



THE NEWS

"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"

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Summer 2011

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Steering the Ship through Tumultuous Seas

In March, a happily married couple—"Mike" and "Leslie"—along with their two year old daughter, "Emily," were evicted from their home. Mike had unexpectedly lost a steady job, and subsequently could not afford to pay the rent. The eviction had been abrupt, the sudden reality of homelessness grim. The family's predicament was made worse by Mike's skin disease, which caused him to break out in painful hives all over his body—a condition that worsens exponentially with increased levels of stress.

Mike had never been without a job. His family had never been homeless. But by the end of March they were, and moved into the Edna Moran INN family shelter. The transition was difficult but the family managed to adjust relatively well to their new setting. In the process, they had to part with their dog, "Lenny"—a longtime loyal, beloved member of the family—and had to leave him with what they thought were trusted family friends. As one can imagine, this separation made the new reality in which they suddenly found themselves even more taxing and arduous.

Despite all of this, the family came together, drawing on their love of each other as well as the services of The INN for support. Eventually they were provided with a budget and began a diligent search for permanent housing. In time they were able to secure a house that would accommodate all of them—even Lenny. Mike's condition began to improve and their luck appeared to be



Check out The INN's new video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/GetINNvolved> or view it on The INN's website at www.the-inn.org.

turning around.

And that's when things got hard.

After submitting their offering letter for the house to the Department of Social Services (DSS) the family discovered that

Lenny was being abused and beaten by the people he had been staying with. At the same time the landlord of the house they were trying to obtain suddenly decided that he would turn back on his promise and refuse to rent them the apartment, citing complaints that the DSS process was taking too long. Frustration surged and Mike and Leslie started fighting with each other; Mike's skin condition worsened; and the family had to move Lenny to the backseat of their car.

It was then that the staff at the Edna Moran INN became further involved. Immediately they contacted the family's DSS caseworker and requested an explanation for the delay in providing the family with their rent payment checks, and eventually arranged for them to be delivered within a week. Then the housing coordinator contacted the landlord, explained the gravity of the situation and persuaded him to extend the rental offer until the family received their

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Preserving the Future

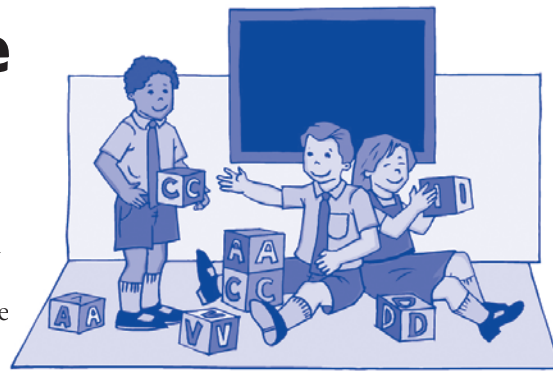
By Dan Moore

Every child deserves the right to a quality education—to be denied as much is normally considered a grievous cultural injustice, an unthinkable malfeasance. However, a life without proper access to fundamental educational resources is often the harsh reality for most children whose families become homeless. This reality almost always bears dire consequences. According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, children experiencing homelessness are twice as likely as middle-class children to be expelled from or to drop out of school; 75 percent under age five have at least one major development delay or deviation, and only 25 percent of children who experience homelessness will graduate from high school.

Bottom line: Children who experience homelessness are far less likely than their peers to realize their life's intellectual potential, simply because of societal circumstances which operate entirely out of their control. Luckily, here at The INN we are taking steps to combat this iniquity by launching the Tiny Roots Kindergarten Readiness Program at the Edna Moran INN family shelter.

Tiny Roots, founded by New York State-certified Early Education specialist Kristen Ryan, is a program that prepares children between the ages of three and five for Kindergarten. This program provides them with assistance in honing essential educational proficiencies, with a focus on language development, motor skills and social aptitude skills that will support them throughout their scholastic career. All children staying at the shelter are invited and encouraged to participate in the program.

Tiny Roots is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of each child it services: for every three students at least one teacher will be present. The program meets once a week, and through participation in group activities such



as story-telling, classroom discussion, goal-setting, artistic expression

and language recognition—all of which will work to foster creativity and teamwork—the program will support young students whose early educational experiences have been negatively affected by the stresses of homelessness (of which there are many). Tiny Roots also provides each child an educational tool-box—complete with materials such as pencils, crayons, white-boards and markers, flashcards and other learning supplies—which is theirs to keep and use in between sessions and after they leave the shelter. Each child is given a book to read and exchange for a new one the following week.

Tiny Roots will also be a valuable asset to parents eager to involve themselves in their child's education. It will supply for them a plethora of parental resources should they be requested, such as information pertaining to literacy, early intervention and behavior modification, along with optional parent-only workshops.

It goes without saying that the strains of homelessness are severe, the hardships dire; that the implications of such afflictions are multiplied ten-fold when referring to a child. But with the continued benevolent dedication of inspired individuals such as Kristen Ryan, the existence and operation of programs such as Tiny Roots here at The INN will help alleviate these hardships, and will provide for shelter guests the foundation upon which to build a future that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

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checks. They arranged an appointment for Mike with a qualified doctor who was able to treat his condition and alleviate him of his pain. And finally they were able to find a safe, suitable place for Lenny to stay until the family was able to leave the shelter.

On June 1st, Mike, Leslie, Emily and Lenny moved into their new home—together, as a family. With the help of The INN they were able to steer their familial ship through the most tumultuous period of their life: Mike is employed, Lenny is exultant and surrounded with love, and Emily will be able

to grow up in a safe, stable home. Just recently the family contacted us here at The INN, informing us that they are all doing well, and that they love their new home.

This is just one of many stories that your support of The INN makes possible. The INN cares for each guest and provides necessary assistance to make sure they get what is needed so they advance toward self sufficiency. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help serve the next family or individual who arrives needing assistance navigating troubled waters.



From left to right: Executive Director Jean Kelly, Humanitarian of the Year Roger Bahnik and Susan Lucci.



From left to right: Honorary Co-Chair Peter Beddah; Co-Chair Steve Richmond; Lori Bahnik; Humanitarian of the Year Roger Bahnik; Executive Director Jean Kelly; Humanitarian of the Year Alice Culver; Hal Culver; Honorary Co-Chair Tim Paisley and Co-Chair Rob Kammerer.

25th Annual INNkeepers' Ball raises \$1 Million

The 25th annual INNkeepers' Ball, held at the Long Island Marriott on Thursday, May 12, proved once again to be a major success, raising over \$1 million to help hungry and homeless Long Islanders in need.

This year The INN honored both Roger Bahnik of Mill-Max Mfg. and Alice Culver of the North Fork Community Supper INN with the Humanitarian of the Year Award. Both were honored for their long time dedication and support of The INN. Over 450 individuals attended the event to honor Bahnik and Culver, raising for The INN much needed funds while simultaneously celebrating our organization's success in serving hungry and homeless Long Islanders with dignity, respect and love for over 25 years.

During this very special evening The INN debuted its new promotional video, which highlighted both volunteers and staff-members working together to combat the

problems of hunger and homelessness that face our guests each day.

Ball attendees enjoyed bidding on both silent and live auctions, purchasing glass plates created by the Artist Committee and trying their luck in a raffle drawing. Guests were also able to participate in the Be An Angel meal sponsorship at the Mary Brennan INN.

The evening would not have been possible without the hard work of the INNkeepers' Ball co-chairs Rob Kammerer and Steve Richman, nor without the efforts of the INNkeepers' Ball Committee, who all work tirelessly putting together the details of the event every year to help make it a great annual success. The INN is already looking forward to next year's ball, set to take place on Thursday, May 10, 2012.



From left to right: Amy Hughes, Ellen Broder, Susan McDonald, Christine Ippolito and Vicki Ferrara



Board Chair Maureen Nappi, Event Co-Chair Rob Kammerer and committee member Pia Glenn.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!



July 2011

July 21 – The INN Young Professional Cocktail Reception

September 2011

September 8 – The INN Golf Classic at Middle Bay Country Club
September 18 – All Hands INN Day of Service Young Professional Event
September 25 – The INN Open House



October 2011

October 3 – Ben's Olde Time New York Deli Celebration
October 27 – The INN Luncheon at Westbury Manor

November 2011

November 13 – A Day of Thanks & Giving
November 19 – Martin Viette Holiday Reception



If you would like any further information on any of these events or to request an invitation please contact The INN's Event Coordinator Nora White at (516) 486-8506 ext. 108 or nwhite@the-inn.org

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities for the holidays?
Visit The INN's website to see how you can reserve your space now.

INN Open House

Get your friends, family, neighbors...

Everyone INNvolved

at The INN's

Open House

Sunday, September 25, 2011

11 AM – 3 PM

(Tours will be given every half hour)

Mary Brennan INN

100 Madison Ave. • Hempstead, NY 11550

*Refreshments will be served

Questions:

Emily Wilensky (516) 486-8506 ext. 138

16th Annual INN Golf Classic

Come out and support The INN on Thursday, September 8th at the 2011 INN Golf Classic. This year The INN will honor Walter Reese of Ridgewood Savings Bank. In 2003 Walter Reese encouraged Ridgewood Savings Bank to allow their employees to volunteer at the Mary Brennan INN. Now they send over 100 volunteers a year to make a difference at the soup kitchen as well as to run food drives from their bank branches. Walter credits The INN for making community service a large part of Ridgewood Savings Bank tradition.

The INN Golf Classic will take place at the Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside, NY. For more information please contact Nora White at (516) 486-8506 ext. 108 or visit the website at www.the-inn.org.



Our Wish List

Summer is a particularly challenging time for The INN to attract canned good donations and items needed to fill our pantry. Many families are in need of support as schools do not provide breakfast and lunch programs and guest attendance is high. Please take time during this busy season to help us fill the following needs:

- Canned soup, vegetables, fruit, tuna fish, pasta and pasta sauce
- Hygiene products - soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. (travel sizes preferred)
- Bottled water and juices
- Roundtrip MetroCards for job opportunities and medical appointments
- Disposable diapers (all sizes), baby lotion, wipes and powders
- New and gently used bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloths
- New socks
- New toys for children of all ages (we are getting ready for the holidays)

Please bring your donations to the Mary Brennan INN, located at 100 Madison Avenue in the village of Hempstead, Monday to Friday, 9 am - 11 am, 2 pm - 4 pm

If you are interested in organizing a drive or for more information please call Emily Wilensky at (516) 486-8506 ext. 138. Thank you for your consideration.

Newsday Creates Big News for The INN



In March, The INN graciously received a \$50,000 grant from Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Foundation. The grant will go towards The INN's Long Term Housing Program. The INN is among the few Long Island nonprofit organizations that have a comprehensive model program for formerly homeless families. This grant will help The INN continue on its mission to both accommodate individuals and families with a safe, stable long term living environment, as well as provide them with support services that assist these families in becoming economically independent, thus working to end the cycle of poverty.



From left to right: Fred Groser, Publisher of Newsday; Dale Cole, Project Coordinator of Newsday; Joe Barry, Director of Fundraising of The INN; Jean Kelly, Director of Fundraising of The INN; Gina Caporaso, Long Term Housing Coordinator of The INN; Rob Kammerer, Board Member of The INN; and Paul Fleishman, Vice President of Community Affairs of Newsday

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



The INN is on facebook and Twitter.

To become a fan and receive updates on The INN's activities and announcements please go to

www.facebook.com/TheINN.InterfaithNutritionNetwork
or twitter.com/the_inn.



"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 while using the services at The INN.