



...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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THE
Dates:**

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- October 18th –
INN Luncheon
- November 3rd –
A Family Day of
Thanks and Giving

GUEST STORY

“A Humble Strength”: Former Soup Kitchen Guest Returns to Help Others

The look on Jean Victor’s face said it all: dropped jaw, wide eyes with a glint of moisture. In the 16 years he has been working with guests, managing the operations of the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen, rarely has he seen a guest return quite so triumphantly, but with a humble strength.

Erin* was about 12 years old when she started coming to the soup kitchen for a regular hot meal. Her parents and five siblings were frequent visitors, and the children got to know the staff quite well, mostly over the summer



Mary Brennan INN Dining Room

when school was no longer in session and free breakfast and lunch programs ended. Now 23 years old, Erin, a law student, came back to the soup kitchen with a group of young professional friends to donate food from a drive they organized after hearing her story of the struggle she experienced growing up. The group was so moved



Jean Victor, Manager, Mary Brennan INN

by the idea of Erin’s success through adversity, that they decided to adopt The INN as their charity of choice.

As for Erin, she quietly took a tour of the facility from a vastly different perspective than she remembered; her facial expression was one of shock. She described her experience of literally being on the other side of the counter as “surreal,” but didn’t want to share much more.

The INN’s philosophy of serving hungry and homeless Long Islanders with dignity, respect and love is practiced with great care. When Erin saw Jean Victor, she instantly remembered him from her childhood days and told him, “I was hoping you would be here,” as they embraced.

Few words were spoken, but it was clear that Jean was thrilled to see how far Erin had come. “I was speechless,” Jean said. “I recognized her right away, but she’s all grown up now. It’s

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



Jean Kelly,
Executive Director

REFLECTIONS

Tomorrow may never come.

When you don't have enough food to eat or know where you can safely sleep ... tomorrow may never come.

The INN has been present to those who face hunger and homelessness and have nowhere else to turn. Living without food, not having anywhere to sleep, or go to the bathroom, is more than anyone's worst nightmare ... it is *horrific*. For those who live a comfortable life, it's a nightmare from which you can at least wake up. Being homeless is an endless place of denial/shock, abject fear and deep despair. You don't wake up from it; you live it every minute of every day. And for some people, they do not survive. Tomorrow does not come.

I believe our society has now seen so many people living on the streets that there is a presumption that it is survivable. What everyone can't look away from or ignore is that *there* is a fellow human being, who is in danger, or hurt or suffering from not being valued as worthy of being treated with respect or able to live in a dignified setting. No one is on the street by choice. They are there by default. They are usually offered shelter to stay with other people like themselves, some of whom they fear. Or a family stays in their car rather than be separated because the parents aren't married, and the children may be taken from them and put into foster care for not being able to provide for their basic needs. This is the society in which we live.

What I am grateful for at The INN is to see everyday the possibilities that people *can* receive their basic necessities, whether it be a hot meal, a safe place to sleep, comfortable clothing,

new underwear or socks, a toothbrush or even simply toilet paper. We provide the essentials to whomever arrives and help them access the benefits they are entitled to receive so they can find a job and a place to live.

When you support the daily work we are doing at The INN, we are able to give that individual you see, the clothes and the food and the shelter they need, so they can eat, get some sleep, regroup and work out their options.

We who are fortunate to have our needs met every day, oftentimes take them for granted. If we run out of something, we go out and buy more. Next time you go and buy something for yourself that is an essential or even another article of clothing, see if you would consider buying an extra one and placing it in a bag for us to give to someone who needs it. Or do without that item and instead, save the money and donate it to The INN to provide for someone less fortunate than you.

Believe it or not, the one thing I hear most often from the volunteers is how grateful they are to be able to be of help to the guests and how very appreciative the guests are for whatever we can offer them. Could you consider making sure we have the essentials? We're hoping to be here for all the tomorrows that will come, so no one has to worry that their tomorrow may not come. Thank you for being thoughtful, understanding and as generous as you can be at this time. Please know it is truly appreciated.

Love,

Jean Kelly, Executive Director

Guest Story continued from pg 1

so impressive that not only is she a successful young adult, but she found the strength to return and give back to a place that helped

her and her family through some tough times. I'm so glad she came back and let me know she was doing so well."

Erin was able to begin a new chapter in her life because of YOU, and because of your giving. Thank you!

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of INN guests*

AT HOME WITH GIRL SCOUTS



As Girl Scouts of Nassau County (GSNC) wraps up its centennial year, the organization reflects on its longstanding partnership with The INN. GSNC and The INN have missions that are intertwined, with both groups committed to improving the lives of families in Nassau

County. Back in 2001, many community partners were considered to extend access to Girl Scout programs for girls with obstacles to participate; The INN was the clear choice. By 2005, a Girl Scout staff member was designated to lead a troop at the family shelters. The leader, now with 30 years of Girl Scout service, was vetted by The INN and learned the necessary procedures.

For nearly 15 years, Girl Scouting has become a constant for the girls at the family shelter. Because the girls may vary from week to week, Girl Scouts makes sure they have a fulfilling experience, including the

opportunity to work on badges. They can bring their badge work wherever they call home and are given a Girl Scout sash, take trips for ice cream and this year, went to see the play "Newsies." Some girls have gone camping and have attended other Girl Scout council programs. Girl Scouts also offer support to place girls in troops once they are situated in a permanent home.

The program serves girls ages five to 18 years old. Funding for the program comes from Girl Scouts of Nassau County and some of its community partners, such as the Nassau County Bar Association WE CARE Fund. Every holiday season, Girl Scout staff also donate gifts to the girls and boys at the family shelter.

Girl Scouts of Nassau County looks forward to providing more programming to the family shelter program and those who receive services from The INN, including additional family engagement opportunities and options for other Girl Scouts to complete service and leadership hours with The INN.

To see how Girl Scouts can get INNvolved with The INN, please visit our website, www.inn.org/girlscouts.

MACY'S AND BLOOMINGDALE'S Sponsor Meals for 300 Guests

This past June, Macy's and Bloomingdale's employees gave back to the community by volunteering at the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen. These volunteers served food, sponsored the daily meal and even stocked donations. The Corporation went a step further by donating \$30,000 from its Bag Hunger campaign donations and corporate giving, which will cover meals for the daily guests and support The INN's programs.

Macy's volunteer Karen Lipman-White said, "Volunteering at The INN's soup kitchen was such a great experience. It's nice to feel like what you're doing is truly impacting someone's day-to-day life in a positive way. It was an honor to be there on behalf of my fellow Macy's and Bloomingdale's colleagues."

The annual Bag Hunger campaign started in 1998.

Through the generosity of Macy's and Bloomingdale's colleagues and customers, the campaign has raised millions of dollars to help end hunger.

Lipman-White added, "The INN is committed to transforming lives affected by hunger, homelessness and poverty through awareness, actions, and generosity, which is something that Macy's does through our annual Bag Hunger campaign. As a company, it's important to us to serve and impact our local communities whenever and however we can."



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RECIPE AND REFLECTION –

The Ingredients That Make a Frittata Include Love of Volunteering

When Stephen Killian retired four years ago, he began searching for a place to volunteer and found a new home at The INN. "I'm busier now when retired," he says with a laugh, volunteering weekly at The INN's soup kitchen where food is served to approximately 300 guests daily.

Each Monday, Killian and the other volunteers prepare a vegetable frittata, bringing 21 to 25 dozen eggs to ensure there is enough to prepare eight full trays, making approximately 300 slices. The frittata is a nutritious, hearty and delicious meal loaded with potatoes, vegetables and cheese. The INN's guests look forward to it, especially after the long weekend. Along with the frittata, volunteers prepare a vegetable and a salad, and every third week they cook 40 pounds of rice. That involves a lot of chopping and dicing vegetables. If something is missing, there usually is someone who has some spare olive oil or aluminum foil in his or her car.

It's the generosity of Mary Brennan INN volunteers, along with that of individuals and companies, that ensure guests have enough nutritious food to eat. Ultimately, it is the goodness of the volunteers to give both their time and their hearts, along with a smile, while serving those in need.

"It's fulfilling ... we're a family," Killian reflects. "I go back for the people I'm working with and to know we're doing something good."

Frittata Recipe

**Feeds 250-300 people. Can substitute alternate vegetables, if needed, and can adjust ingredients for smaller parties.*

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds chopped broccoli
- 10 pounds chopped onions
- 10 pounds chopped potatoes
- 5 pounds chopped peppers
- 3 pounds cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 5 pounds mixed shredded cheese
- 21-25 dozen eggs

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 360 degrees Fahrenheit
- Prepare eight big aluminum pans; use non-stick cooking spray on each one
- Scramble the eggs
- Sauté all vegetables in a separate pan and combine with the eggs
- Pour the egg/vegetable mixture into each tray and sprinkle with shredded cheese on top
- Bake in the oven for 45 minutes to one hour

Thanksgiving Wish List

- Stuffing
- Canned Yams
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Peas, String Beans)
- Canned Gravy
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Boxed/Packaged Mashed Potatoes
- Frozen Turkeys
- Frozen Hams

No glass items please

For additional information, kindly contact:
(516) 486-8506, ext. 114, or info@the-inn.org

All donations can be
dropped off at
Mary Brennan INN
100 Madison Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550

Mon-Fri 9-11am
or 2-4pm
(No appointment necessary.)

2019 INN EVENTS

INN Luncheon

Friday, October 18 Networking starts at 10:30am, Program and Lunch at 12pm.

At the Garden City Hotel, Garden City. We are proud to honor KPMG LLP – Long Island.

Rocktoberfest

Thursday, October 24 from 6-10pm.

At "317 Main Street" in Farmingdale.

A Family Day of Thanks and Giving

Sunday, November 3 Service Opportunity at 12pm, Program and Lunch at 1:30pm.

At the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen.

Diwali: Festival of Lights

Sunday, November 10 12:30pm.

At the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen.

Champions for Charity

Thursday, December 5 – Saturday, December 7

Participating Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza stores donate 25% of pre-tax purchases to the organization(s) of the customer's choice when Champions number is presented.

To sign up for The INN, please contact Nora White (see below.)

Gifts for Guests

Thursday, December 12

Join The INN at our open house event to celebrate the holidays at the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen from 6-8pm. Please bring an unwrapped toy.

For more information on these events, visit www.the-inn.org/events or contact Nora White (516) 486-8506 ext. 108 or nwhite@the-inn.org

Macy's continued from pg 3

For other corporations considering volunteering at The INN, Lipman-White states, "The INN is a resource to so many who need it. It's become part of their lives. It is a great place to volunteer or donate, as it's an essential part of helping people in need."

For more information on ways your corporation can get INNvolved, contact Cynthia Sucich at (516) 486-8506, ext. 115, or csucich@the-inn.org.

ARE YOU INN THE KNOW?

- Executive Director Jean Kelly was among the original 30 volunteers that opened The INN in 1983 - the first soup kitchen in Nassau County
- Mary Brennan was the mother of one of The INN's donors
- Approximately 1/3 of guests served at the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen are children
- The Center for Transformative Change has assisted 3,721 guests since opening in 2016

'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING! HOW CAN YOU HELP THE INN

In addition to collecting toys this Holiday Season, The INN needs your help in providing guests with the following items (NEW items only)

CHILDREN

Pajamas (all sizes)
Underwear (all sizes)
Hats, scarves, gloves, coats
Slippers
Pampers (all sizes)
Socks
Pull-Ups
Boots

ADULTS

Pajamas (all sizes)
Underwear (all sizes)
Hats, scarves, gloves, coats
Slippers
Perfume/cologne
Socks
Long johns
Boots

PERSONAL CARE & HOME ITEMS

Razors
Linens (all sizes)
Deodorant
Blankets (all sizes)
Soap/shower gels
Towels

Donations may be dropped off at
Mary Brennan INN
100 Madison Avenue | Hempstead, NY 11550
Mon-Fri 9-11am or 2-4pm
Questions? Contact (516) 486-8506 or info@the-inn.org

Help those who are hungry and homeless find hope with the

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

ACT NOW! If you are 70½ or older, satisfy your IRA required minimum distribution and save taxes. ▶▶

**If you have any questions about the
IRA Charitable Rollover,
please contact David Sinclair at
The INN at (516) 534-2809 or
via email dsinclair@the-inn.org**



"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 of The INN.



PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Alana Grace INN Administrative Center
Center for Transformative Change (CTC)
Clarice Silk INN

Crisis Housing Project
Donald E. Axinn INN
Edna Moran INN

Homelessness Prevention
Jane's INN
Long-Term Housing

Mary Brennan INN
Mary Moore INN

OUR VISION

To transform lives by addressing hunger, homelessness and profound poverty through awareness, action and generosity.

OUR MISSION

As a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, The INN provides a broad variety of essential services to assist those challenged by hunger, homelessness and profound poverty. We partner with those in need in a dignified and respectful manner to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Follow us on:



To become a fan and receive updates on The INN's activities and announcements, please go to facebook.com/theinnli, twitter.com/the_inn, instagram.com/theinnstagram or youtube.com/getinvolved