffering from homelessness, where we repeatedly helped her find new housing, she did not die alone. She was in a hospital with everything possible being done to make her feel comfortable and safe.

When I think back on all the years of struggle that this woman endured, I remain inspired by the resilience she showed through every major setback. She was quite vocal and usually challenged those who sought to offer her help. She tested our mission with each and every interaction. How to treat someone with dignity and respect, when they are loudly complaining that “you obviously don’t know what you’re doing,” was always challenging to the staff and volunteers who gave their very best.

What was so touching to see was that in spite of how difficult she was to please, everyone who provided assistance remained concerned about how she was managing to cope. I believe they admired her fierce determination and empathized with her never-ending series of unfortunate life circumstances. She never gave up and always looked to find a solution. She was, like all of the guests of The INN, a master of the universe. She never stopped moving forward and always saw tomorrow for the hope it might provide.

She is now at peace and all her challenges have been resolved. Our staff and volunteers mourn her passing. We remain forever grateful to have been of service to her on her journey home.

How many times do we have people in our lives who challenge our sense of what’s right or wrong? The last thing we need is to think of all the wrongs in the world that we can’t seem to make right.

But today we can perhaps make one thing right by making a change in where we put our money. Instead of placing it on a counter to pay for another expensive coffee or another pair of shoes we could live without, how about considering making a donation to The INN? We can help other women like the guest who has just left us, or help all of the children and men who just need someone to care.

We’re here day in and day out because people like you believe in what we do, how we do it and why we never give up. We have been taught by experts, the guests of The INN, to persevere and to believe tomorrow life could be better.

Thank you for providing that hope. Whatever you can afford to share at this time is truly priceless.

With love and gratitude,
Jean

Jean Kelly, Executive Director

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

Through the benevolence of the Mechanical Contractors Association of New York (MCA), The INN was the designated recipient of the sponsorship proceeds of its 2015 Annual Charity Golf Outing. Held at the Glen Oaks Club in Old Westbury, NY on June 8, 2015, sponsorships of tee signs, flags, awards, brunch, lunch, cocktail hour and dinner enabled MCA to raise $45,000. Associate member Wealth Preservation Solutions added to this amount for a total contribution of $50,000. We are truly grateful!

To find out ways your company or business can get INNvolved, please contact Dorian Stern at (516) 486-8506, ext. 106 or email dstern@the-inn.org.

L to R – Mike Russo, President, MCA of New York, Sal Barbera, President, A.D. Winston Corp., Jean Kelly, Executive Director, The INN, James Botto, Chairman, Industry Promotion Fund
Sweet Dreams Are Made of This

The Rosa Parks INN (RPI) in Roosevelt is one of two family shelters where guests in need of emergency housing can find a safe and welcoming environment awaiting their arrival. The home can accommodate 25 guests and offers use of a communal kitchen, laundry facilities and dining area. For the children, there is an outdoor play space and a room set aside to do homework, watch a DVD movie and interact with other children in a supervised setting.

Every bedroom is furnished with either twin or full sized beds and for the littlest guests, cribs are available. As there is a periodic turnover of guests, The INN is often in need of new bed linens, blankets and pillows, which reflect the core mission of dignity, respect and love.

RPI was in dire need of upgrading the bed sets for each room. Sometimes all it takes is one call to the right donor to make miracles happen.

Toys of Hope, a non-profit agency that collects surplus inventory and redirects it to other nonprofit partners, is run by Melissa Doktofsky, a friend of Dorian Stern, The INN’s Director of Development. When Dorian reached out to Melissa with an urgent need for RPI, Melissa and her logistics manager Brian immediately searched through their inventory and donated everything that was needed to outfit each bed at RPI.

Melissa made it a point to select bright, cheerful children’s bed sets to help make the stay at the shelter even more comforting for the younger guests of The INN.

Sweet dreams are made possible when friends care enough to share.

For additional information about the needs of The INN’s shelters, please contact Judith Dean, Director of Shelters, at (516) 486-8506, ext. 148 or email at jdean@the-inn.org.

NEWSDAY CHARITIES GIFT

To assist The INN with its mission of serving hungry and homeless Long Islanders, Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Foundation, awarded the organization a $75,000 grant for its Long Term Housing Program.

To quote the donor, “Newsday is very proud of the work Newsday Charities does, uniting the community in support of those who are less fortunate. Our longstanding relationship with The INN is a great example of that commitment,” states Newsday. Thanks again Newsday for making a major difference in our efforts to help our neighbors in need.

News Around the Network continued from pg 1

new space has been updated to meet the needs of guests. The Freeport INN serves lunch Monday through Friday at noon.

Invited INN (Rocky Point)
The Invited INN is currently serving meals from VFW Post 6249, King Road, Rocky Point, while its regular location undergoes renovation and expansion. The Invited INN serves dinner every Thursday from 5pm to 6pm.

Welcome INN (Port Jefferson)
The Welcome INN volunteers were recently awarded the “Humanitarians of the Year” award by Jefferson’s Ferry Foundation in South Setauket, for the work they do to help make a difference in the lives of those seeking assistance in the community. This is truly a well-deserved honor.

For additional information and available volunteer opportunities in our Network Soup Kitchens, please contact Michelle Singh, Human Resources Soup Kitchen Coordinator, at (516) 486-8506, ext. 143 or email at msingh@the-inn.org.
**STAFF HIGHLIGHT**

**Romona Pigford**

The INN’s goals could not be realized without the devoted volunteers and staff who support our mission. Staff members like Romona Pigford, Housing Coordinator of the Rosa Parks INN (RPI), provide the services needed for people without food or shelter. She has worked for 20 years helping those in need. The joy at what she does is evident as she talks about her experiences.

Wanting to help others was important to Romona, so she slipped her resume under the door of The INN’s office. She was hired as a receptionist and ultimately became Housing Coordinator. Romona’s unwavering commitment has prevailed these past 20 years; her personal mission is to make RPI a welcoming oasis for those who cannot take care of their own needs. A home is provided for nine families at a time, a stay that varies with each family’s situation. Because housing and employment on Long Island are often difficult to find, guests frequently stay at RPI for an extended period of time. Each family’s needs are unique and require individual attention. Romona makes sure that accommodations are made to provide a true home for the guests until their circumstances improve. Volunteer orientation often includes a brief visit to The INN’s housing. Thanks to people like Romona, what the volunteers see is a calm and peaceful setting that makes each guest feel at home.

The Rosa Parks INN is warm and welcoming, with Romona there to obtain the services each family may need. Social workers are available so issues concerning jobs, children and school can be resolved. Romona never forgets that, although it is temporary, the home she provides is vital to those she serves. When you speak to Romona, you sense that the joy she felt when she first came to The INN is still there. She feels fortunate that she does not just have a job; she has a calling. People like Romona make The INN the unique and wonderful place that it is. Thanks Romona for inspiring us all!

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**JOIN THE 2015-2016 YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**

If you know a Long Island high school student who displays leadership qualities and would like to be part of a group that’s INNvolved in making a difference in the lives of those who are hungry and/or homeless, please contact Dana Lopez at (516) 486-8506, ext. 138 or dlopez@the-inn.org. Our monthly meetings run from October through May. Visit www.the-inn.org/youth-advisory-board for more information.

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**Student Corner continued from pg 1**

is ambitious and necessary for helping those in need on Long Island.”

Max Hudson initially wanted to do a clothing drive for his Eagle Scout project in Plainview, but realized he needed to do something that had a more lasting effect. Using his skills, Max drew up designs for shoe racks that can be used in The INN’s clothing boutique to more easily display shoes for guests who have limited time to choose their footwear. With the help from some parishioners in his church who donated lumber and items, Max created the shelves along with over 1,000 pieces of clothing for men, women and children, including shoes. Max hopes to continue to support The INN, along with his church, “So that others can experience this heartwarming and life-changing experience.”

Max Hudson delivers donations to the Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen

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Guests of The INN continued from pg 1

A family of three, a single mother, along with her 13 year old daughter and 15 year old son, entered Long Term Housing, a comprehensive program for homeless families, providing safe, well maintained, affordable housing, accompanied by a full range of intensive and supportive services.

The mother worked with social workers to complete a certificate training course in tax preparation. She earned her license and began to increase her income, keeping an eye on the long-term goal of moving her family into a home of their own. In the meantime, her children were thriving in The INN’s Long Term Housing program. Her daughter was involved in the field hockey team and her son joined the football team.

Through the proverbial “scrimping and saving,” the mother was able to make a down payment on a property. With the assistance from Habitat for Humanity, the dream of home ownership was realized in June 2015. To quote Laura Ingalls Wilder, “Home is the nicest word there is.”

If you’d like to find out how you can support our Long Term Housing Program, please contact Kisha Miller, Director of Long Term Housing, at kmiller@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 118.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**INN Luncheon**  
*Friday, October 23, 2015*  
Garden City Hotel, Garden City, NY honoring Heidi & Stephen Disante of Vanderbilt Financial Group.

**A Day of Thanks and Giving**  
*Sunday, November 8, 2015*  
Mary Brennan INN, Hempstead. Honoring Mary Brennan INN Tuesday Volunteers and H2M. Begins at 1:30pm.

**Diwali Festival of Lights**  
*Saturday, November 14, 2015*  
Mary Brennan INN, Hempstead. Event begins at 12:30pm.

**Martin Viette Nurseries Holiday Reception**  
*Saturday, November 21, 2015*  
Martin Viette, East Norwich. Event begins at 6:30pm.

**Champions for Charity**  
*Wednesday, December 2, 2015*  
Kick-off Cocktail Party at Brooks Brothers, Americana Manhasset, from 5pm-8pm. Thursday-Sunday, December 3-6, 2015 Champions for Charity at the Americana Manhasset, Manhasset.

For event tickets and information, please contact Nora White at (516) 486-8506, ext. 108 or nwhite@the-inn.org. You may also visit us at www.the-inn.org and click on our Events Calendar.

HOLIDAY DRIVE

The Holiday season is upon us, and the needs in the community continue to grow greater. Please help us make a difference by supporting both our Thanksgiving Food Drive and our Holiday Most Needed Items Drive.

’TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING!

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE INN?

In lieu of collecting toys this Holiday Season, The INN needs your help in providing guests with items that are most needed (NEW items only)

**CHILDREN**
- Pajamas (all sizes)
- Underwear (all sizes)
- Hats, scarves, gloves, coats
- Slippers
- Pampers (all sizes)
- Accessories
- Socks
- Pull-Ups
- Boots

**ADULTS**
- Pajamas (all sizes)
- Underwear (all sizes)
- Hats, scarves, gloves, coats
- Slippers
- Perfume/Cologne
- Accessories
- Socks
- Long Johns
- Boots

**PERSONAL CARE & HOME ITEMS**
- Razors
- Linens (all sizes)
- Deodorant
- Blankets (all sizes)
- Soap/Shower Gels
- Towels

Donations may be dropped off at  
Mary Brennan INN  
100 Madison Avenue  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
Hours: 9:00-11:30 or 1:30-4:30

Questions? Contact (516) 486-8506 or info@the-inn.org
**INN GOOD COMPANY**

Banfi Vintners

Old Brookville’s Banfi Vintners, a long-time supporter of The INN, held its annual employee picnic on July 25, 2015. This year the company decided to include a charitable element to enable participation by Banfi employees.

Prior to the festivities, a food drive generated three bins of food for donation to The INN. During the picnic, in addition to enjoying good food and a grounds tour, an assembly line of Banfi workers and their families enthusiastically packed more than 200 kits of “essentials” – toiletries for walk-in guests. According to Bob Whiting, Banfi’s Estate Director, “Everyone seemed to have a fun time. We thought it a wonderful idea that Banfi do something a little different this year at the picnic, and all involved enjoyed the camaraderie and knowledge that their efforts were to help those less fortunate.”

The Banfi Foundation also contributed $3,000 to The INN in celebration of another successful picnic. Many thanks to the entire Banfi team for its generosity and creativity in helping The INN carry out our mission. Bere solo buon vino!*

*“Drink only good wine.”

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**Thanksgiving Wish List**

- Stuffing
- Canned Yams
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Peas, String Beans)
- Canned Gravy
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Boxed/Packed Mashed Potatoes
- Frozen Turkeys
- Frozen Hams

No glass items please

All donations can be dropped off at The Mary Brennan INN 100 Madison Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550

For additional information, kindly contact: (516) 486-8506 or info@the-inn.org

Thank you for your generosity!

The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) addresses 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 our help. We are a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization with a dedicated staff, a broad base of community support and a commitment to educate the public about these issues.

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**Thanksgiving Wish List**

- Canned Gravy
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Boxed/Packed Mashed Potatoes
- Frozen Turkeys
- Frozen Hams

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**Programs and Facilities**

- Sonia’s INN
- Rose Mary INN
- Margaret INN
- Dr. Victor G. and Rejane Herman INN
- Homelessness Prevention
- Jane’s INN
- Long Term Housing
- Mary Moore INN
- Palmer INN

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**INN on Social Media**

The INN is on Facebook and Twitter

To become a fan and receive updates on The INN’s activities and announcements, please go to www.facebook.com/theinnli or twitter.com/the_inn.

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**Thank you!**

**Merci!**

**Gracias!**

**Dankes!**

**Grazie!**