



...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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**Save
THE
Date:**

• May 9th –
INNkeepers' Ball
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GUEST STORY

A Labor of Love

After nearly three years that proved to be arduous and sometimes challenging for everyone at The INN's family shelter, staff members finally bid a bittersweet farewell to the Moore family* as they ventured to build a new life in their four-bedroom home in Suffolk County, the first home of their own they've ever shared together.

Ms. Moore had a long and complicated history which included mental health concerns, child welfare cases and substance abuse. It was in the shelter that she first had the

New Keys

New Lease

New Life



responsibility of caring for her three children, ages three, seven and 13, for an extended period of time. With the help of the experienced staff and social workers at the shelter, Ms. Moore's time there was the longest stretch of her life as a clean, sober and

(continued pg 2)

NY METS TEAM UP WITH THE INN

The New York Mets teamed up with The INN this past holiday season to host their annual off-season Mets Giving Food Drive on December 11th. Fans who visited the team store at CitiField with at least ten cans of food were given vouchers for two free tickets to attend a home game in April or May. Shortstop



Mr. Met and shortstop, Ahmed Rosario, along with INN staff and Nassau Financial Federal Credit Union volunteers collect food at CitiField.

Ahmed Rosario was there with a smile to help volunteers from Nassau Financial Federal Credit Union and mascot Mr. Met greet fans, thank donors and load up The INN truck with a grand total of 2,363 pounds of food for the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen! What an "Amazin" way to Get INNvolved!

TO SPONSOR A MEAL, PLEASE CALL (516) 486-8506, EXT. 115



Jean Kelly,
Executive Director

REFLECTIONS

When all is said and done ... *transformation!*

As The INN enters its 36th year on Long Island, serving those who are hungry and homeless is still a challenge and a horrible, though often hidden, reality.

Fortunately, thanks to the Center for Transformative Change (CTC), located next to the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen in Hempstead, we are now able to see many homeless men and women slowly accept help and receive the housing, jobs and benefits they are so in need of and equally deserve.

What is amazing to witness is both the visual and emotional transformation that takes place when individuals return to living indoors and are, for the first time in years, finally free from fear. Everyone looks ten to 20 years younger and their unique personalities blossom into their true selves.

For all who have offered your help, whether as a generous donor, a dedicated volunteer, staff or board member, or as a community partner, you have made these transformative changes in people's lives possible. For this, we shall remain forever thankful.

When we think of our own journey through life, we can see how the family we were born into largely determines our opportunities. We also realize that any one of us could have been born into very different circumstances. We are the fortunate ones.

When speaking with guests, we often remind them that it's just a "matter of chance." If the positions were reversed, we know they would be assisting us, the same as we are helping them. They always say a resounding "yes"! For a brief moment, that thought seems to offer them relief from their worries.

For those who have never been able to visit The INN in person, but send your support through financial contributions, we have heard many of you say, "I do the easy part. I just write a check." Well, you worked hard to earn that money and if you did not share it with us, there would be no food or shelters or soup kitchen or showers, because we couldn't turn on the lights, without you. Please take credit where credit is due. You have shown your kindness to complete strangers and truly transformed their lives. Thank you so much.

When all is said and done, we shall be judged on what we did for those in need in our midst. All your efforts make it possible for The INN to transform lives each day with courage and kindness. We remain inspired and encouraged to continue, knowing you are with us, in body or in spirit, through your thoughtfulness, understanding and your hearts filled with love. Please continue to take the best of care. You are truly precious beyond words.

With never-ending gratitude and love,

Jean Kelly, Executive Director

A Labor of Love continued from pg 1

responsible parent. Her coping and life-management skills slowly developed; staff members never gave up or turned their backs on her, even when they experienced frustration with her case and were told that their expectations may have been too high.

With time and patience, INN staff, along with help from the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless,

worked together to make the dream of a permanent home come true for the Moore family. Along with their permanent housing, they also will continue to receive support through a permanent supportive housing program. Ms. Moore credits The INN for keeping her focused to achieve her family goals.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of INN guests*

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Most people would jump at the opportunity to fly to the Caribbean for a weekend getaway. However, when Fara J. Smith was gifted a trip by her company, Gotham Technology Group, her heart led her in a different direction.

Smith recalled while growing up that her single mother of three had volunteered with The INN. Despite her mother's struggle to make ends meet, she still found there were others who needed help more than they did.

"I remember [my mom] collecting coats and going with a group from her company to hand out warm clothes and food through an organization called The INN."

Smith never forgot her mother's charity work with The INN. That legacy of love and giving inspired Smith to choose to help those less fortunate. She proceeded by asking her company if they could monetize the trip that she had been gifted so that she could donate the proceeds to The INN. Her

company agreed and Smith made a gift that was more than just a weekend getaway; it was a gift that truly changed lives this holiday season.

"I have been fortunate to travel and have a good life. One more trip is an abundance, and it could go a lot further to help feed others."

Smith's trip donation was valued at \$5,043.62 and it was The INN's largest donation from an individual for #GivingTuesday. Smith donated the trip funds in tribute to her mother, in whose footsteps she is following by working with her company to create more outreach programs with greater impact.

"[My mother] is my icon, my inspiration and my driving force to dream big always."



Fara Smith shown with her mother

OUR FIRST TABLE MEAL SPONSOR

Maria Worzel, a five year volunteer at The INN, has become our first "table meal" sponsor. Maria's sponsorship, will provide a hot nutritious meal to 12 individuals at the Mary Brennan INN and her name will be displayed on the TV monitor during that day. A mother and grandmother, Maria is a retired school psychologist who still practices privately, part-time.

Maria learned about The INN when she decided to volunteer on Thanksgiving. Since you have to sign up early to volunteer on any major holiday, her generous offer was not accepted. But, the following year, she did get to volunteer at Thanksgiving and called it, "One of the biggest blessings of my life."

When informed that volunteers were very much needed on a once a week basis, Maria said, "yes." She likes to say that, "Being here at The INN helps me increase my attitude of gratitude," as she looks forward to volunteering each week.

She spends Thursdays "working" the door of the Mary Brennan INN, where she greets every guest with a big smile and a warm hello. A bubbly and outgoing personality makes her the right person for this job, as she welcomes up to 400 guests each day.

Thank you Maria and all our volunteers for all you do to help those who are hungry and/or homeless.

To become a "table meal sponsor" or for more information, please call (516) 486-8506, ext. 115.



Maria Worzel, proud Mary Brennan INN Volunteer

IT WAS TIME TO GIVE BACK

Tom Lynn, a small business owner from the north shore of Long Island, considers himself a lucky man.

He was working at the New York *Daily News* as a graphic artist when he surmised that the newspaper business was on a downward spiral and he needed to find other employment.

Tom decided to start a part-time business from his home, which he hoped would turn eventually into a full-time job to support his growing family.

Over the years his business prospered to the point that he left the *Daily News* and now employs three full-time individuals at an office near his home.

Due to his success, Tom wanted to give back to the community where he leads a very good life as a husband, father and grandfather.

He decided to become a monthly donor. "It was very easy," said Tom. "Just go to The-INN.org/donatefunds and click on the BE AN INNSPIRATION box."

"I filled in the amount and my credit card info, so each month I will be supporting The INN, a very important and worthwhile cause providing food, shelter and clothing to those who need it most right here on Long Island."

"It makes me feel good that I can help people who are less fortunate than me and my family," says Tom.

He was surprised to learn about how much is accomplished at the Center for Transformative Change (CTC). In addition to the soup kitchen and shelters, the CTC serves as a resource

center offering direct and referral services, access to email, help in obtaining identification (in today's world, it is

impossible to find a job or a place to live without an ID or email access), as well as a clothing boutique with new and gently used clothing.

"A monthly donation of any amount can help," said Tom, who hopes that his monthly donation can inspire others to do the same by giving back.



Be an INNSpiration

*It's like a heart on a swing...
Every Gift
Every Month
Maintains the momentum of Love*

Thanks to YOU, we've done all this in the past six months!



Served 32,867 hot meals



Provided 4,671 hot showers



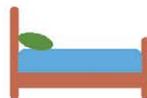
Welcomed 4,480 guests to the clothing boutique



Welcomed 1,831 guests (including federal workers) to the food pantry



Helped 22 guests gain employment



Provided warm shelter beds for 349 guests



Found 20 chronically homeless guests a place to call home for good

UPCOMING EVENTS

INN Youth Board Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:00-10:00am

Join students of The INN's Youth Board for their breakfast fundraising event at Applebee's in Westbury.

INNkeepers' Ball

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:00-10:30pm

This year we are honoring the D & F Development Group and Tom and Eileen Lamberti at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale.

INN Golf Classic

Thursday, September 26, 2019

At Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove.

INN Luncheon

Friday, October 18, 2019

At The Garden City Hotel, Garden City. This year we are honoring KPMG LLP.

A Family Day of Thanks and Giving

Sunday, November 3, 2019

At the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen, Hempstead.

For more information on events, contact Nora White at (516) 486-8506, ext. 108 / nwhite@the-inn.org or check out our events page at www.the-inn.org/events

NEW AND EXCITING INITIATIVE

Grant Funds INN Expansion

The Village of Hempstead is one of 16 communities across New York State designated as part of Governor Cuomo's Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) and is the only ESPRI-designated community on Long Island. Thanks to funding associated with this initiative, The INN applied for an ESPRI grant and is one of nine ESPRI-funded projects in the Village. We have been awarded one year of funding for a demonstration project at the Center for Transformative Change (CTC) for the provision of mental health services.

The project began in December, 2018 as a collaboration between The INN and Central Nassau Guidance & Counseling Services (CNG). CNG currently leases an office at the CTC and a mental health counselor is on site one day per week. As per the grant, this will expand to three days a week by the end of 2019.

Guests of the Mary Brennan INN and the CTC have been informed of this new service and have responded positively. We look forward to providing this important service to the guests of The INN.

Our Wish List

The INN is in need of:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Non-perishable foods in bags/boxes and cans – **no glass please**
- Diapers for children – all sizes
- New underwear for men, women and children
- Metro cards – single or multi-ride
- Supermarket gift cards – in any denomination
- Auction items for upcoming INN events (restaurant gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, concerts or theater, "behind the scene" tours at places of interest). For more information call Nora White at (516) 486-8506, ext. 108

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

THINKING AHEAD AND GETTING INVOLVED

It may seem far ahead, but summer will eventually be here. At The INN, summer comes with unique challenges — for example, school children coming to The INN and fewer people around to hold food drives — so we have to plan far ahead. The following are some simple ways you can help during the summer. We hope that one may interest you. Please call (516) 486-8506, ext. 115.

- **Plant a Row** – If you enjoy planting and growing a vegetable garden, then kindly *plant an extra row* for The INN and bring in your fresh vegetables to help us ensure guests are getting the nutrition they need.
- **Host a Summer Food Drive** – Summertime is one of our busiest times of year. With schools

closed, students no longer have access to a free meal and will come to the soup kitchen with their parents to have a meal. Please remember to include healthy snacks, too.

- **Host a Fun Drive** – Collect fun items that children can utilize during the times they are out of school and may not have anything to do.
- **Host a School Supply Drive** – It's never too early to start collecting supplies for the upcoming school year (backpacks, pens, notebooks, folders, markers, binders, etc.).
- **Make a Monetary Donation** – A monetary donation in any amount is always welcomed and can help make a difference in so many ways.



“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 or interviewed while using the services of The INN.

SHELTERS

Donald E. Axinn INN
Edna Moran INN

PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Alana Grace INN Administrative Center
Center for Transformative Change (CTC)
Clarice Silk INN
Crisis Housing Project
Homelessness Prevention
Jane's INN
Long-Term Housing
Mary Brennan INN
Mary Moore INN

OUR VISION

To transform lives by addressing hunger, homelessness and profound poverty through awareness, action and generosity.

OUR MISSION

As a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, The INN provides a broad variety of essential services to assist those challenged by hunger, homelessness and profound poverty. We partner with those in need in a dignified and respectful manner to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Follow us on



To become a fan and receive updates on The INN's activities and announcements, please go to facebook.com/theinnli, twitter.com/the_inn, instagram.com/theinnstagram or youtube.com/getinvolved