INN...THE NEWS!
SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS
VOLUME XLIII NO. 2 www.the-inn.org SUMMER 2026

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- September 28 – INN Golf Classic
- November 6 – INN Luncheon
- November 15 – A Day of Thanks & Giving

GUEST STORY

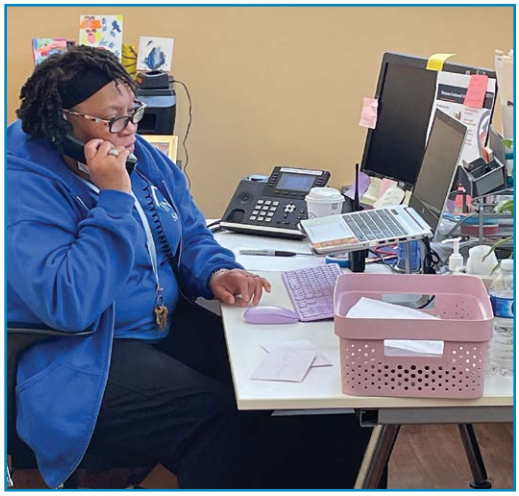
Mr. Oliver's Journey

This story was written by an INN staff member at the Center for Transformative Change (CTC).

Mr. Oliver had already been coming to The INN for several years, when he arrived in January of 2025 dressed in the oddest of ways. He came to the CTC in a hospital gown, wearing one hospital slipper and one boot, with an IV port protruding from his left arm. He announced himself to the case manager with a, "Look at me". Startled, she dropped what she was doing and called 911. She gathered warm clothing for him. When the first responders reached him, they found out he was on their BOLO (Be on the Lookout) list. Mr. Oliver had walked out of Nassau University Medical Center on a cold January day and somehow made it to the place where he felt the most respected, understood, and safe – The INN. He was taken back to the hospital (he was there after he had been hit by a car).

Mr. Oliver, now nearing 60, began living on the street at the age of 21.

After being discharged from the hospital, he returned to the CTC where he was placed in crisis housing to allow for further healing. During this time, he also received care at the mobile health van that visits The INN.



Channie Byrd, Senior Case Manager at the CTC

From the first day he came to The INN, the CTC staff assisted Mr. Oliver in many ways by obtaining his birth certificate, social security card, the reinstatement of his social security benefits, applying for a DMV non-driver's ID, and most recently, following his stay in crisis housing, guiding him through the process of finding his very own apartment, where he currently lives.

For someone like Mr. Oliver, being in his own place, with a steady, but fixed social security income, presents new challenges and responsibilities. Adjusting to living indoors is one of them. Another is his unfamiliarity with managing money. The staff of the CTC helps Mr. Oliver pay all his bills on time, and makes sure he has enough to pay for food, clothing and other necessities.

He calls the CTC staff weekly to say, "I love you guys".



Jean Kelly
Executive Director

REFLECTION

Patience

"He/She must have the patience of a saint" is a phrase I've often wondered about. In high school French I learned the English word patience comes from the French verb, "patior" which means "to suffer". Therefore, having patience means to be able to suffer.

I believe those living in profound poverty endure a form of suffering that many others would find unbearable. You could legitimately wonder if one day in the future we will learn we were serving a saint or two at The INN.

One possible candidate is "Mr. Wilson". When he first arrived at the Mary Brennan INN, he was living in profound poverty, but did so, by some miracle, graciously. He was homeless, had lost contact with his family and was living in an abandoned car. We were able to help him replace his missing identification, apply for social security benefits and place him in one of The INN's emergency shelters. After a little more than a year we discovered he had a sister who had recently moved to Hempstead. And while she barely had enough to get by herself, she was willing to have him move in with her, providing he chipped in with the living expenses. It seemed like a "happily ever after" story.

The INN is the safety net for the guests. For Mr. Wilson to have a family member who could help him is very, very unusual. For Mr. Wilson, after several years that living situation became unsustainable. He returned to The INN. As a staff social worker was interviewing him, he revealed he was a veteran. Why he had not revealed this previously will always be a mystery. And living with a mystery requires … patience.

The good news is he is eligible for veteran's benefits, including housing. The veterans' support group at The INN is now working with Mr. Wilson to find his own apartment. Happily ever after, Part II.

Partnering with those we serve requires commitment, skills and patience. We greatly appreciate your understanding of their challenging journeys. Against all odds they persevere. We promise to never give up on any guest. Together we make a difference.

Love,
Jean

COMING SOON!

July. As construction is nearing completion at 88-92 Madison Avenue, it is expected (in July) food donations will be made by entering the parking lot to the right of the Mary Brennan INN at 100 Madison Avenue in Hempstead. As you enter the parking lot, food donations will be made at the first door on the right. This will be one of the first steps in the opening of this 23,550 sq. ft. building. Thank you for your patience during the past twelve months.



Home of the new and modernized food storage area

August. Education is always a priority at The INN, and this includes having children return to school with a fully stocked, new and sturdy backpack. This summer we have received a $10,000 matching grant which will allow us to make cost efficient, bulk purchases of school supplies. If you would like to

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VOLUNTEER STORY

Our Newest Certified Food Handlers

Life's WORC is a nonprofit organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. Their Employment Training Program encourages volunteering in the community to gain job skills and social interaction. Twice a week for more than two years, 15 volunteers from Life's WORC have been helping at the Mary Brennan INN. After mastering many of the volunteer activities, some were eager to accept more responsibility. Five of them have completed a food handling course and now have their NYS Food Safety Certificates. Among the skills they learned are safe use of gloves and aprons, and proper food labeling and storage. Volunteer Kyron said, "I feel awesome that I improved my skills." Aidan added, "I feel happy to know that what I do in the soup kitchen helps people."



Newly certified Food Handlers with their NYS Food Safety Certificates, L to R: Celena, Kyron, Brian, Aidan and Jordan. They also received Volunteer Appreciation Certificates from The INN.

Anne-Marie Jones, who leads the WORC volunteers (aka "People Supported"), is very grateful for the opportunity The INN has provided. She says everyone in the soup kitchen has been encouraging and kind to her group, giving them invaluable skills and self-confidence. "So often our People Supported are told they can't do things. At The INN, they are told they can!"

OYSTER BAY BOOK FAIR



Amy, Ken and Katherine

Katherine Athanasiou began volunteering at The INN while attending Hofstra University, and since graduating her involvement has steadily grown. She recently initiated an INN "booth" for the Oyster Bay Book Fair, which took place in May. She recruited two wonderful volunteers – Ken Dunne and Amy Hughes, and gathered donated books which were "sold" for a contribution. Also available were beautiful refrigerator magnets hand-crafted by INN volunteer Johnny Kay. Said Katherine, "I am constantly looking for new ways to get the word out about The INN … and book folks are some of the kindest. The turnout, the interactions and the support far exceeded my expectations."

MOTHER'S DAY AT "EMI"

On an April day, The INN's friends at Air Charter Service held a Mother's Day bake sale, raising over $1,300. With these funds, they provided a festive Mother's Day lunch for the moms at the Edna Moran INN (EMI) Family Shelter. In addition to lunch, they also gave each of the moms a gift bag with plenty of items perfect for pampering oneself.



Air Charter Service volunteers with INN staffer Dana Lopez, 2nd from left

INN EVENTS

Coming this Fall



Rich Humann



Leo Sancho

INN Golf Classic*
***with Pickleball**
Monday, September 28
Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove
Honorees: Rich Humann (H2M architects + engineers) & Leo Sancho (Elecnor Hawkeye)
Chairs: Eric Kramer & Kurt Pohmer

INN Luncheon
Friday, November 6
Garden City Hotel, Garden City
Honoree: Lipsky Construction
Chairs: Lisa Arning & Susan MacDonald



Alex Lipsky, Jean Kelly, and Joel Lipsky

A Day of Thanks & Giving
Sunday, November 15
Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen, Hempstead
Chairs: Ellen Broder, Pauline Ferstenberg, Ray Sikorski

For tickets, sponsorships, or additional information on any of the above events, please visit ***the-inn.org/events*** *or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108*

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Youth Advisory Board will resume meeting in October. All Middle and High School students are welcome. For more details, and to sign up, visit **the-inn.org/youthadvisoryboard**

Coming Soon! *(continued from pg. 2)*

make a contribution toward school supplies, you may do so by visiting the-inn.org/donatefunds. If you have school supplies you would like to drop off in person, you may do so at the Sewell Street location.



Donate Our Most Needed Items for Summer!

FOOD
Canned meats, fish, rice, pasta, soup/ramen, snacks

PERSONAL HYGIENE
New or gently used towels & washcloths, travel & full-sized toiletries

BABY ITEMS
Diapers (size 5 and larger including toddler), pull-ups, wipes, formula, baby food

CLOTHING
Men's Jeans & T-shirts

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday from 9am-2pm at our temporary donation drop-off location, at 99 Sewell Street in Hempstead.

INN®
"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"
211 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 486-8506 • www.the-inn.org

MISSION STATEMENT

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: