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**THE INN AWARDED \$100,000 GRANT FROM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SHELTER ROCK
Hempstead-based organization to renovate emergency men's shelter**

Hempstead, NY (May 26, 2016) –The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) was a proud recipient of a \$100,000 grant from Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR) through its nationally known Veatch Program. The Hempstead-based organization, which serves hungry and homeless Long Islanders through a network of soup kitchens and homeless shelters, plans to renovate the Donald Axinn INN, an emergency shelter for single men, with the award. Plans are in place to build a sun room/living room for the gentlemen, as well as a handicap accessible ramp and downstairs bathroom. A press conference held earlier today announced the award winners, which included The INN, and three other non-profit organizations.

UUCSR has a long-term relationship with The INN; its members have been cooking and delivering food to INN shelters for three decades. The grant brings the total awarded to The INN since 2010 to \$525,000.

“We are so very grateful to the Unitarians at Shelter Rock for their many years of very generous support,” said Jean Kelly, Executive Director of The INN. After years of delivering delicious food to shelter guests, now, they have given the men in our shelter a space to relax and unwind after working so hard to solve their housing and employment challenges.”



L to R: Rob Kammerer, INN Board Member, Dana Lopez, INN Communications & PR Manager, Dorian Stern, INN Director of Development, Jean Kelly, INN Executive Director, Judith Dean, INN Director of Shelter Programs, Christian Aguilera, INN Facilities Director, Cynthia Sucich, INN Director of Communications, Joanne Robinson, INN Managing Director, and Arnold Babel, UUCSR President

ABOUT THE INN

The mission of *The INN* (Interfaith Nutrition Network) is to address the issues of hunger and homelessness on Long Island by providing food, shelter, long-term housing and supportive services in a dignified and respectful manner for those who seek the organization's help.

Founded in 1983 as a single soup kitchen run by a small group of concerned volunteers, *The INN*, a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, has grown to deliver its services through 14 soup kitchens in 21 locations, three homeless shelters, and a Long Term Housing Program consisting of 20 housing units for families and housing for up to seven veterans. Currently, more than 5,500 meals are served each week.

A dedicated staff, committed volunteers and broad-based community support help *The INN* maintain its position 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, please visit www.the-inn.org or call (516) 486-8506.

ABOUT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion born of Jewish and Christian traditions. It is known for deeds, not creeds. UU congregations affirm and promote seven principles, including the goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. There are more than 1,000 UU congregations in the United States under the aegis of the Boston-based Unitarian Universalist Association. Shelter Rock, with 680 members, is one of the UUA's flagship congregations. It holds regular Sunday morning services and also musical Soulful Sundown services on the second Friday of each month (September through July). It offers a Religious Education program for children and a full array of other activities. For more information check www.uucsr.org or contact UUCSR marketing and communications associate Jennifer Sappell at [516-472-2980](tel:516-472-2980) (jsappell@uucsr.org).