GUESTS OF THE INN
The Center for Formative Change: A New INNitiative

The INN is proud to announce a new resource center facility: The Center for Transformative Change (CTC). Opened in January 2016, this INNitiative was made possible by a donation of the entire building, conveniently located right next door to the Mary Brennan INN, from the Cohen Family Foundation and renovated through a donation from the Alley Charitable Trust. It will house a free “boutique” on the first floor, with an expanded section for career and interview attire and household goods, along with social service assistance referrals and various learning classes on the second floor that will help guests of the soup kitchen to improve their life circumstances and/or become self-sufficient. The facility will be mostly staffed by volunteers.

STUDENT CORNER
High School Youth INNbassadors Continue to Get INNvolved

Members of the 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Board, which represents students from over 30 Island-wide schools, have already had an INNcredible first half of their school year, raising nearly $1,500 for The INN’s programs through coin collecting and a fun BowlINN event. The Youth Board is looking forward to its spring Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 8am-10am at the Westbury Applebees location. Tickets are $20 each and include breakfast and a beverage.

For more information, or to support the Youth Advisory Board, contact Dana Lopez at 516-486-8506 x138 or dlopez@the-inn.org.
As the year starts, we reflect on the generosity of all the volunteers, donors, staff and community members who have helped us rescue thousands of people from their troubled circumstances, all while continuing to use the model created here: treat everyone with dignity and respect and provide the basics of food, clothing, shelter and support within an atmosphere of non-judgment and love.

When people are forced to beg, they will sometimes ask you for spare change. I have spoken to many people who have begged on the street and they often share their story of being given money and how that simple act provided the emotional spark they needed to keep going or take a long-delayed step toward recovery—all because of feeling that someone cared they were still alive.

While you may be in a position to financially support the work of The INN, we wonder if you might also consider providing another form of currency to help the guests. We call it emotional currency. It comes from your heart and it is held in an imaginary bank of love and compassion you have received from the people who have shown you love and concern. When you can spare some of that emotional currency with another person, one who has suffered because he or she has experienced hunger and the trauma of being homeless, you sometimes can save a life. We are fortunate to see these exchanges of emotional currency happen each day at The INN.

It happens when you come to serve the guests at the Mary Brennan INN and you hand them a plate of hot food or a drink or even a toothbrush or shower kit. When you look into the face of someone you help and offer a genuine smile, you are depositing your own emotional currency in their heart bank and the gift is literally priceless. When people in need of basic necessities experience the kindness of a smile or the gesture of a warm greeting of “Hello” and “How are you today?,” they feel rich from what is expressed toward them. While they are often in short supply of their own emotional currency, very many, miraculously, manage to smile back with thanks.

We’d like to begin the year by expressing our profound appreciation to all of the volunteers and staff who offer their own emotional currency in the soup kitchens and shelters each day. Thank you for your dedication, inspiration, and (in the specific case of our incredible volunteers), “perspiration,” as you work so hard to be of service. We are forever in awe of you and in your debt.

If you are still new to The INN, we’d love to welcome your support this year. Please consider becoming INN- volved by visiting our website at www.the-inn.org. To see the Mary Brennan INN, or if you can donate warm clothing such as coats, gloves, hats and scarfs, please bring them to 100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead, Monday to-Friday, 9-11am or 2-4pm. On behalf of the guests of The INN, thanks so very much.

We’d be grateful for whatever spare change, emotional or real, you can spare.

With love and gratitude,
Jean

Jean Kelly,
Executive Director
A Recipe for Kindness

Connie and her husband Gaspar went on an out-of-town trip 25 years ago to visit their daughter. They were so impressed that she was volunteering at a local soup kitchen that when they returned to New York, Connie contacted Jean Kelly and asked her to speak to a few members of the Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church of New Hyde Park about The INN and its mission.

Following this initial meeting, the church members decided to supply a meal based on a recipe of 40 pounds of chop meat, 12 cans of vegetables, 12 jars of beef gravy and 50 pounds of elbow macaroni. They proceeded to buy the ingredients including 12 large aluminum trays, prepare and deliver this meal to the Mary Brennan INN.

The cooking was done in the church kitchen, but it was too much work for the small group that Connie had originally organized, so she placed an ad in the church bulletin to find more volunteers.

The ad was more successful than she had dreamed. It resulted in a group that shopped on Mondays, a group that cooked on Tuesdays and another group that completed and delivered this weekly meal on Wednesdays.

Periodically, Connie placed additional ads in the church bulletin to recruit more volunteers needed to help accomplish her goal of providing a hot nutritious meal to The INN each week.

Connie and Gaspar are now retired and living in an assisted living facility in Connecticut, and a new group of church volunteers continue the program started in 1990. Connie still stays in touch with the current group that keeps her legacy alive, and is very proud to have been a part of this long term effort to feed hungry Long Islanders.

COURT OFFICERS DO MORE THAN PROTECT OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Fraternal Order of Court Officers (FOCO) is a New York State organization with over 1,000 members whose headquarters is in Mineola.

Each year, the members of FOCO raise money through membership dues, a holiday raffle, a golf tournament, a dinner dance and a candy desk run by Mike Riveiro at the Nassau District Court in Hempstead. These funds are used to support local charities.

“We have been donating to The INN since before I became president 11 years ago,” states Joseph Cannella, “because we know that these needed funds go directly to feed and house fellow Long Islanders who need a helping hand.”

In addition to their monetary donations to local organizations, FOCO members and other court personnel donate teddy bears to take to local Long Island hospitals at holiday time. Over 700 bears were given away this year to children with serious illnesses. Anyone who donates two bears gets a special donor pin that changes each year.

Last of all, FOCO is all about court officers getting involved to help court officers in times of need and the children of slain court officers.

Captain William “Harry” Thompson, Sgt. Mitchel Scott Wallace and Sgt. Thomas Jurgens lost their lives on 9/11 as they went into the Twin Towers to help others on that fateful day. The street in front of the Manhattan Family Court was renamed in 2006 to honor their memories.
One of the perks of volunteering at the Mary Brennan INN (MBI) is watching the guests feel comfortable and relaxed as the volunteers help them enjoy a nutritious meal. Another perk is sharing this atmosphere with a dedicated and energetic group of people who spend each week giving back to their community.

Arlene Weinberg is one of these special people who feel so rewarded by what she does. Arlene’s enthusiasm is heard in her voice as she discusses what The INN means to her. She previously worked at the Long Beach Food & Friendship INN until it was closed (now reopened) due to Hurricane Sandy. In the interim, Arlene discovered the Mary Brennan INN, becoming a vital part of the organization ever since. She carried over the same sense of pride and accomplishment she had had in Long Beach and developed a wonderful sense of rapport with her fellow volunteers.

Each Tuesday, Arlene works in the clothing area to help guests choose apparel for themselves and their children. Sometimes, when you enter the clothing area at MBI, Arlene says the amount of items to be organized might seem overwhelming, but then she and her fellow volunteers get things done in time for the guests to browse.

Following the passing of Arlene’s husband, she was unable to be at the soup kitchen for a period of time. Now she is back, still excited about The INN’s mission and her role in it. She is looking forward to the relocation of the boutique to the new Center for Transformative Change. Being able to give back and help others is a joy for Arlene. It is also a joy for The INN to have such a dedicated and energetic volunteer. May she continue being a part of The INN for many years to come.

The members of Girl Scout Troop #2107 in Baldwin tragically lost their friend and fellow scout Taylor in 2013. Trying to find a way to keep her memory alive, they created “Taylor’s Craft Corner” and began a project that would help them earn their silver award. Each month since October, the troop has created craft kits to donate to young guests at The INN. When the scouts first came to drop off Halloween crafts, they were accompanied by Taylor’s mother, who was incredibly proud of the work the girls were doing to honor her daughter. The girls were given a tour of the soup kitchen and got to work volunteering in the main dining area, stocking shelves and organizing books in the guest choice pantry. Troop leader Christine Fortune said, “The girls feel great about this project and the work they are doing to benefit your little guests.”
SUMMARY OF OPERATING DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR

Ending June 30, 2015

The following operating data is derived from The INN’s Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2015, which were audited by Nawrocki Smith LLP.

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<td>Government Fees and Grants</td>
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<td>In Kind Contributions**</td>
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REVENUE AND SUPPORT

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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Emergency Shelters</td>
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<td>Soup Kitchens</td>
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<td>Change In Net Assets***</td>
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Notes:

* 82.1% of The INN’s expenses are directed toward program services.

** Represents fair value of donated food and supplies (as per generally accepted accounting principles; this does NOT include over 100,000 hours of time donated by volunteers.)

*** Results from net change in operations including professional fees related to compliance with the NY State Revitalization Act of 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Advisory Board Applebees Flapjack Breakfast
Saturday, April 16, 2016
Applebees located in Westbury, 8am to 10am.

INNkeepers’ Ball
Thursday, May 5, 2016
LI Marriott in Uniondale. This year we will be honoring Jeffrey D. Forchelli of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP and Glenwood Mason Company with Constance M. Cincotta. Honorary chairs: Al Gherlone and Vince Striano.

INN Luncheon
Friday, October 21, 2016
Garden City Hotel.

Please visit our website www.the-inn.org for more event details.
Our Wish List

The INN is in need of:

- Canned meats (tuna, turkey, chicken, ham), canned soup, canned pasta sauce (no glass, please)
- Non-perishable vegetables, fruit, Chef Boyardee-type products
- Hygiene products – soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. (small, travel sizes preferred for all items)
- Disposable diapers (all sizes), baby lotion, wipes and baby powders
- New underwear and socks
- Gently used towels, washcloths, blankets and bed linens

Please bring your donations to the Mary Brennan INN at 100 Madison Avenue in Hempstead, Monday to Friday, 9-11 am or 2-4 pm. For directions please check our website or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 114. Thank you.

INN GOOD COMPANY

A Box of Socks with a Smiling Red Fox... It’s Holiday Warmth from Some Friends

The INN has been asked, around holiday time
What donators can offer – what gifts and what kind?

So we sent out a message
To all near and wide
“Please shop for some warmth,
some love, of some kind.”

“Collect socks for the guests”
was the message we sent
And a group stepped forward, without hesitance.

It wasn’t too hard for them to see
That for guests at The INN
This was pure luxury.

Socks in abundance, every color and size
Girls’ socks and boys’ socks – the pile on the rise.

The group spread the word at every event
 Asking friends and relations
 To fill up the tent.

The collections continued
Throughout the whole season.
The giving was grand
Since they all knew the reason.

So the tale be now told
As the count is now tallied
10,000 PAIRS were brought in
Because EVERYONE RALLIED.

*Special thank you to: Helen Zagaro of Star Promoz,
Christine McDermott Lauria of Butterfly Energy and David Gussin of 516ads.com & 631ads.com networking group
for working with Dorian Stern, at The INN, to make this possible.