From Fear and Confusion to Safety and Care

N.K., a Vietnam veteran in his 70s who had been living on his own for years, suddenly became homeless. He had an apartment, a car, three meals a day, an income of Social Security and Veterans benefits until he started slipping. He had memory loss, fears and sudden returns to childhood. He would forget to buy food and not

(continued pg 3)

The Youth Advisory Board Bowls a Strike for The INN

Over 30 high school students supported the Youth Advisory Board’s second annual BowlINN event, a fundraiser organized by Long Island youth supporters of The INN. For a $20 donation, students enjoyed an evening of bowling with their peers, along with The INN’s Executive Director Jean Kelly and board member Rob Kammerer. The Youth Advisory Board raised over $1,000 and looks forward to their next event, an Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

(continued pg 3)
In my many years with The INN, I have realized that a guest can be anyone. At any given moment, there can be a shift in circumstances which will determine if we are the one serving the meal or the one being served. This past holiday season, I experienced how closely connected we all are to one another—sometimes we even share the same name.

It was Thanksgiving Day, and the meal service at MBI was underway. I couldn’t help but feel a unique spirit in the room. The guests, who often find the holiday season emotionally challenging, seemed particularly calm and peaceful.

It occurred to me that it might have been because this year, we tried a different approach with the way we distributed the abundance of holiday donations. We had circulated a request to the community, that in lieu of toys, we would be seeking essentials that the guests truly need to withstand the harsh winter months. We asked for gloves, scarves, MetroCards, coats and socks. We also asked for blankets and pajamas, underwear, towels and personal care items. We received all we requested, as well as more new toys. We started distributing everything earlier than usual, so that by the time the holidays arrived, most of the guests had already selected items, including many of the toys, clothing and specialty items they wanted to set aside for their children. There truly was a remarkable outpouring of love from the community. Everything seemed to balance out and fall perfectly into place.

When the meal was coming to a close, I was approached by one particular guest. He was in a desperate situation. His winter coat, gloves and hat were just taken from him that morning and he wanted to know if we could help him. After going through the many bags of newly donated items, I was fortunately able to find everything he needed. I asked a volunteer to put them all in a bag and give it to him when he was ready to leave. I was grateful to see the expression of appreciation and relief when he was handed the bag.

On his way out, he turned to me and said, “Oh, thank you so much. I don’t think I introduced myself, my name is Michael Moran.” I said, “Hi Michael, I’m Jean Kelly, I’m glad everything worked out for you today.”

The INN created a remarkable connection with two Michael Morans. One was a guest, the other was the Michael Moran who was the co-founder of The INN some 31 years ago.

To all the “Michael Morans” who come through the doors, whether you are givers or receivers, we thank you for the lessons we learn and share, every day.

Love, Jean

Jean Kelly, Executive Director

REFLECTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flapjack Fundraiser
Saturday, April 25th
Hosted by The INN’s Youth Advisory Board at Applebee’s, Westbury, from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. For tickets contact Dana Lopez at dlopez@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 138

2015 INNkeepers’ Ball
Thursday, May 7th
At the Long Island Marriott, Uniondale, NY. Honorary Chair, Tom Scaturro. Honorees: Arnold Gumowitz - President, AAG Management, Inc.; Maria Vullo - Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; and Seven of Us Award - Maria Regina RC Church. For event and sponsorship information contact Nora White at nwhite@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 108

FANS WIN $1,000 ON FACEBOOK FOR THE INN

“Multiply the Good,” a recent contest held by Ridgewood Savings Bank, asked fans to vote for their favorite charity on the bank’s Facebook page. The five charities with the most social media votes received $1,000 each towards their cause. The INN was one of the prize recipients, with over 70 individual votes from INN supporters. Thanks to everyone who voted and congratulations to the four other winning organizations; Tuff Tails Animal Rescue, Rockaway WISH, Friends of Karen and Pibbles and More Animal Rescue.
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.

**Freeport INN (Freeport)**
The Freeport INN is in need of a new home and is currently looking for a church to host them, allowing for the preparation and serving of meals, Monday through Friday, at noon. The Freeport INN must relocate by the end of May 2015. Please contact Michelle Singh, at msingh@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 143.

**Having Friends INN (Sayville)**
The Having Friends INN is currently looking for a church in the Sayville area that is willing to host them two out of the four nights they serve during the week (nights are flexible). Dinner is served Monday through Thursday at 5:30 PM. Please contact Michelle Singh, at msingh@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 143.

Many of our Network Soup Kitchens have open volunteer positions available on their steering committees. To check open positions, please contact msingh@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506, ext. 143.

A world of thanks goes out to The Knapp/Swezey Foundation, Inc. for generously supporting many of The INN’s Network Soup Kitchens. The Foundation’s contributions help to support the services provided to hungry and homeless Long Islanders.

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**Student Corner Continued From Pg 1**

**Lemons into Lemonade: Students Raising Funds**

Three students from Stratford School in Garden City started a small business venture that turned into a generous donation to The INN. Fourth graders Megan McQuaid and Isabelle Sirounian and fifth grader Audrey Lau handed over their earnings of $134.50 to be used for guests of The INN. They ran a number of lemonade stands in the spring and summer. It was nine-year-old Megan who suggested the money be given to The INN. The girls plan on organizing more charitable lemonade stands this year, in the Estates section of Garden City.

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**Guests of The INN continued from pg 1**

N.K. was guided through the process of crisis intervention, mental health evaluation and supportive services. Taylor Lamberta, the Program Coordinator at the Donald Axinn INN, navigated him through a maze of organizations. She reached out to a number of agencies and made her way through the Veteran’s Administration and to those who would be of help. Taylor turned fear and confusion into safety and care for this gentleman.

An admission to the Veterans hospital was made where further medical, psychiatric and cognitive services would be offered and eventually housing and caretaking would take place.

N. K. is now in a safe place where he will be cared for and not forgotten.
On a typical day, visitors to the Mary Brennan INN would notice two people who seem to be everywhere at once. Jean Victor and Toni Ebron are committed to helping The INN follow its mission. They are key to providing a welcoming and peaceful meal for the guests in an atmosphere where each person is treated with dignity and respect. This involves devoting staff, volunteers and donations in ways that provide the greatest benefit to guests.

Jean Victor heads everyday operations, including the ordering and preparing of food. Jean’s background serves him well; since the age of nine, he worked with his father in the family’s food business. He saw his father give food to those in need, no questions asked. Jean says when he visited the Mary Brennan INN he felt it had a homelike, spiritual quality that was different from any other soup kitchen he had seen. Each meal begins with a moment of silence and the guests are asked to stand if they would like. Most guests choose to begin their meal this way. While Jean is responsible for ordering the supplies that keep the Mary Brennan INN functioning and insuring that The INN is in compliance with government guidelines, he is also vital to creating a serene atmosphere for each individual who enters the building. Jean states, “Because of our donors’ generosity, we were able to provide canned goods to over 10,000 guests through our Guest Choice Pantry and provide over 80,000 hot meals to guests at the Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen this past year.”

Toni Ebron is in charge of volunteers and special projects. She provides orientation programs for new volunteers so each one understands The INN’s mission. Whether a guest needs a hot shower or guidance from a social worker, Toni is there to provide direction. Like Jean, Toni credits her mother and grandmother with giving her a strong desire to help others. She also was immediately impressed with The INN’s mission and the determination to achieve. Young children seem especially drawn to Toni. When she gives them a smile, they often give her a big grin in return. She makes sure each guest is served a meal with respect and all volunteers know that they must contribute to this homelike feeling.

Toni reports, “The INN provided over 6,000 showers to guests and over 3,000 towels were donated in 2014. This is thanks to the generosity of our donors.”

Toni and Jean are a team embodying all that The INN represents to its guests and the community. We are truly blessed to have such talented and committed people making each day at the soup kitchen function so well. Donations of canned goods, clothing, and children’s items are always welcomed, and Toni and Jean make sure they are available for guests. Both look at their work not just as a job that they enjoy, but as a true calling, an integral part of their lives.

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Special Partners continued from pg 1

applied for and received this grant a number of times. It is our great pleasure to be supported by Newsday Charities.

Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) provided The INN with a grant of $20,000 earmarked for our Guest Services and Employment Readiness program. LICF’s mission includes strengthening the capacity of Long Island’s not-for-profit sector to respond to the community’s needs. Through this grant, LICF has helped The INN in securing suitable housing, preparing for employment through resume preparation and other services, and finding additional resources for those we serve. This is one of the ways in which Long Island nonprofits and foundations can collaborate to assure that those working in our communities have the resources to serve our neighbors in need. We are pleased to acknowledge this grant for the second consecutive year.
SUMMARY OF OPERATING DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR
Ending June 30, 2014

The following operating data is derived from The INN’s Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2014, which were audited by Nawrocki Smith LLP.

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<thead>
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<th>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</th>
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<td>Government Fees and Grants</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>In Kind Contributions**</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
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<td>Emergency Shelters</td>
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<td>Change In Net Assets***</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
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Notes:

* 82.5% 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).

*** Results from net change in operations.
MSC Industrial Supply Co. (MSC), one of the largest distributors of industrial equipment in the world, recently sponsored a volunteer initiative for its staff at The INN. Seventeen MSC associates worked at the Mary Brennan INN, preparing and serving the daily lunch, sorting through and organizing donations of food and clothing, stocking pantry shelves and greeting guests as they came in for a meal.

MSC, located in Melville, encourages its associates to volunteer. “Helping the hungry and homeless in our community has been a long-standing tradition among our associates,” said Alessandra Cavalluzzi, MSC’s Director of Community Relations and Associate Engagement. “We were thrilled to partner with The INN to host a Volunteer Day of Service at the Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen. The experience was very rewarding for our associates, who especially enjoyed interacting with The INN’s guests.”

In addition to dedicating its staff to the mission of The INN, MSC Industrial Supply Co. donated approximately $12,000 worth of cleaning supplies, which will go a long way in helping manage costs associated with maintaining our soup kitchens and emergency shelters. Without the support of our local businesses like MSC Industrial Supply Co., The INN would not be able to effectively serve those in need.

MSC Industrial Supply Co. Staff

“Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders”
211 Fulton Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 486-8506 • www.the-inn.org
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