



# THE NEWS

"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"

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## "Home Is Where The Heart Is"

### A Familiar Saying ... A Brand New Meaning

by Mary Ellen Porrazzo

On a spectacular day, love triumphed over hardship as a young couple said "I do" before friends, family and staff members in one of our family shelters. Embraced by the loving arms of The INN, Amy and Daniel welcomed a future paved with possibility after some very tough times.

They arrived at The INN penniless and hopeless after life dealt them a difficult hand. Their situation — hardly unique in this rough economy: illness, job loss and fear. Things began to slip when Daniel suffered a severe heart attack. Despite nearly ten years at a stock brokerage firm, a combination of disability and veteran's benefits failed to keep the family afloat. Amy was unskilled and unable to pitch in and save the purse strings. Their rental apartment became unaffordable. Eviction followed. This couple with two young children faced despair in a flash. No money. No hope. Enter The INN.

"You gave us the strength to get through the worst times and helped make our lives better," Daniel told us. And get through hard times they did. The INN provided a tutor for Amy and enrolled the young children in preschool and kindergarten. Daniel's health returned when we helped secure medical care he so desperately needed. Little by little the inconceivable became reality and in a few months, Amy and Daniel put the pieces of their lives back together. It was not easy. Regaining one's footing never is, but The INN was there every step of the way to nourish the

family with love and grace, respect and support.

From the family's new home, Daniel thanked us for the role we played in helping his family.

INN Executive Director Jean Kelly praises the couple for their "strength to overcome adversity." These remarkable people turned a page on the past with persistence and perseverance. But they are not alone. Among the guests that wedding day:

**Elena**, whose job as a nurse's aide was lost in a cut-back. Homelessness followed, and so did The INN. With guidance and support, Elena and her young son are now embarking on a new life, Elena with a new job, her son with new hope.

**Jeanie**, who was left battered and beaten by an abusive husband and with two young girls terribly scarred by the ordeal. Their road back was hard, and included counseling and training, but we were there every step of the way. Jeanie and her children are now living in a new apartment and facing the future with the can-do spirit that The INN inspires.

**Tyrell**, was single and alone when he lost his minimum wage job and the roof over his head. Thanks to The INN's crisis housing program he is back on his feet with a new job and new home.

As Jean observed, weddings are new beginnings, times of commitment, love and hope. As Amy and Daniel proved on one

(continued, page 2)



# Change



Daniel J. Miele,  
INN Board President

**W**ell, it's 2008 and here we are in the thick of a Presidential Election. One thing for sure I've heard is about change, and it almost seems the more things that change the better. Change the war, change the welfare system, change the economy, change health care, change big government, change the tax structure, etc. So much

change, perhaps a result of so much disappointment with the status quo. After all, good luck finding five people not presently elected who actually approve of their government and their quality of life as compared to ten years ago.

I assure you that we at The INN want change too. Ironically, we are very successful at executing our mission of tending to the ever growing hungry and homeless population on Long Island. One could argue that as an agency we are better, stronger, and broader as to the many services we provide and our capacity to deliver them than we were ten years ago. So why change; why does The INN want change so desperately? Sadly, the fact is that if you saw what our dedicated staff and volunteers see every day, you would understand that none of God's children were meant to live as so many are compelled to do. We need your help to change their quality of life, so please consider ways to help us, like donating your time, clothing, food and financial resources.

Our guests want/need change too; please help us make a difference to those who can't help themselves.

Thank you,

Daniel J. Miele



# Economic Update

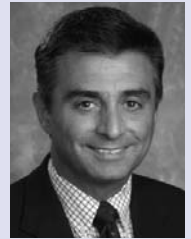
**T**he current economic crisis and "mortgage meltdown" we continually read and hear about has impacted many of our neighbors and will continue to affect many more in the months ahead. As a result, more families will be turning to The INN for help to enable them to survive in these troubled times. Despite the dramatic increase in the number of people who will be served, The INN stands ready to help these families in their time of need.

## Board Members

**The INN welcomes three new board members to its team.**



**Marilyn Monter**  
Executive Vice President  
*Holiday Organization, Inc.*



**Vince Vitiello**  
Chief Marketing Officer  
*Allianz of America*



**Michael P. Puorro**  
a Founder, Director and President of  
*Madison National Bank*

**"Home is Where..."** *continued from page 1*

magnificent day – Home IS where the heart is. An INN family shelter turned wedding hall reminds us where dreams are born and strength is renewed. Amy and Daniel say it best: "When we said our vows – for better or worse – we knew our lives would be better because everyone at The INN has become our family. We know you will always be there for us."

## Help Support The INN for the Holidays!

You can support The INN by purchasing Holiday Cards (and note cards) made especially for friends of The INN by Long Island artists. 100% of the proceeds will go to The INN.

Please call Nora Bealey at (516) 486-8506 ext. 115.

# A Call to All Students

by Courtney Yadoo, *Mary Brennan INN Summer Intern, Harvard University*

**A**s an intern at the Mary Brennan INN, I learned and accomplished so much over the past ten weeks. Looking back on my summer, I struggle with exactly how to frame the experience. Should I write an account that is personal? Sociological? Philosophical? Through which lens should I capture the day-to-day moments?

I'd like to begin by framing the experience quantitatively. Along with a team of great volunteers, I poured more than 18,000 cups of juice and shelved at least 500 books. I rummaged through bin after bin in search of thousands of t-shirts and hundreds of socks. I buttered in the vicinity of 36,000 slices of bread and distributed no fewer than 2,500 bars of soap.

Of course, the Mary Brennan INN is so much more than numbers – I could never encapsulate my summer in purely quantitative terms. Yet, take a close look at exactly what I chose to measure. It is not the television segments, jaw dropping monetary donations, or prestigious recognitions. While all these elements are important to The INN's mission, they are not the real quantitative gauges. This summer, I learned that there is only one true gauge: the number of goods and services that are actually delivered to our guests.

While this might seem like a rather obvious conclusion, it took me some time to reach. In high school, I had been prisoner to a different quantitative gauge: the number of hours served. Though I had several meaningful service experiences, I could never fully escape from the distant tick of the clock. This summer, however, I finally broke free. Without a logbook or domineering boss, there simply was no alternative gauge to distract me. I could completely devote each moment to the one gauge that counts.

Over the summer, I had several conversations with high school students and educators. Many agree that community service has become more about hours logged

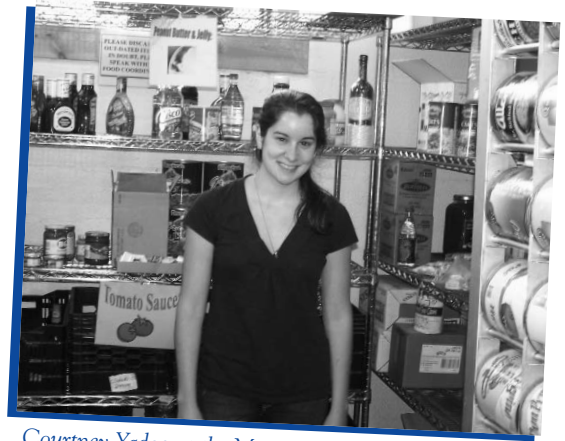
than people served. While certain commentators are quick to cite student apathy, I believe the root of the problem lies

elsewhere. We're simply not asking our students the right questions. If all we demand is a signed time sheet, how can we expect students to truly contemplate their service experience? There is such a vast network of volunteer and not-for-profit organizations; finding the right fit is about more than matching interest with mission. Many organizations are simply not structured to make optimal use of student volunteers. Yet, we continue to send our students to them. From personal experience in high school, I know just how disempowering it is to be underutilized.

After my ten-week internship, I have one message for students: The Mary Brennan INN desperately needs you. It is structured to take optimal advantage of your unique skills and talents. This summer, I met boy scouts who built new shelves for our library. I met second graders who brought us the monetary proceeds from their lemonade stand. And I met high school and college students who assisted guests in learning English and writing resumes.

There truly is no limit to what you can contribute. Help the INN produce the numbers that count: the 18,000 cups of juice, 36,000 slices of bread, and 2,500 bars of soap.

**For more information about volunteer opportunities contact Cynthia Sucich at [csucich@the-inn.org](mailto:csucich@the-inn.org).**



*Courtney Yadoo at the Mary Brennan INN*

## First Annual "A Taste of Giving" Event for the Benefit of The INN

**H**osted by Debbie Goldman of [i.e. ...be the example](#) on Thursday Nov. 20th at The Clubhouse at Harbor Links Golf Course in Port Washington will feature samplings from some of the finest restaurants and vineyards on Long Island including: Uncle Bacala's, Epiphany, Four Food Studio, Panama Hatties, Steve's Piccola Bussola, Maxwell & Dunne's Natural Steakhouse, Fiddleheads, Bistro Citron, Sweet Karma Desserts, Harbes Family Farm and Vineyard, Fairway Market, Cardinali

Bakery, Baci Gelato, Louie's Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant, In The Mood Coffee & Ice Cream, Sutton Place Great American Bar & Grille, Poland Spring Water, Martha Clara Vineyards and The Clubhouse at Harbor Links. Entertainment provided by DJ Tommy. Individual tickets for this unique evening of dining are \$100. For further information please visit our website or contact Debbie Goldman at (516) 233-8255 or [pie58@aol.com](mailto:pie58@aol.com). We look forward to seeing you on November 20th.

# SOUP'S ON —

## News from The INN's Soup Kitchens

Please visit our website to learn more about the activities at our soup kitchens.

**North Fork INN** — operating in Glen Cove begins the commemoration of its 20th year of service to the community from its one and only location, the First Baptist Church on Continental Place.

**North Fork Community INN** — operating in Greenport recently launched a direct mail campaign for support of its operation. It is grateful for the steady donations of produce from the local farms. It has seen an increase in the number of guests it serves.

**St. Paul's Community INN** — operating in Patchogue will be hosting a variety show fundraiser at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts on Saturday, November 1. All seats for this greatly anticipated show are \$35 and the net proceeds from the evening go to benefit The INN. Please see our website for further details.

**INN Friendship** — operating in East Patchogue reports that the number of guests it serves on Tuesday evenings is on the rise. The leadership of the soup kitchen is determined to meet the increased need in the community.

**Mary Brennan INN** — operating in Hempstead, recognized a large increase in the number of guests served this summer. It was not uncommon to serve over 400 lunches on any given day during the summer. The Mary Brennan INN continues to be the recipient of sponsored meals from civic groups, families and individuals including some meals sponsored directly by its own volunteers.

**Bethany Hospitality INN** — operating in Central Islip, knows that just as every guest has his or her unique story, so does each volunteer. All of our volunteers are special. However, the men and women from The Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC) are very special. Many days four or five friendly and very hard working participants light up our lives at the soup kitchen. We all sing, laugh and work together to prepare and serve meals to our guests. No one could ask for better help!

**Emanuel Trinity INN** — operating in Patchogue — is also celebrating its 20th year of operation having served well over 62,000 meals and has not missed a Sunday serving in all that time! Beginning with the vision of Leslie Lewin, who is still a member of Emanuel Lutheran Church, the mission of the soup kitchen remains constant — to serve our neighbors in need with dignity and respect.



The INN was the recipient of all donations received from the "Olde Time New York Deli Celebration" held on September 22 at Ben's in Greenvale. The night was a special tribute to long standing INN supporter Marc Borak founder of Borax Paper Products. The entire event was underwritten by INN board member and founder of Ben's, Ronnie Dragoon. Pictured above are (l-r) Marc Borak, Ronnie Dragoon, Jean Kelly and Rob Kammerer.



INN volunteers Nicholas DeCicco and Christina Brandi from JPMorgan Chase logged the hours they spent volunteering at the Mary Brennan INN and submitted them to the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. Their volunteer efforts resulted in a donation of \$250 each from the Foundation.

Walter Reese (left), Senior Vice President of Ridgewood Savings Bank, presenting a contribution to Rob Kammerer of The INN. In addition to contributing to The INN for the past fifteen years, Ridgewood regularly offers bank employees the opportunity to volunteer at The INN as part of their bank workday. Such creative ways to help The INN are always welcome.



Pictured to the left is INN Board Member Jane Schwartz along with her husband Marty and their nine beautiful grandchildren. The grandchildren created their own pieces of art and hosted an exhibition and sale for their family during the Passover holiday. All of the proceeds collected by the young artists were donated to The INN.

# Join The INN's Anniversary Club –

A unique way of celebrating the anniversary of a special occasion, whether it is a birthday, wedding anniversary, or some other happy occasion, for yourself or a loved one, is to make a donation to The INN in honor of the anniversary. When you make a donation in honor of the anniversary of a loved one's special day, we will send an acknowledgement card on your behalf, signifying that a gift has been made in their honor. If you have been invited to a celebration for a loved one where a "no gifts please" request has been made, but you still want to recognize the occasion, a gift to The INN is a wonderful way to do so. Your anniversary gift will make a difference in the lives of our guests. Please call (516) 486-8506 ext. 106. The INN has recently received donations in honor of the following anniversaries:

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCarthy – 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Forbes – 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. A. Zani – 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ashlely and David's Wedding Day

Mr. H. Harding Brown – Happy Birthday

Peg D'Angelo – Happy Birthday

Ms. Isabelle Brown – Happy Mother's Day

Mr. Dan Miele – Happy Father's Day

*The INN had the pleasure of honoring Vicki Murphy, community advocate, at this year's INN Golf Classic on Monday, October 6th at the Glen Oaks Club in Old Westbury. Vicki Murphy and The INN have a long standing relationship and it was wonderful to have her help commemorate The INN's 25th Anniversary.*



## Dedication of Tables and Chairs at the Mary Brennan INN

We are pleased to announce the opportunity for our donors to dedicate a table or one or more chairs at the Mary Brennan INN. Dedications may be made in honor of family members or friends or in memory of a loved one. Two distinctive plaques will be erected for permanent display at the Mary Brennan INN which will contain each dedication made. This is a very unique opportunity and we encourage our donors to consider making a dedication at the Mary Brennan INN. For further information, call the Development Office.

We are most grateful to all of our donors who make it possible for The INN to continue to deliver its mission on a daily basis to our neighbors in need. You have made a difference. Thank you so very much.

## Holiday Wish List

The INN also needs:

- Canned soup, vegetables, fruit, tuna fish, pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly
- New toys for children of all ages  
The INN is collecting toys throughout the year to distribute during the holidays
- Hygiene Products [soap, shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, etc. (small, travel size is preferred for all items)]
- Metro Cards
- Jeans in good condition, khakis, work boots, sneakers and shoes (Any clothing size 3X, 4X or 5X)
- Storage space – if you have reasonably secure storage space, 8 ft x 8 ft or larger, please call Alice at (516) 486-8506 ext 116
- Disposable Diapers (newborn, sizes 1&2, 4&5, pull-ups)
- Baby Lotion, Baby Powder, Baby Shampoo, Baby Wipes
- New and gently used bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloths
- Professional Photographer – for several hours of volunteering – please call Alice at (516) 486-8506 ext 116

Thank you.

Please bring your donation to the Mary Brennan INN  
100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead  
Monday-Friday  
9:00 am to 11:00 am or  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Need directions?  
Please call (516) 486-8506 ext 114

# Calling All Volunteers

The INN is in urgent need for weekday volunteers at many of its soup kitchens. The dramatic increase in the number of guests served on a daily basis coupled with the loss of some of our volunteers who go away for the winter months, leave our soup kitchens operating with fewer volunteers. Volunteer service is critical to the ability of The INN to continue to deliver its mission on a daily basis. If you have some time available, even one day a week, and are able to volunteer, your service would be gratefully appreciated. Information about volunteer opportunities at The INN can be found on our website or by calling Cynthia Sucich at 516-486-8506 ext. 115. Thank you.

Miracle Mile Harley Davidson Hog Chapter held a charity event for The INN on September 14th. The chapter was successful in collecting 2,000 pounds of food for the Mary Brennan INN and \$1,000 in donations. Drives of any sort are always a great way to help The INN.



## Events to Look Forward to:

### October

- October 20th Trattoria Diane "One of a Kind" Dinner
- October 23rd Bloomingdale's "The Shopping Benefit" event - \$10 a ticket

### November

- November 1st – St. Paul's Community INN Fundraiser – Patchogue Theater – 7pm - \$35 a ticket
- November 8th – "Do It Up America" Concert at Hofstra
- November 15th – Diwali Festival of Lights Food Drive / Reception
- November 16th – A Day of Thanks & Giving at MBI
- November 20th – "A Taste of Giving" – Port Washington

### December

- December 3rd – Kickoff Reception for Champions for Charity - Americana Manhasset
- December 4-6 – Champions for Charity: Fundraiser at the Americana Manhasset

### May 2009

- May 14 – INNkeepers' Ball

### September

- September 21 – INN Golf Outing at The Glen Oaks Club, Old Westbury

If you would like further information on any of these events, please contact Nora Bealey, Events Coordinator, at (516) 486-8506 ext 108.

## 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
- North 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

## e-mail alerts!

It would be extremely helpful if you could share your e-mail address with The INN for this one reason: there is often an immediate need for "gently used" utensils, furnishings and appliances or even food items. From our experience many of these items may already be sitting unused in your homes. If we could send an e-mail notice, anyone who has the needed item could simply reply. If you would like to participate please e-mail or call Emily Wilensky with your e-mail address – [ewilensky@the-inn.org](mailto:ewilensky@the-inn.org) or (516) 486-8506 ext 138.



*"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 while using the services at The INN.*