



...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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GUEST STORY

Jonathan's American Dream

It is always a pleasure to share a guest's good news!

The Donald Axinn INN (DAI) is The INN's emergency shelter for men. It is a large house where up to 25 single men reside while working with The INN's staff, and each other, to find housing, employment and personal renewal. One of those men is named Jonathan.

Like many of the men at the DAI, Jonathan arrived in a "difficult situation", but was motivated to change for the better. Unfortunately, for most of these men there has been no family member or friend who is able to



Donald Axinn INN

guide their motivation in a productive direction. This is where the staff and culture of The INN can make the difference.

Jonathan was particularly receptive to the support and encouragement he received. With that and his own hard work, he completed online training and is now a certified computer technician.

(continued pg 6)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Irene Goodwin



Irene Goodwin

The INN has been blessed with many volunteers over the past 38 years. While each one is

unique and has played a special role, Irene Goodwin is in a very special category — she was a pioneer.

In the early days of The INN, when very few people were aware of The INN's activity in the community,

Irene was among the first group of volunteers to "jump in with both feet" in support of The INN's mission, showing a specific interest in the important area of fundraising. She hosted the earliest INNkeepers' Ball meetings in her home and was involved in all aspects of the Ball. Irene originated the term "INNkeeper", which was (and still is) the perfect name for all the amazing donors who are inspired to donate to The INN.

(continued pg 2)

Save THE Dates:

(see page 5)

- October 22 – INN Luncheon
- November 7 – Day of Thanks And Giving

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



Jean Kelly
Executive Director

THE FLOWERS AND STARS IN OUR MIDST

There is much beauty in every flower that bloomed this summer season, and perhaps “they” are grateful when someone saw and appreciated their lovely color and perfection.

There is also beauty in every star at night if the sky is clear and you are in a place with a good view.

Everything has a specific time to bloom, to shine, and to be in your life. I hope you have managed to take the time to stop and look. It can take your breath away if you are open to receive their gifts.

Walking among us each day are people who, too, are shining and blooming. Today may even be their peak season. We may not always notice them, as we are often caught up in our own busy lives. That would be true in “normal” times, in these unusual times, stopping to appreciate our surroundings may be even more difficult. But certainly, a rewarding effort. And if you do notice someone’s “bloom and shine”, please be sure to acknowledge them.

Here, at The INN, we are fortunate every day to see people blooming and shining on both sides of the door... from those who come to receive a meal, to those who help prepare and distribute the meals. Thanks to your never-ending thoughtfulness and compassion, this is possible. While it is currently safe for the staff and volunteers to come thru the door at The INN, the guests continue to receive their meal at the door. It is still not safe for that large amount of people to enter the building. We are hopeful that very soon, we will be able to re-open the door for them to enter and be warmly welcomed. The guests have been very patient, and we remain grateful for their understanding.

For the volunteers and staff to have the gift of being able to recognize the bloom and shine in everyone they meet and serve, they need the inspiration and assurance you, the donors, provide. We are truly thankful for this priceless gift. May each of you, likewise, be treated to abundant blooms and shines in your own lives.

Please continue to take the very best of care. You are precious beyond words.

Love,

Jean

Irene Goodwin (continued from pg 1)

Had Irene not been such a remarkable force with the INNkeepers’ Ball, The INN would not have had the funds needed to survive the early years, and all the years since. She was a vital part in establishing The INN’s bedrock of support.

25 years ago, Irene was very fittingly named as Honoree at the inaugural INN Golf Classic, and it was a tremendous start to another avenue of fundraising. Her daughter, Ellen, was Honoree at the 2020 INN Golf Classic, and not surprisingly, followed in her mom’s footsteps with another tremendous success.

Irene’s laughter and loving spirit were always infectious, and she made the experience of fund-

raising, fun-raising. She innately knew how to make things happen and challenged all who knew her to step up to the plate and do their part.

With her husband Dick, who preceded her into heaven, Irene raised two outstanding children, Richard and Ellen, both of whom continue in their parents’ footsteps by energetically supporting The INN.

We remain forever grateful to Irene for her many years of friendship, encouragement, and exceptional generosity. She remains in a class by herself and continues to be a source of inspiration.

May she rest in peace and in all the heartfelt memories of all who were honored to know her.

THE NY METS HIT HOME RUN FOR THE INN

For more than 15 years the New York Met players and front office have been stepping up to the plate to help The INN.

Both the Mets and The INN are integral parts of the community. The Mets providing entertainment and The INN providing support to those in need; together they are a perfect match.

It is a special day when the players volunteer at the Mary Brennan INN. Arriving in their brand-new team jerseys the players are instantly recognizable and always draw a crowd. But once meal service begins, they excuse themselves to take their place at the serving counter. On one of their volunteer days (prior to the pandemic), a new guest was coming to the door when he heard another guest say the Mets were inside. "Yeah, when pigs fly" was his response. Walking in he saw shortstop Ahmed Rosario (since traded to Cleveland) talking baseball with a tableful of guests. He could scarcely believe his eyes and quickly joined in — a day he and all the other guests will keep as a treasured memory.

The Mets organization has donated tens of thousands of pounds of food to The INN. During the pandemic the Mets responded to an urgent need by donating multiple pallets of bottled water. When The INN needed sturdy shopping bags for the food pantry, the Mets were there again with pallets full.

The Mets have helped The INN in too many ways to list here, but these three reveal the breadth of their support: for The INN's youngest guests, they have donated backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies; for the volunteers and staff, the Mets have donated game tickets in appreciation of their service; and for the entire INN family, The INN was acknowledged as Honoree at their 2019 "Summer in the Citi" event.

Here at The INN we shall always regard the NY Mets as "All-Stars" for their generosity and compassion.



SOAP S.A.C.K. SETS THE DONATION "BAR" HIGH

Stacy Weiner, founder of the organization Soap S.A.C.K. (Supporting a Community with Kindness) was volunteering at a food pantry in New Jersey and noticed many people were asking for soap and other personal hygiene products. Using her crochet talents, Stacy created a pattern for a Soap S.A.C.K., a small crocheted or knitted pouch made with cotton yarn that holds a full bar of soap and can be used either as a storage bag for the soap or a washcloth

with the bar of soap inside. She enlisted the help of volunteers and others who wanted to give back and either use their talents to crochet the sacks or donate funds, bars of soap or yarn. She quickly watched her organization grow! Since 2017, 200,000 Soap S.A.C.K.s have been donated around the world to homeless shelters, food pantries and other organizations.

An introduction to The INN inspired Stacy to load up her own car with 300 pre-made Soap S.A.C.K.s and make the drive from the Jersey Shore to Hempstead to personally deliver the donation. "We like to say the smallest act of kindness goes such a long way," Stacy says. "The hope is that when guests of The INN get their bar of soap, they don't have to worry about how they can bring their soap with them, and they have a clean place to store it."

Watch Stacy tell her story on our new podcast, "INN Gratitude," available to view on our YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/getinvolved



Stacy Weiner and Cynthia Sucich

THE INN PROVIDED Exactly What I Searched For

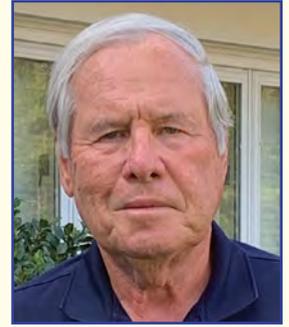
There are many roads that may lead a donor to The INN.

Dr. Andrew Grimes has donated to The INN every year since 1995. He remembers why he first donated — “I first donated when I searched for a charity consistent with the gospel. The INN provided exactly what I searched for. I have subsequently visited their facilities. This has reinforced my decision. They will remain on the top of my list.”

“I am happy that I can use my IRA directly to make donations to The INN. I want my gifts to stay close to home and benefit those most in

need. Giving to The INN fulfills this wish, and I know that The INN uses my donation to make other lives a little better.”

The Charitable IRA Rollover provides taxpayers with a mechanism for transferring their annual Required Minimum Distributions directly to charitable organizations. If you are 72 or older and interested in donating your IRA to The INN, please contact David Sinclair at (516) 534-2809 or email dsinclair@the-inn.org.



Dr. Andrew Grimes

VOLUNTEER STORY Wednesdays Fill Me With Hope

Before my very first shift at the Mary Brennan INN (MBI), I was asked to read and sign a form. It's very first sentence was “I promise to treat everyone I meet here with dignity and without judgment.” I didn't need to read any more, I signed. I wanted the people who put that sentence first to be in my life.

I am a retired middle school teacher and have focused my later life on service. For many years I taught adults to read through Literacy Nassau. Our family has always been generous in our donations, food drives, and other community efforts.

My life's purpose is rooted in my faith, Tikkun Olam means to heal the world, one person at a time, by reaching out to the marginalized and by being kind to strangers. It means to be of service for the common good, and that dignity is the most basic Human Right.

Purpose needs action, so I volunteered. After my first shift at MBI, I felt 10 years older physically, but 20 years younger spiritually. My back was bent, but I felt humble and grateful. And I came back, so did my back. Every day here fills me with hope, that at least there is a path out of Hunger, that there are so many people willing to help and donate, that the work I do every

Wednesday makes a difference in someone's life. The work everyone does makes a big difference.

The staff and volunteers here are unique, we come together in service for a greater good. Belonging to such a special group is a privilege.

Sid Burgreen – Volunteer

Thanksgiving Wish List

- Frozen Turkeys
- Canned Soups
- Canned Ham
- Canned Gravy
- Canned Yams
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed/Packaged Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Stuffing
- Canned Vegetables (corn, peas, string beans)
- No GLASS ITEMS PLEASE

There are two ways to donate!

DROP OFF ITEMS

Donations can be dropped off at the Mary Brennan INN no later than November 12th - 100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm

ORDER ONLINE

Simply order your items through The INN's online Thanksgiving Drive!
visit www.yougivegoods.com/theinn by November 2nd
Items will be delivered directly to the soup kitchen

INN EVENTS

2021 INN Luncheon

Friday, October 22, Garden City Hotel

We are pleased to be honoring Ernst & Young-Long Island at the **2021 INN "in-person" Luncheon**. The EY Long Island team has been an active supporter of The INN for more than 20 years.



Event Co-Chairs Lisa Arning and Susan MacDonald welcome your attendance, and it will be a great way to reconnect with friends. You may also participate as a sponsor, or if you choose, attend virtually. For tickets and additional information, please visit www.the-inn.org/2021luncheon.

Day of Thanks and Giving

Sunday Afternoon, November 7

Mary Brennan INN

The **Day of Thanks and Giving** brings families together for an early Thanksgiving celebration at the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen.



We are hoping to have this event in-person this year, but if not, we will be celebrating virtually. Whether in-person or on-line, your support will provide for holiday meals at The INN. Please visit www.the-inn.org/2021thanksgiving.

INN Events will be following the up-to-date health recommendations.

For more information on these events, visit www.the-inn.org, or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108

NORTHWELL HELPS GUESTS GET VACCINATED

Starting in April 2021, Northwell Health partnered with The INN in an effort to help guests of the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen (MBI) and the Center for Transformative Change (CTC) get vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. Since then, 200 guests have been fully vaccinated with the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. With a Northwell Vaccine van stationed in the parking lot of the CTC, guests could conveniently make appointments, have their shots administered and have questions answered by Northwell staff members with support from the staff they are already familiar with at CTC and MBI.



"The guests we serve tend to be in the higher risk categories for the virus, either because of their living situations or health conditions," said Eileen Burke, Administrative Manager for the CTC. "With

Northwell's help, they received the vaccine right here at CTC, a location where they feel secure and supported. We feel the partnership with Northwell made an incredible difference in the health and safety of guests."

Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, Senior Vice President of Community and Population Health at Northwell Health, was the point person for the effort. "Northwell is committed to ensuring that members of

all Long Island communities, especially those who are part of underserved populations, can have easy access to the Covid-19 vaccine," she said. "By partnering with The INN, we have been able to reach these populations who may not have had the resources to stay safe from the virus. We look forward to continuing the effort and serving as many INN guests as we can."

Guest Story (continued from pg 1)

And wanting to further realize his dreams, he enrolled at Nassau Community College. Jonathan may be a little older than a typical freshman, but he is on his way, after much persistence, to achieving his own "American Dream". He is very grateful to his DAI family.

Jonathan recently moved on from the DAI. We are happy to include him on the list (a lengthy one) of success stories at The INN. He is an important reminder of the value support and encouragement can be for anyone. Best Wishes to you Jonathan!

Did You Know?

The Donald Axinn INN opened in May, 1994. It moved from its original location to its present, larger location in September, 2018. Donald Axinn was one of The INN's original volunteers, and was also a poet, pilot and real estate developer.

Our Wish List

The INN is in need of:

- Non-perishable food – **no glass, please**
- New hats, gloves and scarves; new or dry-cleaned coats
- Gift Cards (supermarket and Visa) – preferred amounts, \$10, \$25 and \$50
- Diapers/wipes – sizes (3, 4, 5, 6 & pull-ups)
- Toiletry items (family size)

*Please bring your donations to the
Mary Brennan INN,
100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead,
M-F, 9am-2pm.*

*For directions please check our website or call
(516) 486-8506, ext. 114.*

Thank you.



The poster features a red background with white and green text and graphics. At the top is the INN logo (a blue house shape with 'INN' inside). Below it, the text reads: "Help INN Guests this Holiday Season ADOPT-A-FAMILY". In the center is a green house shape containing a white heart and a white silhouette of a family (two adults and two children). At the bottom, contact information is provided: "Contact Cynthia Sucich for details about families INN need and how you can make their holiday season a little brighter! csucich@the-inn.org (516) 486-8506 ext. 115".



*"Serving Hungry and
Homeless Long Islanders"*

211 Fulton Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 486-8506 • www.the-inn.org

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:

