



# THE NEWS

"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"

Vol. XXIII, No. 7

www.the-inn.org

Winter 2012

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## Soup Kitchen Poets

A number of years ago this Newsletter sponsored a poetry contest. The winning poem, describing the life and times of one of The INN's guests, was titled "James".

From time to time since then, INN guests and volunteers have been inspired to write a poem, and recently we received two we thought you would enjoy.

The first poet "Amanda" is a former guest at The INN. A mother of three, she was a victim of domestic violence and was forced to leave her home. Like many of The INN's guests, she had no family members living nearby nor support from friends – either emotional or financial.

Amanda came to the Edna Moran INN emergency shelter, where it was determined the best way to help her was to encourage her to reach out to her only

known family member – a sister in Ohio, who graciously offered her and her children a place to stay. Thanks to The INN's donors, Amanda was given bus fare to Ohio for herself and her three children.

Fast-forward three years and Amanda returns to The INN to say "thank you", and tell us about her job in Ohio and the life she has reclaimed. She expresses it all in this heartfelt poem:

### *After the Pain*

*Faith and prayers make all things possible  
Surviving and healing makes life worth living  
The pain and the tears are just temporary  
Walking away from the past and never looking  
back is priceless  
Now we are free!*

*(continue on page 3)*

## 2012 INNkeepers' Ball

### You are invited to the Ball

The 26th Annual INNkeepers' Ball, a special evening that supports the charitable work of The INN, will take place on Thursday, May 10th at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale. All are cordially invited.

This year, The INN is pleased to honor former Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and his wife, Helene for their support and encouragement of The INN's efforts to feed, shelter and clothe thousands of Long Islanders in need.

For ticket information or to participate in the INNkeepers' Journal, please contact Nora White at (516) 486-8506 ext 108.



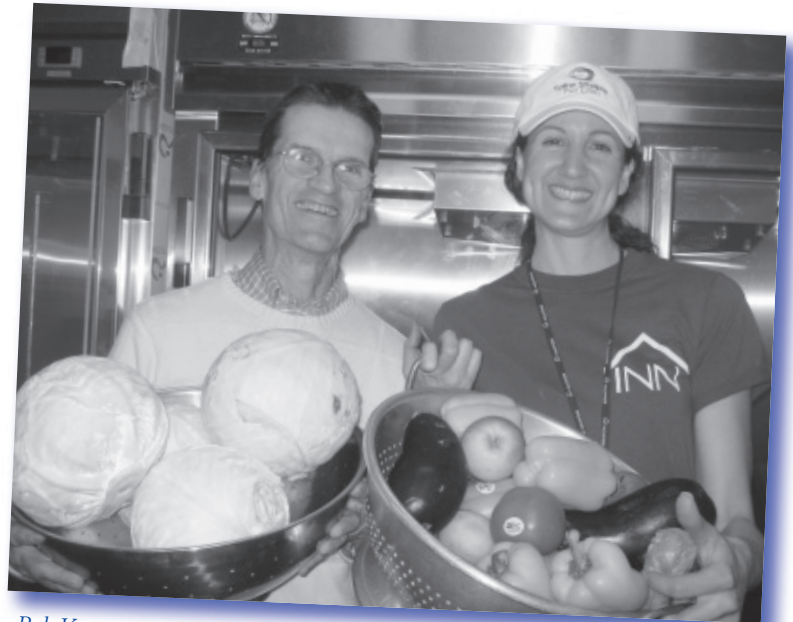
Front: 2012 Honorees Tom and Helene Suozzi, rear: INN Executive Director Jean Kelly and Rob Kammerer.

# The Food Pantry Expands

The core of The INN's philosophy is to treat each guest with dignity and respect. Often guests at the Mary Brennan INN need more sustenance than the hot meals they are served in the soup kitchen, so the staff provides a bag of donated groceries that have been prepacked by volunteers. Unfortunately, because of space constraints, guests can't select their groceries themselves the way most readers of this newsletter would when shopping in a supermarket.

To add more choice and dignity to our food distribution process, The INN applied for — and was awarded — a \$100,000 grant from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. Thank you Unitarians. The grant was used to construct a small "food market" (no cash register!) at the Mary Brennan INN, and to put up shelves and install a commercial grade refrigerator and freezer. The INN is especially pleased with the refrigeration units, because this will offer the guests greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables. (**Note to gardeners:** When you plant your vegetable gardens this spring, please add an extra row or two and donate that fresh produce to The INN.)

Walmart also had helped this new program along by donating \$50,000 for ongoing needs, particularly for purchasing food.



*Rob Kammerer and Tracy Giambertone at The INN's new food pantry.*

Of course, with the growing number of homeless and hungry Long Islanders, your continued donations of canned vegetables, fruits, pasta, soups, tuna and other nonperishable items are most appreciated.

## Our Wish List

### Currently The INN is in need of the following:

- Canned meats (tuna, turkey, chicken, ham), canned soup, pasta sauce (no glass please), canned stews, canned vegetables and canned fruits
- Hygiene products – soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. (travel sizes preferred)
- Disposable diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, lotion and powder
- New underwear and socks
- Gently used towels, washcloths, blankets and bed linens
- Gently used winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves
- **(new item)** Auction items for the INNkeepers' Ball – theatre tickets, sports tickets, restaurant gift certificates, etc. (call Nora White at (516) 486-8506 ext 108)
- **(new item)** Are you an expert with e.bay? (call Nora White at (516) 486-8506 ext 108)
- **(new item)** Are you a good writer? Do you have time to volunteer one day a week? (call Nora White at (516) 486-8506 ext 108)

Please bring your donations to the Mary Brennan INN at 100 Madison Avenue in the village of Hempstead, M-F from 9 – 11 am or 2 – 4 pm. For directions, call (516) 486-8506 ext. 114. Thank you.

# More Solutions for Guests Island-Wide

Anyone who wants a free meal at one of The INN's soup kitchens only has to walk into the dining room and find a seat at the table — no questions asked. But not asking questions doesn't mean The INN's staff and volunteers aren't good listeners. After all, it was paying attention to people's needs and listening to their concerns that spurred The INN's founders to open the first shelter in 1984. It also led them to place a trained staff at The INN's largest soup kitchen, the Mary Brennan INN in Hempstead, where hungry and homeless guests receive help with anything they need — from emergency housing and crisis intervention to medical emergencies and employment counseling. Until now, however, The INN has not had the resources to hire similar staff for the remaining 15 soup kitchens in 21 locations.

All that is changing, thanks to the exceptional generosity of the Island Outreach Foundation's recent

\$620,000 commitment. The Foundation is funding a three-year pilot program that includes employing three full-time social workers who will initially be able to offer guests of The INN at four additional locations an array of care and services they so desperately need. This program, known as The INN's Guest Services and Employment Readiness Program, will focus on homelessness prevention, short- and long-term housing options, employment training, and tenant-landlord relations. It also will emphasize volunteer coordination, community education and the further development of The INN's partnerships with local employers and service organizations.

The most rewarding service The INN can provide is helping the guests achieve a stable and self-sufficient future. This extraordinary new program will help us make this possible.



*(continued from page 1, Soup Kitchen Poets)*

Amanda isn't the only poet in our midst. Two young volunteers at The INN recently commented "We have never been in a building where there are so many happy people." That may sound unusual for a soup kitchen, but it a testament to the kindness of the staff and volunteers, and the positive disposition

of the guests. Len Weiss, a Wednesday volunteer at the Mary Brennan INN, put into verse what these two young girls witnessed in December. He calls his poem "Happy Wednesday".

## Happy Wednesday

Last year, about this time,  
I wrote a rather lengthy rhyme  
Mentioning most of us by name.  
But, this year will not be  
Quite the same.

This year, I'll not mention soup,  
But talk about us as a group.

The Wednesday team of volunteers  
Is really special, so we hear.  
And the reason for that, is quite clear:  
We harmonize. We cohere.

If one of us needs a helping hand,  
There's always someone right at hand  
To come pitch in  
To keep things going in the kitchen.

Among us, there is no ego,  
And none would say, "Oh!, No  
It's not my job,  
That's for you to do."

No one of us is so self serving,  
(Except for me, but I'm deserving).

We work TOGETHER with smiles and laughter,  
But never forgetting that what we're after  
Is the satisfaction of our guests  
For whom we always try our best.

We understand our common connection  
And work together with AFFECTION.  
We've drawn together and become friends  
In striving toward our common end.

In view of what I've just composed,  
I have a suggestion to propose,  
That at all of our future meetings  
The manager revise his greeting

From: "Happy Wednesday!"  
To: "Happy Friendsday!"

# Room at The INN

In September 1984, The INN started housing guests in need of emergency shelter at the Hospitality INN. Today, The INN offers emergency shelter at three locations: the Edna Moran INN and the Rosa Parks INN, both of which house families and children, and the Donald Axinn INN, an emergency shelter for single men. However the guests receive more than just a warm bed and hearty meals. They also receive personal attention, advocacy, referrals, housing assistance, crisis intervention, supportive services, and training in daily life skills from professional social workers and support staff at the shelters.

The Edna Moran INN and the Rosa Parks INN each have a community living room, kitchen and dining room and private bedrooms for each "guest family." The Donald Axinn INN provides similar community spaces and dormitory-style bedrooms. At each shelter, guests meet with the staff each week to assess their progress toward finding permanent housing.

In 2011, The INN noticed many more guests arriving with complicated personal circumstances. Because of the recession, a growing number of people have lost their jobs, and consequently have difficulty paying their rent or mortgage. The INN's shelter staff is there to help people in desperate circumstances. It is challenging but ultimately rewarding work. While each guest's history is unique, we invite you to read about one guest's stay at The INN.

Last year, "Sally," a single mother, moved into the Rosa Parks INN with her severely autistic son, "Thomas," age 3, who was not able to speak. Before they lost their home, Thomas had received behavior modification, speech therapy and other services through the Department of Health's early intervention program. But after becoming homeless, Sally was never told that services for Thomas should be provided by the local school district. Meanwhile, Thomas' condition was getting worse.

After moving into the Rosa Parks INN, Sally was referred to the local school district, and Thomas was placed on a waiting list for a BOCES day program. After a few weeks, he began receiving the attention he needed. His

behavior and mobility improved dramatically, and Thomas quickly began to express himself verbally. Now the team at Rosa Parks

INN could focus on helping Sally find a job and file for child support. Once she was back on her feet financially, she could think about finding a permanent home for her and her son. She also was referred to personal counseling and parenting workshops.

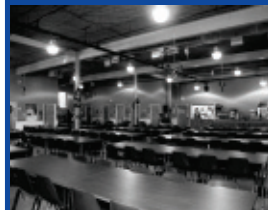
Within four months, the team at Rosa Parks INN was preparing a farewell party for Sally and Thomas, where she, like all guests who "graduate" to permanent housing, received a lovely basket of household and toiletry items to use in their new home.

The goal of the staff at The INN's emergency shelters is to treat the needs of those who arrive homeless as they would treat the needs of their own family. We hope the assistance and guidance we gave to 78 families and 191 individuals last year represents what each of you would do to help one of your family members.



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 the Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen

**When:**

**Saturday, March 10, 2012  
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:**

**Emily Wilensky  
(516) 486-8506 ext. 138**

**DOOR  
PRIZES**

**ALL  
ages are  
welcome!**

**FREE  
prize  
for the  
50<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>,  
150<sup>th</sup>, &  
200<sup>th</sup>  
attendeel**

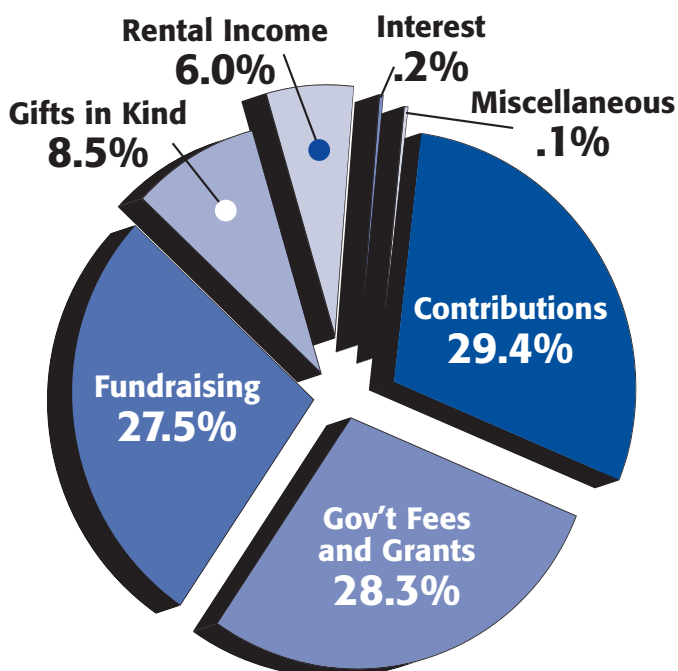
**www.the-inn.org**

# Summary of Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011

The following financial information is summarized from The INN's Auditor's Report as prepared by the accounting firm of Nawrocki Smith LLP. Contributions to The INN are tax deductible as allowed by law.

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Contributions	\$1,731,682	29.4%
Government Fees and Grants	\$1,665,518	28.3%
Fundraising	\$1,621,339	27.5%
Gifts in Kind	\$503,166	8.5%
Rental Income	\$353,385	6.0%
Interest	\$10,568	0.2%
Miscellaneous	<u>\$3,197</u>	0.1%
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,888,855</b>	
<b>Operating Reserve</b>	<b><u>\$328,550</u></b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,217,405</b>	



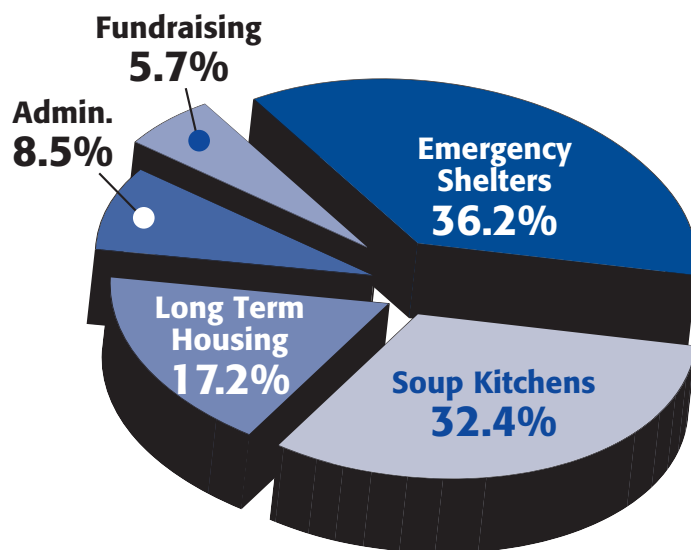
## EXPENSES:

### Program Services:

Emergency Shelters	\$2,253,581	36.2%
Soup Kitchens	\$2,013,958	32.4%
Long Term Housing	<u>\$1,069,858</u>	17.2%
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$5,337,397</b>	

### Support Services:

Administration	\$527,483	8.5%
Fundraising	<u>\$352,525</u>	5.7%
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$880,008</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,217,405</b>	



### Notes:

- Operating budget does not include depreciation
- 85.8% of The INN's expenses are directed toward Program Services
- An Annual Campaign with a goal of \$2,000,000 has been launched to cover both the increased expense associated with a growing number of guests and the expected cutbacks in Government Fees and Grants

# Holidays at The INN

**A**t The INN, the unofficial start of the holiday season is the November Reception at Martin Viette Nurseries. Executive Director Jean Kelly sums up the next six weeks as “full of excitement . . . and work! We thank all the volunteers and donors who helped ‘to make the season brighter’ for the guests”. We thank those who donated turkeys, cooked turkeys, donated toys or helped distribute them, sponsored a meal, organized a food drive or coat drive, washed dishes, helped us pay our bills, baked a pie, gave away a smile, decorated a tree, or permitted employees to volunteer on company time (Brooks Brothers, Garden City Hotel, Ridgewood Savings Bank, DavisVision and others).



*A family of volunteers helping during the holidays — (left to right) Tori Gullo, Nicole Gullo, Toriann Gullo and Stephanie Gullo.*

## Quick Facts

- The INN was founded at Hofstra University
- In the 1990's The INN had 3 shelters for people with AIDS
- Volunteers from Maria Regina parish cooked 125 turkeys for Thanksgiving
- Northfork Community Supper INN in Greenport is the easternmost soup kitchen
- The INN has served over 9 million meals
- Pat O'Connor and Mike Moran are The INN's co-founders
- Although The INN was founded in 1983, the first INNkeepers' Ball was not until 1987
- The first INN Golf Classic was held at the Hamlet in Commack
- A 99 year old guest regularly rode his bicycle to the soup kitchen
- 61% of Long Islanders report difficulty paying their rent or mortgage
- National Volunteer Week is April 15-21

### SOUP KITCHENS

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



*“Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders”*

211 Fulton Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550  
(516) 486-8506 • [www.the-inn.org](http://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.*