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## **INDIA NATIVE IS HONORARY CO-CHAIR AT 2011 INNKEEPERS' BALL**

Hempstead, NY (May 6, 2011) – The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) has asked India's own Peter Beddah, to be an honorary co-chair, along with Timothy Paisley, of Garden City, for this year's INNkeepers' Ball.



Beddah, a long-time friend and supporter of The INN, has a history of being charitable both in India and the United States through the India Association of Long Island (IALI). Over the last 16 years, Beddah has collected truckloads of food for IALI's annual food drive. In addition to being a grand sponsor, Beddah also partakes in the Diwali Festival of Lights event, which raises thousands of dollars and hundreds of pounds of food for The INN.

“The INN is so fortunate to have such generous supporters like Beddah,” said Jean Kelly, executive director of The INN. “We are grateful for his dedication to the agency and are excited he has become an honorary co-chair at the 2011 INNkeeper’s Ball.”

Bheddah, who is from Kutch, Gujarat, India, has remained deeply connected to his country of origin through his active involvement in community service. His humanitarian efforts have been geared toward helping the less fortunate in the two countries he has called home throughout his lifetime.

Bheddah is a past president and a director of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation. The fund raising and completion of projects during his presidency (1992- 1994) has been unsurpassed on many accounts. Bheddah is also involved with the Gujarati Samaj of New York, where he is a past president. Recently, he was named as a trustee of the Samaj for 2009-2012. During his two year term from 2001 to 2002, he is credited with raising a substantial amount of money and restructuring the finances of the Samaj. After the 2001 earthquake in Kutch, Gujarat, Bheddah visited the devastated area with President Bill Clinton. Working with Indian-American organizations Bheddah coordinated projects worth \$1,000,000.

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### **The INN**

The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) is a dynamic, not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization working to resolve Long Island’s hunger and homelessness issues by providing food, shelter, long-term housing, and supportive services in a dignified and respectful manner to families and individuals seeking assistance. A dedicated staff, committed volunteers, and broad-based community support help The INN to deliver its services through 19 soup kitchens, three homeless shelters, and 25 long-term housing apartments. As one of Long Island’s largest private social service agencies, The INN is ranked among the most cost-effective charities in the United States. For more information on The INN please visit [www.the-inn.org](http://www.the-inn.org) or call (516) 486-8506.

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