



INN...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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GUEST STORY

It Takes a Village to Get to Summer Camp!

When donor Chris Ackerly introduced The INN to Agassiz Village, a sleepaway camp in Portland, Maine, we knew it was the perfect place for the children living at the Edna Moran INN emergency shelter. The camp offers a wholesome, outdoor, summer experience — with a focus on children from underserved communities.

Understandably, some of the parents were hesitant to send their children to a camp for two weeks in faraway Maine; many of them had never been separated from their children for that length of time. But with reassuring information and guidance from INN staff, the parents were convinced and ultimately eight eager children signed on for their very first sleepaway camp adventure.

A series of steps followed to make the magic happen, beginning with a call-out asking friends and supporters to help fund the project. Their generous response of nearly \$6,000 was used to purchase camp gear — summer clothes, bathing suits, towels, sneakers, sleeping bags, duffle bags, undergarments, toiletries and additional needed items.

Once the children were outfitted, there was still the matter of transportation. Charter buses, Amtrak, and other travel options were researched, and none proved to be practical. Then one of The INN staff, Cynthia Sucich, recalled Air Charter Service had been sending volunteers and donations to the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen. After they were informed of the children's need for transportation

... and here we will let Richard Thompson, Air Charter's president, continue the story: "When Air Charter Service heard The INN needed transportation to send children living in one of their shelters to summer camp, we immediately knew we wanted to help. We are honored to donate the funds for air travel and coordinate the flights for the children and their chaperones to ensure their journey getting to and from this incredible experience was seamless."

Early in the morning on July 14 a stretch limo, another eye-popping treat for the children, pulled up in front of the Edna Moran INN and the journey began. They were thrilled to then take



(continued pg. 2)

Save THE Dates:

- November 10 – Day of Thanks and Giving
- February 27 – 2025 Wine Tasting
- May 7 – 2025 INNkeepers' Ball



Jean Kelly
Executive Director

REFLECTION

It's the Right Thing to Do

Every summer The INN hosts a barbecue at each of the emergency shelters. This year the eleven families at the Edna Moran INN shelter enjoyed a wonderful

party on a beautiful day.

As I arrived in the backyard where the barbecue was being held, I noticed a woman, who turned out to be one of the guests, carrying a large cake box. She seemed very excited and was bringing the box into the shelter just as the party was starting.

There was dancing to the music of a lively DJ, and a marvelous clown, Candy, was face-painting the happy children. After a delicious meal we were ready for dessert. The large box I had seen earlier was brought to the table for all to see. It contained a birthday cake with the name Charlene inscribed, one of the moms living in the shelter.

When Charlene came over and saw it was her name on the cake, she could not believe it. We all began to sing Happy Birthday. For the first

time in her life, she blew out the candles on her own birthday cake. With tears in her eyes, she thanked us and acknowledged an angel in our midst.

The angel was another one of the moms. One to whom she had casually mentioned her upcoming birthday. This other mom sensed that Charlene never had a birthday cake of her own and did something about it. With the little bit of money she had, she went out and bought a birthday cake. While it is normal for the families in the shelter to be supportive of each other, this woman, despite having two young daughters (one with special needs) and the trauma of being homeless, made a truly remarkable gesture of kindness and compassion.

When I think of gestures of kindness and compassion, I am reminded of you — The INN's friends and supporters. Like the woman who bought the cake, you sense when the "right thing" has to be done, and you do it. Thank you for touching our lives.

Love,
Jean

Summer Camp (continued from pg. 1)

their first plane ride. At the camp they enjoyed a host of fun activities, including archery and swimming (two of their favorites), banana boating, trampoline, theater, more sports and a camp talent show.

Back at The INN, the parents and children were grateful and delighted, and are hopeful for a return to summer camp. Mirna Perrin, one of the shelter staff, has heard lots of positive feedback, "This had made an incredible impact on the families living in the shelter."

Lisa Carter, executive director of the camp said,

"We wanted the children from The INN to have a full summer camp experience. Our goal for all our campers is for them to collaborate, explore, have fun and thrive. We want them to see all the opportunities available to them, and let kids be kids and hopefully return as campers and maybe someday employed as counselors and mentors."

Thank you to all who helped to make this adventure possible, we could not have done it without you! To view a podcast of this article, please visit www.youtube.com/getinvolved.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

A Guide to Timely Donations



The INN's four-star rating from Charity Navigator is based on many factors, including adherence to mission, leadership, transparency and financial responsibility. An important part of that responsibility is raising the funds needed to "run" The INN 365 days a year.

There are many ways to donate to The INN, *several become time sensitive as we near the end of the year.*

- **Minimum Required Distribution from an IRA** – if you have an Individual Retirement Account and are over the age of 72, you are required to withdraw a minimum amount each calendar year, no later than December 31*. For those who may want to donate part, or all, of their distribution to a charity (perhaps The INN?), there are significant tax benefits. Please consult your tax preparer.

- **Matching Funds** – there are thousands of US companies that will match the charitable contributions of their employees. If you have contributed to The INN in 2024 and want to see if your employer will match it, please visit the-inn.org/how-to-help/matching-gifts.

Most companies require the match be applied for in the same calendar year as the donation*.

- **Legacy Gifts** – at the end of the year many individuals review their financial affairs. Including The INN in your will is a consideration we would gratefully appreciate. Please do not think that only large legacy gifts matter, a gift of any size will make a difference in the lives of those who follow you*.

* David Sinclair, Chief Development Officer, can assist with any questions you may have, (516) 534-2809.

INN ... THE NEWS

- On September 27, The INN was honored by the Long Island Contractor's Association with the Partnership Award at their Fall Legislative Breakfast.
- With the start of the new school year, The INN's Youth Board has resumed its monthly meeting schedule. Please see The INN website for further information.
- The INN's Curbside Thanksgiving Food Drive will be on Saturday, November 23, 10 am – 12 noon at the Mary Brennan INN, 100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead.
- The Mary Brennan INN volunteers and staff served 40,100 meals in July and August. Thank you!



"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:



INN EVENTS

INN events bring people together to enjoy each other's company, and to show support for The INN's charitable efforts. All are invited to participate.

Day of Thanks and Giving (New Format)

Sunday, November 10, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Mary Brennan INN

100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead

Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner celebrated at the Mary Brennan INN. Former INN Board member, Ray Sikorski, is being honored.



Ray Sikorski

Tickets and additional information are available at the-inn.org/2024thanksgiving or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108.

2025 Wine Tasting

Thursday, February 27, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Opus Mediterranean Steakhouse, Jericho

After a "sold out" 2024 Wine Tasting, we are happy to announce the 2025 Wine Tasting returns to Opus in Jericho. This evening will include four stations — cheese & fruit, pasta, carving (beef & fish) with side



dishes, and dessert; five accompanying wines; live music; and a thoroughly engaging ambiance. Our chairs for the evening are Lisa DeVito and JoEllen McKenna.

For reservation information, please visit the-inn.org/2025wine or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108.

2025 INNkeepers' Ball

Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove



The INNkeepers' Ball is a 41-year tradition. Being honored in 2025 are three long-time friends — Rocco Campanelli, Ed Grilli and Lenny Lufrano. Fittingly, the evening will have an Italian "flavor" with a pizza oven prepping your personal favorites, unique Italian desserts, and other surprises. Whatever part of the world your ancestors may hail from, you are welcome to join us for a fun evening.

Sponsorship, Journal, and ticket information is available at the-inn.org/2025ball. For additional details, or if you would like to receive an invitation, please call (516) 732-6009.

Thanksgiving Wish List

- Frozen Turkeys
- Frozen Hams
- Canned Yams
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Pies (apple, pumpkin, etc.)
- Canned Gravy
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Boxed/Packaged Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing
- 64 oz Apple Juice

No Glass Items Please!

Donations may be dropped off at
the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen
100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm
or donate online at the-inn.org

For additional information, please call
(516) 486-8506 ext. 114 or email info@the-inn.org

Help INN Guests
this Holiday Season

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Contact Cynthia Sucich for
details about families in need
at our shelters and soup
kitchen, and how you can
make their holidays a
little brighter!

csucich@the-inn.org
(516) 486-8506, ext. 115