



THE NEWS

"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"

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This Year's Greatest Challenge

The 2009 INNkeepers' Ball on May 14th will honor two amazing couples: Vicki and Joseph Ferrara and Maureen and Ralph Nappi, who are all long-time friends, supporters and volunteers at The INN.

To kick-off this critical, largest single fundraiser of the year, a reception was hosted by Hofstra University at their University Club on February 10th. While the economic climate may be challenging, there was an impressive turnout that evening.

When Joe Ferrara, Sr. rose to speak of his pride and joy in seeing his son and daughter-in-law being recognized, everyone was touched by his obvious emotion and willingness to share his entire family's support for the event . . . including his 7 year old grandson, Perry, who exclaimed they should "do it up big".

Susan Claster, a close friend of the Nappi's, stated how much she and her husband Mark appreciated Maureen and Ralph's commitment to whatever task they have at hand. A volunteer at the North Shore INN, Susan said she feels (what we believe all Honorary Chairs feel) . . . lucky to be part of an event honoring very deserving individuals and also supporting The INN.

Speaking of Honorary Chairs, this year there are 18 Honorary Chairs for the Ball (!), a testimony to the admiration so many feel for the honorees.

When Jean Kelly introduced Maureen and Ralph, she spoke of their "unique ability to see through the raw ingredients in each person and cause they embrace, and cherish their pure essence. . . which



2009 INNkeepers' Ball Honorees (from left to right): Joseph Ferrara, Vicki Ferrara, Maureen Nappi and Ralph Nappi.

makes everyone feel protected from life's ups and downs."

In "their" acceptance, Joseph Ferrara read a poignant quote from the University of Notre Dame's business magazine: ". . . God has not created poverty. It is us who have allowed poverty to divide humankind because we do not love as God wants us to love. We must learn to give until it hurts. Love to be real must hurt . . ."

Ultimately that is what we are asked to do. To love the strangers among us who are hurting, to take away their pain, to do this we must feel the pain of "giving till it hurts". Sacrificing a luxury for someone else's necessity makes this possible.

Thanks to everyone who made the kick-off a good starting point. There is still much to do. We encourage you to contact us for information about reservations, Journal or Host Sponsorship participation. Please call Nora Bealey at (516) 486-8506 ext.108. The INNkeepers' Ball will be on Thursday evening, May 14th at the Long Island Marriott.

Focused. Fearless. Fed.

“Moving Forward”



Jean Kelly,
INN Executive Director

In these different, and many may feel difficult, times we continue to do all we can each day to keep everyone on both sides of the counter focused, fearless and fed.

We are hopeful that if we remain focused and not succumb to fear, we can continue to feed everyone.

Many very touching experiences I've seen involve regular guests approaching the newer guests and tapping them on the shoulder to assure them that they are in a good place and that everything is going to be all right.

What continues to be amazing is that we have not run out of food.

One of the many marvelous miracles that has made this possible involves the sponsored meals that so many individuals, families and organizations have served and paid for from their generous hearts and wallets. Each donation is making it possible for us to serve hope, along with the meals, the toothbrushes, the clothes, the shelter and the support.

You are also helping homeless families feel safe and single men feel wanted in our emergency shelters, and, in the long term housing program, you are helping us break the cycle of chronic poverty by helping families and male veterans strive toward and attain economic independence.

I would like to especially thank our two very special honoree couples, the Ferrara's and the Nappi's, for being so focused and fearless in helping us this year ... knowing there will always be room at The INN ... as long as we stick together and share and remember to be there for each other.

As I've mentioned many times, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that we may have all come over on different ships but we're in the same boat now.

Thank you for helping us keep on course.

With love and gratitude,

Jean Kelly

Through your support, The INN is able to nurture many life-changing transformations in the lives of the guests. Following are just two examples of what we like to call “moving forward”.

One of the residents at The INN's home for veterans recently graduated from the program, having met all his goals. He has purchased a home in Hempstead and is to complete his move in March. Having worked closely with The INN, this veteran was able to deal with his substance abuse issues as well as move toward self-sufficiency. During his time at The INN, he completed courses to become a mechanic, and was promoted to a supervisory position.

A resident in The INN's long-term housing is currently studying for her Masters degree in Social Work at Adelphi University. We are happy to report that she received a perfect 4.0 GPA in the fall semester. When you consider that she is the single mother of four, including one who is physically disabled, and works full time in addition to going to school, you can only be in awe of her accomplishments.



Rick Simon and The Wheatley School were honored at the “Day of Thanks and Giving”. Pictured is Rick Simon and Jean Kelly.

Doors

Written by an INN Volunteer

Doors...
Did you ever stop to think about them?
Some doors are just scary...
Like the door to the dentist's office.
Other doors can be happy...
Like the door to your best friend's house.
Sometimes doors can be frustrating...
Like when you lock your keys inside the car.
Doors can be new or old,
They may stick or squeal,
Regardless, they have a job to do.
The doors at The INN have a very simple job...
Welcome one and all...
“guests”, volunteers, donors and friends.
We invite you to try one sometime.
Wherever it is,
It is a door that you help keep open!



In lieu of the normal holiday spending for gifts and parties, the members of the law firm, Farrell Fritz generously decided to “spend” those funds on a donation to The INN. Left to right: Charles Strain, Managing Partner at Farrell Fritz, Jean Kelly and Peter Curry, Partner at Farrell Fritz and INN Board Member.

Lunch on You!

Have you ever thought about how much it would cost to feed 100-200 people on a daily basis? What about 500-600 people? Everyday at The INN's soup kitchens volunteers are there to prepare and serve a hot nutritious meal to all the arriving guests (for some it will be their only meal of the day). Depending on the number of guests and the menu, the cost can vary from \$200 to over \$1000. Over the past six months we have seen a 40% increase in the number of guests being served at our soup kitchens. With this substantial increase comes an increase in the amount of food necessary to accommodate every guest walking through the doors.

If you have been searching for a unique way to honor a loved one, bring the family together to serve in the community or provide your employees with an extraordinary volunteer experience, then you should think about sponsoring a meal at one of our soup kitchens.

What does it mean to sponsor a meal at an INN soup kitchen? Sponsoring a meal means that the donor contributes the funds to cover the cost of the ingredients for that day's meal. Donors have the option to select a menu, including their preference for a vegetarian or meat main course, and are welcome to come in and serve the meal on that special day. Sometimes donors choose a menu with a sentimental meaning, such as a favorite childhood meal – including the peas!

Here's what a few donors had to say about their sponsored meal experience:

Melissa Feeney, Assistant Vice President, Learning and Development for Bethpage Federal Credit Union – “As part of the leadership journey our employees experience in their one-year Management Development Program, we had

the privilege of working on numerous long-term projects with The INN... Titles were left at the door in exchange for aprons, gloves, hats... and a day they will always

remember as one that touched their hearts and changed their lives...”

Excerpt from letter written by Brooks Brothers employee, Madison Ave, NY, to their employer – “Yesterday, due to your compassion and generosity, I was able to experience what it truly means to give back to society. I spent my day at the Mary Brennan INN. Here, I met people

that I would have never ordinarily met or associated with in my normal day-to-day routine.

Some were filled with despair, some still harbored hope, but all were in need... Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to explore new and uncharted depths of my soul, but most of all, thank you for showing me that one person can make a difference.”

Deborah Kendric, Director of Corporate Communications, State Bank – “State Bank is proud to be a long-standing and strong supporter of the communities we serve through direct philanthropic consideration and our employees' active volunteer efforts at many community organizations. ...We were proud to sponsor a meal at The INN because we wholeheartedly believe in the organization's mission and are looking forward to continuing our support to this worthwhile cause.”

Nancy Morreale, Garden City Community Church, Garden City, NY – “We had a hard time raising the money needed for our first meal a year ago and only had a handful of volunteers to help serve; but sometimes from a little rumble comes a huge quake. The handful that served that day were so impressed with The INN and staff and humbled by the regular volunteers and guests, that “sponsoring-a-meal” has become a major focus for our Board of Outreach. ...Our connection with The INN has changed us all individually and is reshaping us as a Board, which has resulted in more involvement from our Church.”

On behalf of the guests, staff and Board members of The INN we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have sponsored meals at any of our soup kitchens. We appreciate your ongoing support and for making it possible to feed so many people each day.

For more information on sponsoring a meal, please contact Cynthia Sucich at (516) 486-8506 ext. 115 or csucich@the-inn.org.



Brooks Brothers employees volunteer in the toiletry section of the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen. Brooks Brothers also sponsored a meal that day and the employees volunteered in all sections of the soup kitchen.



State Bank employees sorting food donations at The INN. Others from State Bank served the sponsored meal.



Employees of Bethpage Federal Credit take time out of the regular workday to sponsor and serve a meal at the Mary Brennan INN.

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 Shore INN – Glen Cove, founded by volunteers in 1989, celebrates their Twentieth Anniversary. Volunteers presently prepare and serve over one hundred hot meals every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at noon. The North Shore INN thanks the community and all the caring individuals who have volunteered and contributed to the mission of feeding those who are hungry in the Glen Cove area.

Shepherd's INN – Lake Ronkonkoma, reports that even though the number of guests it serves has been on the rise, their volunteer staff has remained consistent and reliable with little turnover. During the holidays, gift bags with blankets, personal hygiene items and a small gift card were given out to guests. The soup kitchen continues to receive food donations from local merchants such as Benkerts Bakery, for which we are very grateful.

St. Paul's Community INN – Patchogue, Home Depot employees, including Santa, came for a visit and gave out gifts and stocking stuffers to the guests. St. Paul's Community INN was very grateful and is looking to future team-work with Home Depot, who is now helping them prepare an estimate for a new bathroom.

Martin Viette Nurseries



Left to Right: Michael Ireland, Jean Kelly and Russell Ireland III at the Martin Viette Holiday Reception.

The ninth annual Martin Viette Holiday Celebration proved to be a great event for The INN. For many it's the start of the holiday season, for The INN it is a tradition that is looked forward to, and for the Martin Viette "family" – it's a time to welcome old and new friends to an entertaining evening that will benefit The INN. This year many new faces were in attendance and both the raffle and the silent auction saw an abundance of attractive gifts. In acknowledging the remarkable work of the Martin Viette staff, Jean Kelly noted that the beautiful plants combined with the staff's loving spirit created a magical evening.

Attention all vegetable gardeners: The "Plant a Row" project will be in "bloom" for 2009. Gardeners are encouraged to plant an extra row of vegetables this spring and at harvest time, the "extra" vegetables may be donated to The INN: either at Martin Viette Nurseries in East Norwich or at the Mary Brennan INN. Call Nora Bealey at (516) 486-8506 ext. 108 for more details.

Diwali Food Drive

This year the Diwali Food Drive celebration said goodbye to long-time leader Suda Sharma, who initiated the Food Drive and successfully led this effort for many years; and welcomed a new Chairperson, Kishore Kuncham.

The success of 2008 brought great relief to The INN as we welcomed over three truck-loads of non-perishable food. Coming right before Thanksgiving, the food donation was extremely helpful. The INN was also moved by the generous nature of the Indian community during Diwali as a record breaking financial contribution was made in addition to the food.

The India Association of Long Island (IALI) also donated and served a home made Indian meal at the Mary Brennan INN. We are grateful to all the members of the IALI and look forward to working with Kishore again this year.



Jean Kelly, Kishore Kuncham, Suda Sharma and Rajyalakshmi Kuncham.

INN Youth Advisory Board

Students are an integral part of The INN's mission to promote awareness and meet the needs of hungry and homeless Long Islanders. In its goal to find ways to educate and engage youth, The INN, with the leadership of Rick Simon, established a Youth Advisory Board in 2006.

The Youth Board is made up of volunteer student representatives from various schools and grade levels (9th-12th). They come together to discuss ways in which they can encourage their peers to get involved in helping others (bringing the information and ideas back to their schools for implementation).

In an effort to encourage youth in leadership roles, a slate of officers were elected at the beginning of the year, consisting of three Presidents, three 1st Vice-Presidents, three 2nd Vice-Presidents, and two Secretaries. The officers create an agenda; facilitate the meeting and minutes for each meeting, and invite the entire Youth Board to participate in a service project for the rest of the meeting.

Recently, Newsday's Future Corps team attended one of the meetings to write a story about The INN's Youth Advisory Board and the sorting project they were working on that evening. Over the years, students have collected thousands of pounds of food, personal hygiene items, books, new toys, gently used clothing, school supplies and other items to meet the needs of the guests at The INN.

In May, students will end the year by spring cleaning and planting flowers at The INN's three emergency shelters and veterans' home.

If you or your school would like to join The INN's Youth Advisory Board, please contact Cynthia Sucich at csucich@the-inn.org or (516) 486-8506 ext. 115.

Did you know...

Fendi at Americana Manhasset celebrated their grand opening with a food drive for The INN as well as a generous contribution . . . the religious education classes at **St. Thomas the Apostle** have been making regular visits to The INN to help organize the food, clothing and book donations . . . the **Jewish Congregation of Brookville** made a thoughtful contribution of holiday gift cards for The INN's guests . . . there were 18 **sponsored meals** at the Mary Brennan INN in December, we would be excited if there could be a month with 100% sponsored meals . . . a big thank you to **Davis Vision** for their first time decorating the Mary Brennan INN at Thanksgiving and the **Rotary Club of Roslyn** for once again returning to decorate for the December holidays . . . The INN's **Board of Directors** held a day-long retreat to further educate themselves on The INN's mission and programs . . . **Madison National Bank** organized a "turkey drive" for The INN's soup kitchens . . . "**Muslims Against Hunger**" visited The INN for a day of service in December . . . Matthew Ardito organized a food drive amongst his classmates at the **Portledge School** . . . in a friendly gesture, **Price Waterhouse Cooper** reduced the scale of their holiday party and cheered up everyone at The INN with a significant contribution . . . INN Executive Director **Jean Kelly** received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from St. John's University . . . Thank you to the **Garden City Hotel** for inviting all The INN's staff to the Christmas Tree Lighting party.



The Carlton hosted the "Annual Holiday Party" for children at The INN's shelters. Mrs. Claus (Susan Capetola, shown above) together with the We Care Fund of the Nassau County Bar Association provided toys for our youngest guests.

Our Wish List

The INN also needs:

- Canned soup, vegetables, fruit, tuna fish, pasta and pasta sauce
- Hygiene products – soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. (small, travel sizes preferred for all items)
- Disposable diapers (all sizes), baby lotion, baby wipes, baby powders
- New and gently used bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloths
- Jeans in good condition, khakis, workboots, sneakers and shoes

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



The Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center organized a holiday toy drive for The INN's youngest guests.

Bryant Library

An innovative program conducted at the Bryant Library in Roslyn last November allowed patrons to substitute a food donation for each dollar owed for overdue books. Assistant librarian Joan Casson Sauer deserves kudos for her creative idea which generated 380 cans of food for The INN, and is believed to be the only program of its kind in Nassau County. Do you have an innovative idea to assist The INN? If so, please let us know.



Eileen's Gift toy drive volunteers help deliver over a thousand toys for the Mary Brennan INN toy distribution over the holidays.

Join The INN crowd

Are you looking to give your time and talent to benefit others in a meaningful way? Could you volunteer once a week? Twice a month? Are you available mid-day? (in a soup kitchen, sorting donations, helping with handy "person" chores, etc.) If so, we need your help. The INN is in need of weekday volunteers at many of its soup kitchens. To find out more about volunteer opportunities, please visit The INN's website, www.the-inn.org, or call Cynthia Sucich at (516) 486-8596 ext 115.

By the numbers

- Since August of last year the number of guests coming to The INN has increased by more than 40%
- 68% of The INN's shelter guests are children under the age of 16
- 12,000 gallons of "home-made" soup was prepared and served at the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen in 2008
- INN volunteers donated over 110,000 hours of service last year
- According to the Federal Government, if you are a family of four and you earn more than \$22,050 you are living above the poverty line



Members of the Tzu Chi Charity Foundation USA volunteering at The INN.



New York Islander staff at The INN.

Feinstein Challenge

The Feinstein challenge provides a \$1 million grant that is divided among hunger fighting agencies based on the amount they have raised in a specific time period. The challenge runs through April 30th. We appreciate any donation you can offer at this time.

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'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"

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 (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 while using the services at The INN.