



INN...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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Save THE Dates

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- September 20 – Dance-INN
- September 29 – INN Golf Classic
- October 24 – INN Luncheon

GUEST STORY

Good Vibrations

“Good Vibrations” was the Beach Boys number one selling song. Fifty-nine years after its release “good vibes” has become a standard part of American slang.

In May of this year, I was at the Mary Brennan INN when a guest came up to me. I had never met this guest before. I was surprised when the first words out of her mouth were, “I am picking up good vibes from you.”

I was very pleased to receive this compliment.

Whenever a guest is receiving help, it is the goal for the guest to have trust and confidence in the person providing the help. I have learned that building that trust and confidence usually takes a while, so I was grateful and humored that my “good vibes” had accomplished that in a few seconds.

Sandra was an interesting woman. She was very pleasant and had a gift for communicating clearly and concisely (note her first words to me — I am picking up good vibes from you).

Feeling trust and confidence, she confided she had been coming to the MBI for the two weeks since her husband had abandoned her. She was left with a young daughter, very little savings, and no friends or family in the position to be of assistance. She had been a full-time mom and did not have a job. With



this as the starting point, the Center for Transformative Change staff now had the chance to show they too exuded good vibes.

First, they contacted her landlord and completed a six-month, worry-free rental agreement. They next suggested Sandra find immediate employment. After learning she had some sales experience, she was encouraged to use the CTC’s computers to submit an online employment application for Home Depot. She was soon hired. Home Depot must have picked up on Sandra’s good vibes because they gladly adjusted her work schedule to accommodate time with her daughter.

Another Beach Boys classic is “Wouldn’t It Be Nice”. Wouldn’t it be nice if everyone in a situation similar to Sandra’s could pick up good vibes from someone at their time of need. And that person could be the one who made the difference.

Note: After submission of this guest story for publication, we learned of the unfortunate passing of the Beach Boys frontman, Brian Wilson.



Jean Kelly
Executive Director

REFLECTION

Feeling Like Part of a Family

At this time of year, we find the needs of the guests shift. From worrying about having a warm jacket they are now concerned about the heat and trying to stay cool.

Fortunately, we have available for the guests an air-conditioned dining room where they can have their breakfast and lunch. And now, with the to-go meals being picked up inside, those waiting on line can be cool, instead of uncomfortable in the heat outdoors.

Another big shift is the arrival of children who are off from school. These children, who are always accompanied by a parent or other adult, can enjoy a fully nutritious meal.

In addition to the basic need for food, we also provide a place of community where people can feel safe and comfortable. As long as they behave in a respectful and socially acceptable

manner, they are always welcome. The INN is a rare location where they can gather and feel like part of a family – together with the volunteers and staff.

One guest recently asked me: “Do you know what you are doing here?” I replied, “We’re doing our best.” He said, “You need to know that we (the guests) send people here! And we get compliments from the people we send here because they find they are treated nicely and receive what they needed!”

We’re able to do this because of your support and belief in *how* The INN helps people ... with dignity, respect and love. We can only deliver that because we feel that with every kind word and contribution you give, you are here with us in spirit. Please know you remain always in our prayers of gratitude. You are so very special.

Hoping your summer is going well and that you are staying cool and comfortable.

Love,
Jean

VOLUNTEERS

The INN is fortunate to have wonderful volunteers of all ages. Meet four of our youngest, “regular” volunteers:



Annabel and Sabrina are both very young and have already been volunteering for three years. Their youthful enthusiasm and articulate thoughtfulness (yes,

at their very young age) are an inspiration to all who meet them. They have helped prepare shower kits, pantry bags, and organize food, toiletry and clothing donations.



Robbie has been a steady volunteer at the monthly curbside food drive for 4½ years, starting in the fifth grade. Committing one Saturday morning a month, he gladly helps with any task (including the heavy lifting). He also helps with the “Back to School” backpack distribution and has organized holiday toy drives.



Grace recently graduated from High School and has been helping at the Mary Brennan INN since the fourth grade. For those nine years she has been a dedicated volunteer, baking cookies, brownies and cakes for the guests. She has also helped with backpack distribution, food drives, toy drives and introducing her peers to volunteering at The INN.

FORWARD TOGETHER – Update



Construction is steadily progressing at 88-92 Madison Avenue in Hempstead. The renovated roof is complete. Exterior water proofing has been applied. The building shell is now fully insulated. New windows have been installed. The original concrete slab floor is being replaced with a thicker concrete slab. Interior walls are being framed. The front facade is being reconfigured.

We greatly appreciate the patience of volunteers and donors who may have been, or will be, inconvenienced during this project. Thank you for understanding.



Donate Our Most Needed Items for Summer!

FOOD

Canned meats, fish and vegetables, 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 the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen, located at 100 Madison Avenue in Hempstead.

VOLUNTEER ALUMNUS



Did you know the new NY Jets Head Coach Aaron Glenn is a past INN volunteer? When Aaron played for the Jets in the 1990's (he was an all-pro cornerback), he also volunteered at the Mary Brennan INN. He was known for his willingness to tackle any "job" and his humble demeanor — preferring to be introduced as, "Aaron, a friend of The INN".

Aaron was especially fond of helping during Thanksgiving week, and a Thanksgiving "adventure" (which we can laugh about now) occurred when a 20 lb frozen turkey accidentally fell out of its bag and nearly landed on his foot. We imagined the sports pages reading, "Jets' Star Sidelined by Falling Turkey". We wish Aaron much success.

Coming this Fall INN EVENTS

Dance-INN

Saturday, September 20
Mary Brennan INN
Hempstead



INN Golf Classic*

*with Pickleball and Tennis

Honorees: Anthony and Jennifer Ferraro
Monday, September 29
Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove



INN Luncheon

Honoree: Tamra Postiglione
Friday, October 24
Garden City Hotel
Garden City



For tickets 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. Sign up at the-inn.org/youthadvisoryboard

BACK TO SCHOOL

If you are a reader of this Newsletter, you already know The INN places an emphasis on education. We have begun our annual drive collecting school supplies for the school year beginning in September, and thanks to a generous donor we are off to a good start.

You may drop off new school supplies no later than August 8th at 100 Madison Avenue in Hempstead, M - F, 9 am – 2 pm. Or you may donate supplies online by placing an order before July 25th. For a list of needed items, or if you wish to place an online order, please visit the-inn.org/donategoods.



Volunteers preparing backpacks full of school supplies



"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:

