



...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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www.the-inn.org

WINTER 2014

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Donald Axinn INN – Single Men’s Shelter

Guests of The INN

Back from the 80s

Meetings between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan; the famous challenge from Reagan to Gorbachev “Tear down this wall,” and the Berlin Wall did come down. The Internet was in its infancy when in 1985; the first .com emerged, along with the first Apple Macintosh and cell phone (about the size of a briefcase). Gas was \$1.09 a gallon.

(continued pg 3)

Student Corner by Jeremy Coppola, INN Youth Board VP

SOUTH WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL

South Woods helped support The INN by encouraging its student body to participate in an annual walk-a-thon on Halloween, dressed in costumes, of course! Students were sponsored by friends and relatives and all proceeds were provided to The INN. Nearly 800 students walked around the track enough times to raise a staggering \$4,353.50.

(continued pg 4)



South Woods Walk-a-Thon

NEWS AROUND THE NETWORK

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

The North Shore INN (Glen Cove)

Members of Glen Cove High School’s Key Club recently hosted the Second Annual Holiday Feast to benefit the North Shore INN. Representatives of Cablevision’s Power to Learn education initiative attended and presented the GCHS Key Club and Glen Cove school officials with a check for \$500 and the North Shore INN with an additional



Check presentation by Cablevision

\$1,000 on behalf of the Glen Cove club’s efforts.

Multiple clubs and student groups at GCHS participated in the feast through donations of

(continued pg 4)

Save THE Dates:

- April 26th – WalkINN to Fight Hunger
 - May 8th – INNKeepers’ Ball
- Call (516) 486-8506 ext. 108

TO SPONSOR A MEAL, PLEASE CALL (516) 486-8506 EXT. 115



Jean Kelly,
Executive Director

REFLECTIONS

As the year starts, we humbly reflect on the generosity of all the volunteers, donors, staff and community members who have given us support over the past thirty years. You have literally helped us rescue millions of people from their dire circumstances.

We are in the midst of an erratic winter season with wildly fluctuating temperatures. We feel for the many guests who live in poorly heated housing and still for others who tragically continue to struggle to survive outside. Fortunately we are blessed each day with the resources to provide a hot, nutritious meal to anyone in need. We also have the opportunity to house many families and individuals who are currently homeless, while also engaging and hopefully coaxing those sleeping outside to accept housing and all it entails... structure, safety and support.

We begin another year with renewed energy, hope and never-ending optimism. We hope this year we can find the needed resources to continue using the model created here: treat everyone with dignity and respect and provide all of the basics of food, clothing, shelter and support within an atmosphere of non-judgment and love.

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're still new to The INN, we'd love to welcome your support this year. Please consider coming to our Open House on March 8th (see page 4) or if you can donate warm clothing such as coats, gloves, hats and scarfs, please bring them to the Mary Brennan INN, at 100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead – Mon.-Fri., 9-11am or 2-4pm. Thanks so very much.

With love and gratitude, Jean

SENIOR CITIZENS AND GIRL SCOUTING:

A Winning Combination for The INN

You might think that Girl Scouts leave scouting behind them as they reach adulthood. Well, you're wrong. Bristol Troop 400 is comprised of women, ages 70 to 89, who reside at Bristol Assisted Living in Massapequa. Their troop was formed as a result of the 2012 Gold Award project of Natalie D'Amico, a Massapequa resident who saw the need to reduce the isolation and limited socialization of women who could have been her grandmothers and great-grandmothers.

According to Beth Seickel, Gold Award Mentor for the Girl Scouts in Massapequa, "There was a deep need and want among the residents of the Bristol to give back to the community. These are women who were professionals, volunteers and active mothers in their younger years."

The group meets weekly, doing crafts or other service projects; they are registered by Girl Scouts of Nassau County as adult members of Girl Scouts.

Among the projects undertaken by these enthusiastic and community-minded women are:

- Assembling hundreds of peanut butter and jelly

sandwiches which were donated to The INN for lunchtime meals.

- Wash-up kits, assembled for guests of The INN and labeled, "Made by Bristol Troop 400 with love." These kits contain travel-sized toiletries for guests who shower at the Mary Brennan INN.
- A sock collection to provide wintertime warmth for men and women.
- A baby-blanket making project to provide comfort for the youngest guests of The INN.
- A coat collection, now that the weather has turned cold.

Natalie's project, "Reconnect Seniors to the Community" has, indeed, accomplished its goal of showing that these women still make a difference in the world. And for that, the guests of The INN are most grateful.

Want to volunteer? Please contact Deokie Santo at (516) 486-8506, x114 or dsanto@the-inn.org.



Bristol Troop 400 with Cynthia Sucich,
INN's Director of Communications

SPECIAL PARTNERS

EGC GROUP

The INN was the recent beneficiary of the expert work of EGC Group, a Melville-based full-service integrated marketing and digital agency. The INN was one of four non-profits selected by EGC in 2013 to receive *pro bono* direction, strategy, and ad copy and possible space in two major newspapers. Clearly, this type of assistance is critical for The INN to cultivate broader local awareness and financial support, so very necessary to achieving our objectives.

In August 2013, EGC initiated a 24 hour "CreateAthon" to develop nonprofit advertising campaigns for the four groups selected. We were engaged to review the work and were delighted with the results. "With little more than a briefing about our organization, its mission and objectives, EGC staff grasped the life changing work we do and translated it into a compelling visual story," said Jean Kelly, The INN's Executive Director. She added, "They are among the best at what they do; we are truly grateful for EGC's compassion and commitment to us and the other not-for-profits that were fortunate enough



Members of the EGC Group with Cynthia Sucich, Director of Communications

to receive CreateAthon services."

The President of EGC, Ernie Canadeo, said, "We always enjoy participating in CreateAthon as we deliver hundreds of thousands of dollars of media exposure and outstanding creative work for nonprofit organizations, at no cost to them."

Let us know what you think about the new look of our newsletter from the EGC CreateAthon. Send an email to info@the-inn.org; we would love to hear from you.

Guests of The INN continued from pg 1

Those were the last experiences with the outside world that a guest in his late 50s brought to the Donald Axinn INN (DAI) shelter for single men last year.

DAI can house 18 men at one time in an 85 year old building which is in the process of much needed renovations and improvements. Construction begins at 8 am when all guests must leave and concludes by 3 pm when they return home for the evening. The third floor is being remodeled as a resource center with tools needed for guests to seek employment and housing.

Those tools and more were necessary for this guest to catch up to 2013. He had been incarcerated for 25 years. The last phone he operated was rotary; he hadn't used a computer. Essentially, the world had passed him by. Additionally, formerly incarcerated individuals have difficulty finding employment and getting back into society. It seems the "odds are stacked against them" and in this guest's circumstances, doubly stacked. The staff at The INN embraced him without judgment, with dignity and respect, and with the understanding that guests are met equally, "where they are."

An open, friendly and likeable person, this guest had a strong desire to learn and improve his situation, eager to embrace the opportunities The INN could offer. It was a team effort, with The INN social workers and staff to help; they never gave up on his journey of growth. With commitment, time and patience, he learned computer skills to create an email account, construct a resume for responding to jobs online and how to operate and understand a cell phone. In addition, with guidance from The INN staff, he obtained his GED.

With all this hard work and commitment, he got two jobs, one at a hardware store and one at a deli. This enabled him to get back on his feet and begin his transition into society. During his four month stay at DAI, he reconnected with his daughter after 25 years. They have begun rebuilding their relationship and he has moved into independent housing very near her to continue his journey into the 21st century.

If you would like to support one of The INN's emergency shelters, please contact Dawn Shedrick, Director of Housing, at (516) 486-8506, ext. 148 or dshedrick@the-inn.org.

Student Corner continued from pg 1

Before this event took place, representatives from The INN visited the sixth grade class to discuss the issue of poverty on Long Island. The students' great participation in the walk-a-thon shows they heard us loud and clear and that they care. South Woods has a committee, South Woods Cares, dedicated to providing service opportunities for its students. The walk-a-thon was one way students participated, at the direction of the South Woods Cares committee, in understanding and helping their community.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS BAND TOGETHER

Students from Mineola High School, Holy Cross High School, Abraham Lincoln High School and Carle Place High School collected food items, such as prepared chicken, vegetables, tomato sauce and chicken stock, among others, and used these items to prepare hearty soups for the guests of The INN, just in time for the cold weather!

BOWLINN TO RAISE FUNDS

One of The INN's student fundraisers of the year, the BowlINN, was an astounding success. The INN's Youth Board sponsored the evening and brought family and friends to the event, held at the AMF Sheridan Lanes

in Mineola, for a night of fun. With the generous donations of a handful of sponsors and local businesses, The INN was able to

secure several lanes and dozens of prizes for raffles. With over 50 attendees buying tickets to bowl for the evening and/or raffle tickets, the Youth Board raised over \$1,000 and everyone had a good time.

The INN's Youth Advisory Board is comprised of high school students committed to better understanding and addressing the needs of those in our community who are hungry and homeless. Through outreach and education in our schools and neighborhoods, they share what's going on in our backyards and take steps to help. The BowlINN is just one of these ways.

Want your school to help make a difference? Are you a high school student in 9th-12th grade who wants to GetINNvolved? Contact Dana Lopez at (516) 486-8506, ext. 138 or dlopez@the-inn.org.



Some of the students at the Youth Advisory Board BowlINN event



Learn how **YOU** can make a difference in your community & **Get INNvolved**



The INN addresses the issues of hunger & homelessness on Long Island by providing food, shelter, long-term housing, & supportive services in a dignified & respectful manner for those who seek our help.

You're **INN**vited to an Open House at Long Island's Largest Soup Kitchen

When:
Sunday, March 8, 2014
11 AM – 3 PM
(Tours will be given every half hour)

Where:
Mary Brennan INN
100 Madison Ave.
Hempstead, NY 11550

* Refreshments will be served

Questions:
Cynthia Sucich
(516) 486-8506 ext. 115

www.the-inn.org

ALL
ages are
welcome!

DOOR
PRIZES

FREE
prize
for the
50th, 100th,
150th, &
200th
attendee!

News Around the Network continued from pg 1

food, promotions and other means of support.

Mercy INN (Babylon)

On December 15, 2013, St. Joseph's Church in Babylon sponsored the Messiah Concert with all proceeds going to the Mercy INN. This event featured the world renowned St. Joseph's Choir, and the Sophisticated Strings ensemble. It was well attended and raised over \$8,000.

Thee Gather INN (Lake Ronkonkoma)

As of December 20th, 2013, Thee Gather INN is no longer part of The INN's soup kitchen network. It is now being operated by the United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma. We wish them all the best in their continued efforts.

Summary of Operating Data for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

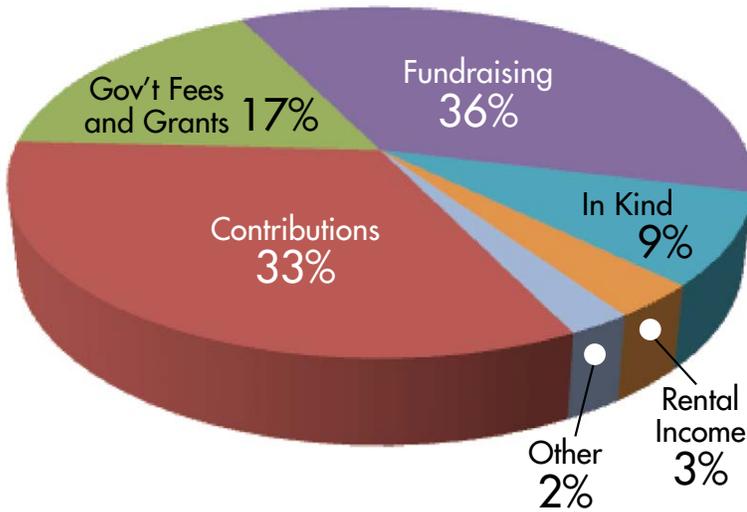
The following operating data is derived from The INN's Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2013, which were audited by Nawrocki Smith LLP.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

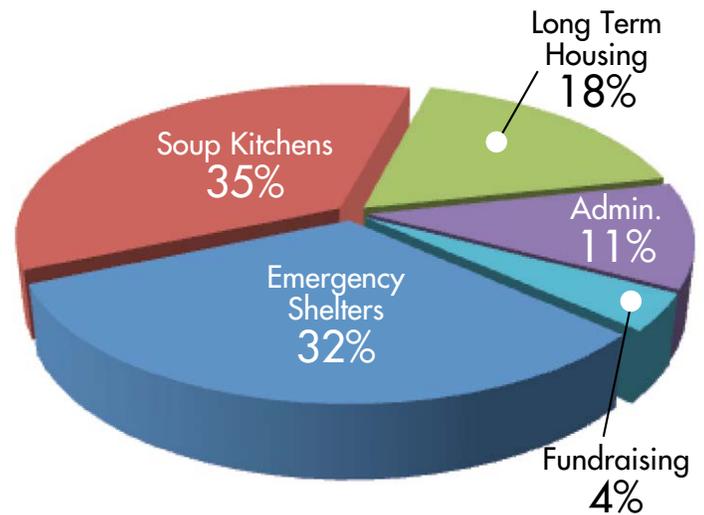
Contributions	\$2,301,869
Government Fees and Grants	1,177,418
Fundraising	2,514,908
In Kind Contributions**	588,920
Rental Income	223,041
Other Income	<u>161,015</u>
Total	\$6,967,171

EXPENDITURES:

Program Services:	
Emergency Shelters	\$2,218,323
Soup Kitchens	2,472,103
Long Term Housing	<u>1,221,247</u>
Total Program Services*	\$5,911,673
Support Services:	
Administration	\$776,855
Fundraising	<u>272,439</u>
Total Support Services	\$1,049,294
Total Operational Expenses	\$6,960,967
Reserve	<u>6,204</u>
Total	\$6,967,171



Revenue and Support



Operational Expenses

Notes:

- * 85% of The INN's expenses are directed toward program services.
- ** Represents fair value of donated food and supplies (as per accepted accounting principles, this does NOT include over 100,000 hours of time donated by volunteers)

GETTING INVOLVED: Adelphi University and Lackmann Culinary Services

Adelphi University in Garden City has had a long-standing relationship as a community partner of The INN. When Dean of Student Affairs, Jeffrey Kessler, had an idea in 2002 for students to donate funds they have left over on their meal cards, it appealed to them. Here's how it works:

At the end of the semester, students present a donation form to the food service cashiers and the dollars they wish to donate are deducted from their meal cards. Over the past 12 academic years, Adelphi University and its students have donated over \$55,000 to The INN. This year, the donation was \$5,000, to be used where it is most needed.

Because of the close relationship between Adelphi and The INN, students joined with administration officials to present the check. Dean Kessler states, "It is important for our students to become aware of what's going on and to understand the work of The INN." Adding that, "Earlier this year, we did this when we brought several fraternity members for a full tour and they expressed an interest in having their fraternity brothers become INNvolved."

Dean Kessler believes that being engaged in the community, helping guests



Dean Jeffrey A. Kessler, Students from Kappa Sigma Fraternity & Cynthia Sucich, INN Director of Communications

of The INN and developing habits of good citizenship are all ways that students can become involved in a concrete way, "learning what hunger is about on Long Island and to follow it up with action to serve the needs of The INN."

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
- Gently used coats, hats, scarves and gloves
- Volunteers to help plan the 2014 INNkeepers' Ball; please call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108

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 call (516) 486-8506, ext. 114. Thank you.



"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"

211 Fulton Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 486-8506 • www.the-inn.org

The INN has established a policy regarding all guests: to protect their privacy, no guest is to be photographed or interviewed while using the services at The INN.

SOUP KITCHENS

Bethany Hospitality INN – Central Islip
Bread and More INN – Riverhead
Mary Brennan INN – Hempstead
Freeport INN – Freeport
Having Friends INN – Sayville
Invited INN – Rocky Point
Long Beach Food and Friendship INN – Long Beach
Mercy INN – Wyandanch
North Fork Community Supper INN – Greenport
North Shore INN – Glen Cove
Patchogue Neighbor's INN
Shepherd's INN – Lake Ronkonkoma
Thee Island INN – Middle Island
Welcome INN – Port Jefferson

SHELTERS

Donald E. Axinn INN
Edna Moran INN
Rosa Parks INN

PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Alana Grace INN Administrative Center
Catherine Martin INN Veterans Housing Program
Catherine O'Neill INN
Clarice Silk INN
Crisis Housing Project
Delta Funding 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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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.