



...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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**Save
THE
Dates:**

• September 10th – INN Golf Classic

• October 24th – INN Luncheon

Call (516) 486-8506 ext. 108



Catherine Martin INN (CMI)

Guests of The INN

A Soldier's Story

According to VetFriends, the United States has military personnel deployed in about 150 countries. This covers 75% of the world's nations. No military in the history of the world has been more widely deployed as that of the United States.

It's almost graduation time for a U.S. military

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Student Corner by Jeremy Coppola, INN Youth Board VP

CHARITY IN SCHOOLS

"Students for 60,000," a charitable club at Northport High School, given its name for the estimated number of homeless individuals in New York City at the time of the club's founding in 1987, recently asked students to sleep outside for a night to simulate a homeless person's experience. The event raised \$4,500, which

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Members of "Students for 60,000" present a check for \$4,500 to Cynthia Sucich, Director of Communications for The INN

Serving More Than a Meal

If you would visit one of the 14 soup kitchens on a typical day, you would see a welcoming, warm dining room where The INN's guests are offered nutritious, hot meals and in some cases, clothing and a shower. In addition to these vital services, The INN provides help in many other ways.

Under the able direction of LaQuetta Solomon, The INN's manager of

soup kitchen operations, a variety of social services are offered to guests. Each soup kitchen has a social worker who helps guests in meaningful ways, listening to the issues that guests face and working to find positive outcomes. The help guests receive provides an avenue to live independent, productive lives. Using an extensive network

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Jean Kelly,
Executive Director

“We’re getting close……”

Recently, we had an opportunity to be at the Mary Brennan INN on a Saturday morning. Since the kitchen is only open during the week, we rarely see any guests, but on that particular day, there were two guests sitting on the steps across the street. It

happened to be an unusually mild and sunny day. They were both stretched out in such a way that they looked like they were in lounge chairs on the beach, sitting and enjoying the sun.

Since we were opening the building, we went over to the men and asked if they would like something to eat or drink. They both turned their heads to think and then turned back to say, “No, thanks!” In thirty years, to our recollection, no one had ever refused an offer of food, under these circumstances. We went back into the kitchen and said to ourselves, “We lived to see this day.”

It meant that for these two gentlemen, they were satisfied. They had had enough, that day, that week,

to not need another meal or sandwich or drink. It felt like a major breakthrough.

One of these gentlemen had actually been homeless only eight months ago. He had stayed in our shelter and was now in a room of his own. The fact that he has made such progress in his life, was in such a better state and was one of the first-ever guests to be completely satisfied, was truly a blessing.

Ultimately, however, this reality, while a major surprise for us, is literally a major message to all of you. We’re getting close... to the day when we’re no longer needed. We just need you to know, the end may not be literally around the corner, but we remain hopeful that your support today will bring us closer and closer to that hoped-for reality.

We dream of the day when we’ll be able to say “No thanks” to you when you seek to offer your help. Meanwhile, thanks for dreaming with us... and until then, thanks for not giving up. You remain with us forever in spirit.

With love and never-ending gratitude, Jean

Bloomingtondale’s Helps Bag Hunger

March 2014 marked Bloomingtondale’s 17th annual Bag Hunger campaign. During the campaign, employees nationwide participated in an organized effort to address the issue of food insecurity in the communities where they live and work. Bag Hunger is held in the spring in order to support food banks and hunger relief organizations during the summer months when children are out of school and their need is the greatest. Participating employees became INNvolved by giving back in three ways: through volunteerism, donating non-perishables and fundraising/employee giving.

The Bloomingtondale’s Roosevelt Field location, with a team led by Diana Kelekian and Kristin Richards, achieved 209% of its campaign goal for this year. According to Cynthia Sucich, Director of Communications at The INN, “\$1,200 in employee monetary donations, with an equal match from Bloomingtondale’s, will benefit our guests. One clever fundraising initiative was an ‘employee garage sale’, held at the Bloomingtondale’s office at Roosevelt Field. In addition, The INN received several hundred pounds



Employee lounge display for Bag Hunger event encourages Bloomingtondale’s workers to Get INNvolved

of food, rounding out a generous and highly successful business community charitable endeavor.”

SPECIAL PARTNERS

Kids Helping Kids

The INN is especially grateful to its younger volunteers, children and students who are genuinely interested in making a difference in their communities. Kids Helping Kids by Kids Way Inc., (KHK) is a prime example of these amazing young ambassadors of The INN's message.

Through their most recent efforts, the organization donated new, branded winter clothing during their "Making a Warmth of Difference" winter apparel program. Executive Director Bob Eslick, together with Bob Ringel, winter apparel coordinator, worked with licensed apparel manufacturers to encourage them to contribute their new, branded outerwear and other winter-related apparel to distribute to those in need during the cold winter season. Over \$1.8 million worth of donated merchandise has been received by Kids Helping Kids and distributed to The INN and other non-profits to share with their guests and neighbors in need.



L-R Ivery Dean, INN Custodian, Claudio Zaratem, KHK, Cynthia Sucich, INN's Director of Communications, and Bob Eslick, Executive Director, Kids Helping Kids.

"The INN has been fortunate to receive these donations from Kids Helping Kids," said Cynthia Sucich, Director of Communications for The INN. "They have warmed the hearts and touched the lives of so many of the guests we serve. We are thankful for their continued support and the commitment of the youth in our community."

Guests of The INN continued from pg 1

veteran after five years as a guest of the Catherine Martin INN (CMI) program. CMI provides communal, transitional housing for homeless male veterans who have completed substance abuse rehabilitation programs and have maintained sobriety for at least twelve months.

This veteran returned home with substance abuse issues and struggled with recovery. But he has been successful in the program at CMI and has maintained his sobriety over the course of the five years he's been participating in the program. In fact, he has become a dedicated mentor in the substance abuse program and gives hands-on help to his fellow veterans.

The program at CMI focuses on education and skills for future independence. The veterans receive case management services from licensed social workers who assist tenants in achieving goals leading to self-sufficiency.

Rooms at CMI are offered at a reduced rental rate to give veterans an opportunity to focus on their goals. The INN

works closely with the Northport VA Medical Center, as well as other veteran agencies, in connecting the CMI veterans to necessary resources.

During their time at CMI, veterans work with their designated social workers to find ways to repair relationships that were damaged during their time of substance abuse. By being provided with a support system, the veterans develop coping skills to carry them through the future after finishing the program.

With the help and support of the social workers at New Ground (an agency who handles this programs' case management) this veteran was able to obtain his commercial driver's license, enabling him to land a high paying, full time job in New York City. This has helped him to repay what's owed in child support; his debt has been reduced by 50%. A veteran of both the armed forces and the Catherine Martin INN, he is working to repair relations and reunite with his family to buy a new home.

WALKING FOR THE INN

Christ Episcopal Church Holds Good Friday Walk for The INN

On Good Friday, April 18th, the Christ Episcopal Church in Garden City held its annual Good Friday Walk for The INN. Twenty people from the church, including families with young children, INN staff and four-legged friends, participated in the four mile walk through four surrounding towns in Nassau County on the chilly spring morning. The church, which supports The INN throughout the year through food donations and other collections, also asked parishioners to pledge money for the walk. Through their efforts, participants were able to raise over \$500, along with awareness of the issue of hunger on Long Island.

Fourth Annual WalkINN for Hunger

For the fourth consecutive year, more than 100 soup kitchen volunteers, students, community members and

INN staff came together to WalkINN for Hunger on Saturday, April 26th, at Farmingdale State College.



Members of the Harvard Club WalkINN to fight hunger

The two mile walk around the college campus was a great success, raising over \$10,000 for The INN's programs. Jean Kelly, Executive Director of The INN said, "While we walk to raise awareness, it's important to remember those who have no choice but to walk everywhere: school, work and appointments, because of lack of transportation, insufficient funds or simply limited physical ability. We are eternally grateful to all the wonderful participants who understand the plight of those we serve and uphold the mission and goals of The INN."

More Than a Meal continued from pg 1

available for various problems, The INN's social workers can lead guests to the resources they need, including a variety of referrals and assistance for financial and employment guidance, proper medical services and chemical dependency issues. Many guests are seen by the social workers over a period of time.

The INN is not merely a place to eat a meal; it is also a place where a hand is given to those who want to become self-sufficient. Success doesn't happen overnight and the challenges faced by guests are complex. This is where the talent and training of the social workers truly come into play. They must not only offer a sympathetic

ear; they must also use their training to give professional advice to those who need help.

One of the volunteers at The INN tells the story of her encounter with a guest whom she had not seen for some time. The volunteer was at the Social Security office waiting to be helped and as she went to one of the windows, she saw a lovely young woman behind the desk. "Mary, is that you?" said the woman. "Do you remember me? I always remember how kind you were when I ate at the soup kitchen." Certainly, this guest had gotten her life in order and now was so proud of how far she had come. Such stories are what we all want to hear.

NEWS AROUND THE NETWORK

Patchogue Neighbors INN (Patchogue)

On February 8, 2014, Patchogue Neighbors INN, in conjunction with Mickey's Entertainment, held a benefit concert which raised over \$2,300 to help support their four soup kitchen locations.

Thee Island INN (Middle Island)

A mixed-media benefit art show was held at Thee Island INN Soup Kitchen on April 5th, curated by Katherine DiFabio. All pieces were donated by various artists with 100% of the proceeds going to Thee Island INN. The event was a tremendous success and raised over \$500.



L-R Barbara Royce, President, Thee Island INN, Katie DiFabio, Show Curator at their fundraising art show event.

INN GOOD COMPANY

The INN Takes the Challenge

Earlier this year, The INN was honored to be a recipient of the Super Service Challenge Grand Prize — \$25,000 and a Super Bowl VIP Package, including two tickets to Super Bowl XLVIII. The grand prize was awarded to four nonprofit organizations based on their video submissions featuring corporate volunteers. The INN's video highlighted volunteers from Astoria Federal Savings Bank and was selected from among 2,200 teams in 42 states that entered the Super Service Challenge.

In partnership with The Brees Dream Foundation, the Super Service Challenge awarded \$1 million to nonprofits across the country. The INN was truly pleased to feature the Astoria Federal volunteers in its video submission.

"It's not every day that we are able to recognize the amazing efforts of volunteers in this way," remarked Jean Kelly, Executive Director of The INN. The Super Bowl tickets and VIP package were raffled off to two INN employees, Dawn Shedrick, Director of Housing, and Robin Hoyle, Evening Support Worker at the Edna Moran INN family shelter.

Dawn said, "As a football fan and social worker, I'm both elated to be going to the Super Bowl and humbled to be part of such an esteemed organization as The



Dawn Shedrick, Director of Housing for The INN, shows off the autographed jersey she won at the Super Bowl pre-game boat party.

INN. I'm grateful for the \$25,000 award so we can continue to offer critical support and services to our homeless and hungry neighbors on Long Island."

The featured volunteers, all employees of Astoria Federal Savings, were also gratified to be recognized. "Our volunteer team members have had a most rewarding experience servicing their community and the guests of The INN.

As a locally headquartered bank, we are focused on the needs of our community and are happy to participate in serving the many local charities in our area," stated Brian Edwards, Executive Vice President, Managing Director Retail Banking Group, Astoria Federal Savings.

Winning video can be viewed on The INN's YouTube page – [YouTube.com/GetINNvolved](https://www.youtube.com/GetINNvolved)

Student Corner continued from pg 1

was donated to The INN.

The Camp Avenue School in North Merrick has been busy supporting The INN. During this harsh, long winter, the Camp Avenue PTA and Camp Avenue Student Council held a winter coat drive and collected 200 coats for guests to keep warm. They partnered with a local business, Jet-Dry Cleaners, which dry cleaned all the coats at no cost before donating them to the Mary Brennan INN. Third grade teachers Lisa Greve, Melissa Chan and Tracy Sforza also brought together their students to participate in World Cereal Day, collecting over 60 boxes of cereal to donate to The INN.



Camp Avenue School Student Council members and Jet-Dry Cleaners owner, Giovanni Crispo, are awarded certificates from The INN's Communications Manager, Dana Lopez, for their winter coat drive.

Youth Advisory Board

This year, The INN's Youth Advisory Board held its first Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser. Students sold tickets in their schools and communities and served up a breakfast of pancakes, eggs and sausage at the Westbury Applebee's location. The event raised over



Youth Board volunteers at the Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser

\$2,000 for The INN.

In the 2013-2014 school year, the Youth Advisory Board raised over \$4,000 through events and fundraisers.

If you are a high school student in 9th to 12th grade and are interested in joining The INN's Youth Board for the 2014-2015 school year, please contact Dana Lopez at (516) 486-8506 ext. 138 or dlopez@the-inn.org

You Make All the Difference

Volunteers are the "heart beat" of The INN and without you, we would fall to pieces. In acknowledgement of Volunteer Appreciation month, held every April, and on behalf of the guests, staff and board members of The INN, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving so freely of your time and for supporting our cause of serving those who are in need.

Volunteering is a work of heart



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 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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