

# NEWS FROM THE INN

Vol. XXI, No. 2  
Fall/Winter 2006

## From the PRESIDENT



Daniel J. Miele,  
INN Board President

### OPTIONS

We all have options, right? And in fact, since options are a good thing, we like them and enjoy exercising our discretion over them.

Options can be the ability to choose among

desirable alternatives, they can be economically rewarding or they can be gratifying to us in other ways. My focus now is on the “other ways”.

Our guests at The INN, regrettably, do not have many options, if any at all. Sure, at some point there might have been options, but for many, that time has long passed. They struggle with the needs and demands of everyday life in poverty and their options for improvement, or even change, are not very good. The basics of life that most of us take for granted – food, clothing and shelter – are often beyond their reach. For others, their options are in a state of temporary suspension – due to the loss of a job, health issue or other catastrophic event.

You and I are fortunate to have the option to help. Perhaps we are blessed with good jobs, family, children, a home and friends. For some of us, the list can be endless. So, where at all possible, please extend an outstretched hand and help our Long Island neighbors get back on their feet.

All of us, our guests, dedicated volunteers, and staff at The INN, greatly appreciate your consideration.

Thank you.

Daniel J. Miele

## Visiting Mary Brennan INN

*“I don’t have enough money for food and rent.”*

*“I’m sleeping on the streets and I badly need a blanket.”*

*“I’m living in my car and I need some help.”*

We often hear comments like these at the Mary Brennan INN (MBI). Whenever we are approached, the clothing and shower room volunteers act quickly. Our clothing room volunteers scour their supply store for garments that can allow our guests to live with a bit more pride and stability.

It all takes place daily at the MBI Soup Kitchen.

MBI is located in Hempstead Village, and is situated near small factories, warehouses and not far from modest private residences. Long lines of men, women and children gather every weekday in all kinds of weather at the door of MBI’s kitchen facility.

They are poor and often desperate for jobs, which are extremely rare. We also have many working poor, the aged and fragile and disabled as well as mothers with their young. Few have regular dental or medical care. Some are poorly educated and some college-educated. Some are military veterans. All, however, have had devastating turns in their lives. We’re there to do what we can to ease their lives.

They come to Mary Brennan INN to eat a nourishing and complete lunch, obtain free clothing, housewares, blankets, sheets, and toiletries. Guests can shower, shave, discuss their problems with volunteer attorneys, talk with Stefan, our sympathetic and knowledgeable staff person about maneuvering the thicket of social service offices and be advised about medical care and benefits for prior military service.

Best of all, they are welcomed into a hospitable and warm setting where they may eat lunch and sit and talk or just rest in an air-conditioned dining room in the hot and steamy summer months and warm themselves during the colder part of the year.

In our newly renovated shower room, guests are provided with towels, soap, shaving materials, deodorants, lotions, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, and — when donors make them available — new men and women’s underwear, socks and T-Shirts. These are among

*“Hunger never takes a holiday... please remember our neighbors in need this holiday season.”*

*(continued, page 2)*

Visit us at our website at [www.the-inn.org](http://www.the-inn.org)



*On Friday evening, October 27, Brooks Brothers at the Americana hosted “An Evening of Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and Shopping to Benefit The INN”. It was a delightful and meaningful evening for all who attended. Pictured above (left to right) are: Rob Kammerer, Debra Del Vecchio, Carmela Nuzzi and Jean Kelly.*



*Shown here are CA (previously Computer Associates) employees who participated in a day of service at the Mary Brennan INN. Cheerfully preparing, serving and building “team camaraderie”, the CA volunteers were greatly appreciated by The INN’s guests. If your organization or business would like to volunteer for a “Day of Service”, please call Donna Boyce at 516 486 8506 ext 106.*

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

*Executive Director—Jean Kelly*

*Editor—Murray Polner*

*Associate Editors—Jim Cahill, David Golbert, Jim Gray,*

*Cindy Krezel & Marci Tublisky*

*Staff Coordinator—Donna Boyce*



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 while eating in the soup kitchens or staying in an emergency shelter.*

## Visiting MBI, *continued from page 1*

the most prized gifts we can offer. As one of the guests said, his appearance was very important to him. Another, nearby, agreed. “It’s personal dignity, man. We’re people too.”

When a sufficient number of volunteers are present, our clothing store is opened. There, new and donated clothing is freely distributed. One guest, a job interview pending, was fitted with an immaculate pinstripe suit and was then told, in jest, that he looked like a banker from that other Madison Avenue in Manhattan.

The day begins at 8:30 am, as staff, soon followed by kitchen volunteers arrive. Another volunteer arrives with his collection of donated breads and cakes from local bakeries. Chris, our staff food coordinator supervises the cooking of the day’s fare and posts a menu at the front door. Volunteers slice and butter bread, brew coffee, and prepare salads and desserts. Several volunteers roll cutlery inside of napkins. Summers, high school and college students arrive to add their skills and muscles. Meanwhile, a steady stream of visitors pass through the doors, some offering donations of needed items, and some to receive a tour.

By 9 am, all is ready for the guests. Jean C. Victor Jr. greets them, makes relevant announcements in English (and in Spanish when a bi-lingual volunteer is available) and then invites those who wish to stand and join in a non-sectarian prayer. Many do, but others do not – it is their choice – but some of the seated can occasionally be seen in silent prayer.

The Mary Brennan INN opened in 1988, named after a woman whose son and family are long-time supporters of The INN. A major fundraising campaign attracted sufficient gifts from caring donors so that we might open what many observers believe is the nation’s finest facility for low-income guests. Our goal was and remains simple: to provide nourishing meals and clothing for those in need. Over the years we have provided a healthful, sanitary and secure site for our ever-growing number of guests.

All are welcome, no questions asked. Politeness, smiles, and a pleasant attitude by volunteers and staff are almost invariably reciprocated by guests offering expressions of pleasure at being treated with respect and kindness.

Holidays are special. On Thanksgiving the wives of the New York Jets decorate the dining area, serve food, and distribute Jets memorabilia and clothing. Christmas brings church, synagogues, school and civic groups to prepare and serve food and hand out new toys and clothing. Holiday greeting cards are given to deeply appreciative guests.

Our creed: The Mary Brennan INN exists as a life saving haven for anyone needing help, a bit of kindness and a lot of respect.

---

## Speakers Bureau Supervisor Named

---

Recognizing the need to spread The INN's message to the greatest extent possible, Executive Director Jean Kelly has named Cynthia Sucich to be Speakers Bureau Supervisor. Cynthia comes to us from Time Warner, Inc. where she had been a Client Service Manager and is a graduate of SUNY Empire State College with a BS in Community & Human Services.

"I enjoyed the corporate world but I was looking for something that would feed my soul," Cynthia says. "And the great work The INN does is just what I have been searching for."

Cynthia feels that there is no end of organizations in Nassau and Suffolk that are looking for stimulating speakers who can present a talk that will give their members something to think about and, it is hoped, to act upon.

Among the prospects she lists are civic and service clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc., religious organizations of all kinds, schools, chambers of commerce, senior groups and women's groups). Recently representatives of The INN have addressed such diverse groups as Homemakers Council of Nassau County, One Hundred Black Men of Long Island, the Urban League of Long Island, National Cleaners Association and the Oceanside Interfaith Council.

"I am always looking for opportunities which will allow us to send speakers out to educate Long Islanders about hunger and homelessness in our community, the work of The INN and inform them of ways they can help. My number is (516) 486-8506, extension 115. I would love to hear from you", Cynthia says.



*The young members of the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore and the Port Washington Jewish Center accomplished the incredible feat of collecting 40,000 quarters which were contributed to The INN. Each quarter represented a homeless man, woman or child on Long Island. This "quarter drive" was inspirational, very helpful to The INN's guests and good exercise for those who carried all the quarters.*



---

## Closing of the ANGELA MERICI INN

---

Late last September, we made a painful decision to close the Angela Merici INN (AMI), our only family emergency shelter in Suffolk County. This has left us with three emergency shelters – two for families and one for single men.

After nearly nineteen years of serving approximately 500 homeless mothers with children – many of whom had been victims of domestic violence or abandoned by their families, we found that the decreased need for the facility by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services did not warrant its continued operation and our financial support. The families that were living there have been re-housed and in some cases moved into their own permanent housing.

Church members who had generously donated effort and time, together with current and former INN staff members — as well as many who praised the "good neighbor" policy of The INN — plus representatives of the Suffolk County Department of

Social Services, were present on September 22 at a very touching Angela Merici INN closing ceremony which celebrated the positive experiences of the past 19 years.

Toward the end of the evening, there was a knock at the door. A young woman and her son, who had been guests at AMI, were stopping by to say hello to the staff and let them know how well the family is doing. They had brought the little boy's newly adopted dog and were happy to report that they were no longer on public assistance as her job paid enough for their apartment and needs.

The sadness of the evening was lightened by this walking success story. All of the families who stayed at AMI and all of the local supporters will remain in our prayers.

Since many former guests of AMI would often call to speak to the staff of AMI for on-going support, the phone number of the AMI has been transferred to the Edna Moran INN so they will always have someone to speak to when needing help.

---

## The INN's Facilities Department

---

When most people think of a soup kitchen, they think of a line of people standing on a street waiting for a hot meal. Here at The INN, however, we provide people in need with so much more. On any given day, over 250 people find a healthy meal, a hot shower and clean clothing at Mary Brennan INN (MBI) soup kitchen, and approximately 150 men and especially women and children find shelter and the hope for a better life at one of The INN's many short and long-term housing units.

These two different types of service provide a unique challenge for The INN's dedicated staff, who coordinate five to six pickups a day of food, clothing, toiletries, and furniture and maintain the homelike setting that is the hallmark of The INN's housing programs.

Deokie Santo fields the calls that result in donations to The INN's many services and coordinates a pickup schedule that allows maximum usage of The INN's van. INN employees Kevin, James and Junior make pickups five days a week, all over Long Island. Of all the donations, pickups of food always have top priority. All items are first brought to the Mary Brennan INN for evaluation and sorting. From there, baby clothing and layettes might end up at Edna Moran INN, one of The INN's emergency shelters. Adult and children's clothing is made available at the Mary Brennan INN. Non-perishables might stock a long-term housing kitchen, or make it into a soup kitchen visitor's take home grocery bag. Toiletries, which are always in demand, might stock an emergency shelter's bathroom or be provided for a Mary Brennan visitor's shower kit.

At the same time, the Facilities team provides upkeep to 3 emergency shelters and 25 Long-Term Housing units, doing the many small and not-so-small repairs that are needed almost every day. The requests for help come via phone call or fax and are prioritized based on urgency. From fixing a stopped up sink to completing what renovation is needed to prepare a long-term housing site for a new family, the team is always on the go.

Says Deokie "A person who is homeless is in need of everything, not just food. Though, of course, food is the priority." Through the kindness of our donors and the hard work of our staff, The INN is able to help to fill some of the gaps in the lives of our guests.

---

### Testament to Kindness

---

Though it was a wonderful surprise to recently open an envelope and discover that The INN was named as a beneficiary of a donor's estate, it saddened us as well. Why? Because there was no way to personally express our gratitude for this extraordinary act of humaneness and kindness since our benefactress had passed away.

We wondered if this generous donor had ever come on a tour of one of The INN's soup kitchens or shelters? Or heard firsthand the difference that The INN can make in someone's life?

All the same, our honored donor provided for her dream of caring for people in desperate need, and she did it though her own hands are now stilled.

Everyone's circumstances differ, but for those able to do so, The INN can be a magnificent option for giving to a worthy cause.

Please let us know if you are considering making a bequest to The INN. Please contact your financial or legal advisor and should you choose to proceed, we will be honored to commemorate your generosity with a living testament on behalf of the hungry and homeless men, women and children on Long Island.

For full information, and how you can help others, please contact Donna Boyce, (516) 486-8506 x 106.

---

### JANE'S INN

---

In honor of a special person's special birthday, Jane Schwartz's family – her husband, four children, their spouses and her eight grandchildren showed their love for her in a special way..... they made a very generous donation to The INN. In gratitude, The INN has dedicated a long-term housing facility in her honor.

Last September 9, some 70 people proudly celebrated the naming of Jane's INN. This site provides housing with supportive services for homeless families, focusing on educational opportunities that help both adults and children become economically independent. Currently, Jane's INN is home to a grandmother raising her three grandchildren.

Jane, a long-time volunteer and Board member of The INN, was truly surprised when she was presented with a model of Jane's INN by her family. "I couldn't have received a better gift," she said. A plaque in her honor will commemorate the generosity of the Schwartz family and welcome residents to Jane's INN.

If you are looking for a unique, meaningful way to honor a loved one, please consider "naming opportunities" at The INN. All donations help further the work of The INN. For information, please call Donna Boyce – 516-486-8506 ext. 106.

---

## Bread and More INN

---

Bread and More INN was formed in 1990 by members of the First Congregational Church of Riverhead. We are very grateful to the Church for allowing us to continue using their kitchen and dining room. Initially, only lunch was served one day a week. In the very first year, the meal was changed to a Wednesday evening meal and an agreement was reached to become an Interfaith Nutrition Network affiliate.

In October 1997, Bread and More INN added a Monday night dinner and in September 2003 we added Thursday night. We now serve about three hundred meals a week. We would never be where we are today if it were not for our wonderful volunteers who now number more than fifty. They give their time, energy and special gifts to make sure all our guests are served a nutritious meal in a safe and welcoming environment. Due to the huge amount of work that needs to be done behind the scenes, in the fall of 2004, the volunteers established a Steering Committee to share responsibilities and make joint decisions, the better to run Bread and More cooperatively and more efficiently. The INN assists us with funding as well as access to its years of expertise in helping those who are hungry. They have offered immeasurable moral support and help.

As the population of hungry people grows on Long Island's East End, Bread and More INN has had to find creative ways to reach our less fortunate neighbors and to raise funds to buy the food we prepare for them. Aware of our guests' privacy rights, we know, however, that many people still do not know we are here to help them. Our Steering Committee has met with representatives of the Riverhead Superintendent of Schools and we now partner with public school nursing offices to publicize that dinner is available to all. We are also working closely with Sister Margaret Smythe of the North Fork Spanish Apostolate. She translates our flyers into Spanish and helps make sure that people know that our doors are open to them. Indeed, we now also have a twice-yearly newsletter. This lets our friends and volunteers know what we are doing and helps us raise the additional funds to continue our work.

As I now begin my eleventh year as a Bread and More INN volunteer, I see all the work that still needs to be done. Yet it only takes one guest saying, "thank you for the wonderful meal and God bless you all", to make all of us want to work that much harder to help feed those in need.

Jim Cahill  
President, Steering Committee  
Bread and More INN

---

## Holidays 2006

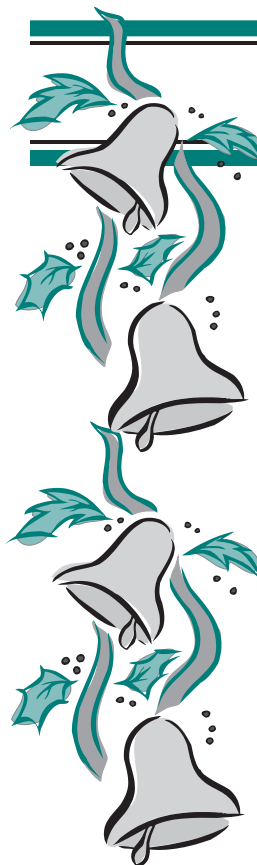
---

For the 2006 holiday season, The INN will help hundreds of families celebrate!

In November, for Thanksgiving thousands of turkeys and bags of meal supplies, such as stuffing and cranberry sauce, are distributed at our 19 soup kitchens.

In December, MBI will provide a happy holiday for 500+ families through our toy distribution program by collecting 8,000 new toys.

If you have enough to share, please help with a contribution of a turkey, holiday meal item or new, unused toy.



---

## 11th Annual INN Golf Classic

---



The weather was spectacular, the food was outstanding and the generosity of the golfers helped raise much-needed funds for The INN.

Everyone enjoyed this year's Golf Classic, which was held September 25 at the Glen Oaks Club in Old Westbury. Sponsored by Alure Home Improvements, the Hammerman Fisch Foundation, the Mancino Family Fund and the Roslyn Savings Foundation, this year's well-deserved honoree was Jim Breitman of Raymond James Securities.

The Golf Committee, under the able leadership of Chairman Joseph Mancino and Co-Chairman Charlie Hammerman, did a fantastic job along with the help of a terrific team of volunteers.

"I truly believe in what The INN stands for, what it does and the manner in which amazing things are accomplished, always with dignity and respect," said Jim Breitman. "As this year's Golf Classic honoree, I felt privileged to represent such an outstanding organization in its dedicated effort to improve the lives of homeless and hungry people right here on Long Island."

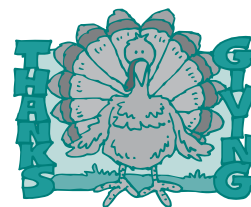
# The INN Holiday Planner

For information regarding any of the below items, contact Development Department at (516) 486-8506 x113, or by email, [dboyce@the-inn.org](mailto:dboyce@the-inn.org).

## 2006 Annual Appeal

The 2006 Annual Appeal will be mailed Thanksgiving week. This appeal is one of our most important fund-raisers. Please be as generous as you can.

## Thanksgiving



## Holiday Cards from The INN

Share your holiday greetings and help people who are hungry and homeless!

Order your holiday cards from The INN and a portion of your purchase will help Long Islanders in need. Call (516) 486-8506 ext. 180 for more information or to place an order.



## Martin Viette Holiday Ornament

For the sixth consecutive year, Martin Viette Nurseries hosted a Holiday Reception to benefit The INN. As additional support, they also offer a limited edition, glass blown ornament with 100% of the proceeds being donated to The INN. These ornaments are available at Martin Viette Nurseries in East Norwich – 516-922-5530.

## Champions for Charity

From November 30th thru December 4th, participating Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza stores will donate 25% of your shopping purchases to the Interfaith Nutrition Network when you shop with a Champion Card (and designate The INN as your charity). To register for a Champion Card and become eligible to win a \$2,000 Americana Manhasset shopping spree, visit [www.championsforcharity.org](http://www.championsforcharity.org) or call 1-800-818-6767.

Wednesday, November 29th – Sunday, December 3th



## Save the Date:

2007 INNkeepers' Ball, Thursday evening, May 10.

Please call Rob Kammerer 516-486-8506 ext 190 for information/reservations.



The India Association of Long Island recently celebrated the feast of Diwali by working on its eleventh annual "Food Drive for The INN". Thousands of pounds of food along with a very generous check were presented to The INN. Pictured from left to right are: Rob Kammerer, Suda Sharma – who has presided over this food drive from its inception, Jean Kelly and Town of Hempstead Councilman Anthony Santino.

### Soup Kitchens

Bethany Hospitality INN – Central Islip  
Bread & More INN – Riverhead  
Mary Brennan INN – Hempstead  
Community INN – Patchogue  
Emanuel Trinity INN – Patchogue  
Freeport INN – Freeport  
Having Friends INN – Sayville  
INN Friendship – East Patchogue  
Invited INN – Rocky Point  
Long Beach Food and Friendship INN  
Mercy INN – Wyandanch  
Neighbors INN – Patchogue  
N. Fork Community Supper INN – Greenport  
North Shore INN – Glen Cove  
St. Paul's Community INN – Patchogue  
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'Neil 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