Elizabeth Tully, social media officer and photographer of The INN’s Youth Advisory Board, is a junior at Sacred Heart Academy. She and her twin sister Caroline have created a unique organization at their school. Common Ground is a community service and educational initiative that connects the all-girls Catholic high school Sacred Heart with Crescent School, a co-ed Muslim school and the Schechter School, a conservative Jewish high school. United, students of Common Ground demonstrate that interfaith young women can be models for leadership, cooperation and service.

In addition to an upcoming service project that will provide food and assistance to guests of The INN, Common Ground will lead an educational forum for students from their schools. Elizabeth states, “Common Ground is very proud to partner with The INN. Our goal is to share our different perspectives, foster a spirit of respect and understanding and join together to help make the world a better place.”

(continued pg 4)
We remain dedicated to The INN’s mission of “serving hungry and homeless Long Islanders, with dignity, respect and love.” Yet many INN guests have said, “It is too late for me; I missed the boat… I didn’t finish high school, I never found a good job.” That is always so sad to hear. The Center for Transformative Change (CTC) is a dream come true for the guests and for The INN. We can now report that while they may have missed an earlier boat, next to the Mary Brennan INN is a building “with a brand new dock and many boats” waiting to take guests to a bright new future.

Thanks to an exceptional gift from the Cohen Family Foundation and the generous support of the Alley Family, The INN responded in January 2016 with the opening of “CTC.” Here are opportunities that offer identification, education, literacy, employment, housing, furniture and… hope. CTC exists thanks to the many supporters, like you, who believe The INN needs to be there to offer food and shelter. And now because of the nourishment, respect and encouragement so many have received, they have gained the strength and courage needed to move ahead.

At CTC, The INN can provide freedom from the fear of things never being able to change for the better. We witness the joy and excitement of guests taking a computer class for the first time, getting their first email address or even a guest yelling out on the street to a volunteer that he got the job interview for which he had been hoping. It can also be the big smile and shocked look of thanks from a guest who for the very first time has his own, fully furnished, studio apartment!

Sometimes it takes so little to change a person’s life.

The amazing volunteers and staff, who work to coordinate the many details needed to piece someone’s life together, have inspired the guests. Likewise, the volunteers and staff have been inspired by the determination of the guests in finding their paths to a new world of possibilities.

It is a privilege to be of service and make a meaningful difference in someone’s life.

You have made all this possible and on the guests’ behalf, we truly thank you from the bottom of our very grateful and collective hearts. May you be forever blessed. And may your own future be rewarded for believing in those who are seeking a chance to live a better life.

With love and never-ending gratitude,
Jean

Jean Kelly, Executive Director

For thousands of children, hunger doesn’t take a summer vacation. For all those who rely on free or reduced cost lunches, the end of the school year begins several months of “food anxiety.” Every day their families face the question: “Will there be enough to eat?”

Many people donate food to The INN around holiday times, including Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. But for many of our less fortunate neighbors, hunger is a problem year-round. During the summer months, when school is out, The INN soup kitchens see many more families with children in need of a nutritious meal.

If you have non-perishable food in your pantry that you can spare, a food donation is most welcome. Some of the items needed include canned soups, vegetables, juice and fruits; dry pasta, rice and cereals; as well as baby food, tea, and coffee.

You also can make a difference by donating financially to The INN. Visit us at http://the-inn.org/how-to-help/donatefunds. Your support helps our 14 soup kitchens, three emergency shelters and long-term housing program. “Let no one go hungry, while there is food on our table.”

NO SUMMER VACATION
SPECIAL PARTNERS
How an “Empty Bowl” Can Help Feed the Hungry

The “empty bowl” program is a grassroots movement, now in its 25th year, that strives to end hunger in the USA. Adelphi University joined this effort in 2010, as faculty, staff and students created handcrafted ceramic bowls in an effort to help The INN feed hungry families right here on Long Island.

The University’s goal is to raise student awareness that hunger is a problem existing in our community for children, seniors and individuals, despite the appearance of wealth and abundance.

The “empty bowls” project demonstrates the impact that the Adelphi community can make when it pulls together to support an important cause. This year, more than 300 bowls were sold to help fight hunger on Long Island. Sixty of these bowls were created by three and four year-olds at the Alice Brown Early Learning Center on campus.

This year the bowls were sold at the Adelphi Interfaith Center’s “Festival of Bread” in February. This festival provides a free light meal with the opportunity to discuss important social matters, including hunger, affecting the community.

“What I love about the empty bowls project is seeing how it brings together a diverse group of people who all share the same passion for clay and dedication to create these unique bowls in order to raise awareness and fight hunger on Long Island,” states Barbara Selva, organizer of the event for Adelphi.

This year over $2,300 was raised to support The INN’s mission. Ms. Selva, who has been involved with this project from the beginning adds, “This was our best year by far, and we hope to continue raising more money each year.”

To discuss special project ideas, please contact Dana Lopez at dlopez@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 138.

The Donald Axinn INN continued from pg 1

“All of our guests have the common goal of finding employment and financially supporting themselves so they can live independently,” says Ms. Mbaya.

Donald Axinn INN staff provide counseling, vocational training, resume writing and substance abuse counseling and rehabilitation for those requiring it.

“There’s a brotherhood and bond that forms organically with a group of guests living together. They support one another, lifting each other up under very challenging circumstances. It’s very inspiring,” says Ms. Mbaya.

One guest who had IT experience was actually given a job lead by another guest who had contacts in the medical field. Part-time work led to full-time and now, with a steady income, that guest has moved out and is living on his own.

The devastation of Hurricane Sandy brought another guest. He was retired, and used up his savings trying to repair his home. Having no family or friends with whom he could live, he came to the shelter and is on his way to finding an independent living solution.

Another guest, who was having difficulties with his immigration status, was given the vocational training that enabled him to find employment. He is now setting his goals on living independently.

These are just some illustrations of how comprehensive support, services and the motivation of a dedicated staff can help guests become stabilized emotionally and financially, and reach their goals. Says Ms. Mbaya, “It’s really quite remarkable to see these men turn their lives around!”

For special donations to The INN’s shelters, please contact Judith Dean, Director of Shelter Programs, at (516) 486-8506, ext. 148 or jdean@the-inn.org
The INN’s volunteers are a fundamental part of our success. Thanks to their dedication, passion and commitment to our mission, we are able to serve thousands of needy Long Islanders. Without volunteers, our mission could not be fulfilled in its entirety.

We’re searching for volunteers who are looking to become a part of The INNcrowd in the following areas:

**Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen, Hempstead:**
- Monday-Friday: 8:30am-2:00pm (assisting in the day-to-day operations) – Must be 16 or older
- Monday-Friday: 2:00pm-5:00pm (sorting, stocking shelves, cleaning, etc.) – Must be 10 or older
- Monday-Friday: administrative assistance (filing, answering phones) 8:30am-2:00pm or 2:00pm-5:00pm

**Center for Transformative Change, Hempstead:**
- Resource Center (meet one-on-one to assess and assist with guest needs). Current hours

**Additional opportunities:**
- The INN’s Speakers’ Bureau
- Writers for The INN’s Newsletter
- Administrative

**Bi-lingual (Spanish) volunteers are especially needed**

Please contact Deokie Santo at dsanto@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 114 to discuss volunteer opportunities. You may also visit our website at www.the-inn.org/volunteer/.

**VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT**

The Padala family of Garden City wanted their young sons, Aiden and Ryan, to help those in need and earn community service credit. In 2013, the boys started collecting bed linens, towels and toiletries.

From a collection of 50 blankets, sheets and towels three years ago, in 2016 the family was able to connect with friends and relatives who donated over 565 bedding items, 100 of which were brand new.

Mom Margo said, “The boys coordinated all the solicitations and negotiations, handled every pickup, and spent an enormous amount of time sorting, labeling, and packing the items for the shelters. They really embraced the idea that clean linens for shelters make such an impact for those who are calling a temporary place ‘home’.”

Younger brother Ryan feels it is, “Unfair when people have less than us or have nothing. They should have a chance because they deserve it just as much as we do.”

To make a donation of goods, please contact the donations department at kfournillier@the-inn.org.

**Student Corner continued from pg 1**

A “Linen Lift” for INN Shelter Guests

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The formula above doesn’t seem to make any sense, but it works five days a week, throughout the year at the Mary Brennan INN.

On one particular day, there were three (3) full-time staff members who provided guidance to 24 volunteers who cooked and served hot nutritious meals to 326 guests.

The first individuals to arrive are four volunteer chefs who start the process of producing lunch. They check to see what food has been donated the previous day, so they can create the menu of the day. Today may be chicken and turkey stew over egg noodles with green beans.

The next group of volunteers to arrive makes the soup and salad and then butters over 300 pieces of bread. Each day our objective is to serve a healthy, balanced meal to The INN’s guests – families and individuals alike – as this may be their only meal of the day.

The doors open at 9:30 am to the first group of guests. Many of these individuals come in to take a needed shower. A towel and toiletries are provided, but many ask for socks and underwear so they don’t have to change back to the dirty clothes in which they arrived. All of these items are donated.

At 11:30 am, the meal is ready and the process of providing nourishment for our guests begins. At 2:00 pm, meal service is over.

Imagine this! Each day the Mary Brennan INN functions with only three paid staff members and 15 to 30 dedicated volunteers. The Mary Brennan INN is a beacon of hope where any individual can come in for a meal or shower with “no questions” asked.

**DOUBLE THE INN-PACT**

From its beginning, everything about The INN has been a team effort of like-minded people who want to make a tangible impact on the lives of others.

The INN is fortunate to have friends who share this passion… doing what needs to be done for all the right reasons.

On January 14, 2016, The INN did just that. An initiative called The Center for Transformative Change (CTC) was opened. Located in a newly renovated building at 108 Madison Avenue in Hempstead adjacent to the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen, the CTC offers INN guests a genuine opportunity for change. Here, volunteers supervised by INN staff provide guests with referrals and access to resources to help them succeed: employment preparedness, housing options, computer skills, access to professional attire for interviews, all in keeping with the core principles of The INN. The response from the guests has been profound. We expect wonderful outcomes as the program continues to gain momentum.

After learning about the new endeavor, some generous friends of The INN have stepped forward with a remarkable offer: a $100,000.00 matching gift pledge.

Your support during this campaign can have double the impact, double the influence as it doubles your investment as someone who is an instrument of change in the lives of the guests at The INN.

Whatever you can do, at whatever level, is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Please contact: Dorian Stern, director of development, about how to get-INNvolved. (516) 486-8506, ext. 106 or dstern@the-inn.org
UPCOMING EVENTS

INN Golf Classic
Thursday, September 15, 2016
At the Mill River Country Club. We will honor Thomas Pohmer, Chief Financial Officer of P.C. Richard & Son.

Ben’s Olde Time NY Deli Celebration
Monday, September 26, 2016
At Ben’s Deli, Greenvale.

INN Luncheon
Friday, October 21, 2016
At the Garden City Hotel. We will honor Rich Caputi of CRESA Long Island.

A Day of Thanks and Giving
Sunday, November 6, 2016
At the Mary Brennan INN.

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

NEWS AROUND THE NETWORK

Soup Kitchens Help another INN
As the Freeport INN settles into its new location at the Christ Lutheran Church in Freeport, volunteers from the Long Beach Food and Friendship INN, the Sayville Having Friends INN and Shepherd’s INN offered to help their fellow soup kitchen in a time of need. Long Beach’s monetary donation purchased a much-needed new convection oven and 100 chairs to serve guests, while Having Friends INN’s donation helped offset Freeport INN’s expenses incurred by the move and renovation. Allan Brown, husband of Laura Brown, President of Shepherd’s INN in Ronkonkoma, has also been instrumental in securing substantial funds to help defray a major part of Freeport INN’s renovation costs.

Welcome INN (Port Jefferson)
Port Jefferson’s Welcome INN Soup Kitchen that serves up to 100 guests, five days a week is seeking volunteers: experienced cooks, a coordinator and volunteers to help pick up donated foods from local supermarkets a few times a month. To inquire about these opportunities, please email: volunteerwelcomeinn@gmail.com.

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
- Fresh produce
- 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.

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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