



# ...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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www.the-inn.org

SUMMER 2021

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**Save  
THE  
Dates:**

(see page 5)

- September 23 – INN Golf Classic
- October 22 – INN Luncheon

## 2021 INNKEEPERS' BALL

### An Historic Hybrid Event

The 2021 INNkeepers' Ball was a hybrid event, which incorporated an outdoor cocktail party at the Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove for 150 supporters, as well as a virtual event with a livestream video presentation for those to watch from anywhere. The first event of its kind for The INN, and one of the first in-person fundraisers for local non-profits this year, raised \$1.3 million to further The INN's mission.

The event honored INN supporters Frank Ingrassia and Elizabeth McCaul. Rob Kammerer, a member of The INN's Board of Directors and a co-chairperson for the event said, "We understand that although there are still many people who prefer to remain extra cautious and stay home, there are those who may be vaccinated and want to begin to venture out to a social event for a



L to R: Jean Kelly, The INN Executive Director, Event Honorees Elizabeth McCaul & Frank Ingrassia, Rob Kammerer, INN Board Member and Event Co-Chairperson.

good cause, while still being safe. Following state and county guidelines and Covid-19 protocol, we were able to be one of the first organizations to hold our annual Ball as a hybrid event. We are so grateful for everyone who participated in person and online, and to our honorees and honorary chairs for their willingness to be flexible and stand behind The INN's goal to help those in need on Long Island."



Rob Kammerer,  
INN Board Member

## GUEST STORY — Fate and Brotherly Love

A generation ago two brothers left home to make their mark in the world. Each going their own way.

On Saturday morning May 22, 2021 there was a curbside food drive at the Mary Brennan INN. Saturdays on Madison Avenue in Hempstead are very different

from weekdays. It is very quiet, almost deserted. So, it was a surprise when a gentleman, looking a bit ruffled, was suddenly standing next to me.

He reached out with his left hand showing me his INN ID card (not necessary, but a touching gesture), stated his name was James and he was there waiting for his brother. In his right hand he held a dog-eared packet of Nestle's instant cocoa. He asked if I

(continued pg 3)



Jean Kelly  
Executive Director

## MOVING FORWARD

Everyone appears to be anxious to move forward and return to whatever world they were experiencing before the pandemic. This would include The INN guests.

Ironically, the coping skills that all the guests possess have been invaluable for them to maintain their sense of balance and normalcy. However, the world they inhabited, before everything in the entire world changed, was lacking most people's ideas of "balance" and "normalcy".

The guests of The INN live in a world of deprivation. They are lacking basic essentials and normal living conditions where there is safety and comfort.

Everyone's world will be eventually returning to whatever normal was. However, how can we all re-consider what is acceptable for "normal", for our less fortunate neighbors?

We can begin by remembering that by supporting The INN you are helping us continue to provide their basic essentials, while also exploring with them, what else is possible for their life circumstances to change and improve.

Thanks to our partnership with mental health counselors and public health professionals, we are finding the tools the guests need to address

their physical and mental health issues. These pre-existing and now post Covid challenges may be hindering the guests from maintaining their health and pursuing other options for economic stability and ultimately finding an improved sense of well-being.

We know that the past 18 months have taken a toll on everyone's health. We have hopefully survived the virus but are all left with the trauma of possibly losing a loved one or battling our own health challenges. We need to recognize the loss of a way of life is a trauma in and of itself. When we think about all that the "Greatest Generation" have lived through, we need to remember we are descended from them. What they survived, as a country and a people, showed their resilience to weather any storm, as long as they did so, unified and together. We need to take courage and learn from their example.

We hope you know you remain in our prayers for strength, courage, and kindness as you move forward in your own life. We are forever grateful for your past generous support which provided both simple and miraculous outcomes for those in need every day. We hope you could continue to send whatever you are able to share with the guests of The INN. Know we will continue to be honored to represent you to them when we provide whatever they need each day. Meanwhile please continue to take the very best of care and please stay safe and healthy. You are all precious beyond words.

Love,

Jean

## 5TH GRADERS "AMAZING RACE" For The INN Raises \$1,000

On April 11th, 63 5th grade students from Salem Elementary School in Port Washington participated in a special "Amazing Race" fundraiser to support The INN. The event, which was a combination of a scavenger hunt and relay race, was organized by parent volunteers to keep their remote learners physically active, as well as give them an opportunity to see some of their fellow classmates that they only get to see on a screen. Each student began the race at their own home and was then tasked to travel to a friend's home to complete either a physical or mental challenge to receive a clue. On that rainy day, they ran, biked, or walked to complete logic and word puzzles or one-minute physical



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## Guest Story (continued from pg 1)

had hot water, and if yes, could I make him a hot chocolate. "Of course," I said.

Returning with his hot drink, and more fully realizing his circumstance, I asked if he would like something to eat. He said yes.

When I returned with a sandwich, a juice, and an orange, I noticed he had taken off his high-top sneakers and was standing there barefoot. He sat down on the sidewalk to eat an early lunch.

When James finished his lunch, he started to walk, still barefoot, toward Peninsula Boulevard. He walked in obvious pain with his legs spread like an upside down "Y". I ran up to him asking, "would you like a pair of socks?" Again, he answered yes.

I returned with a new pair of socks which he immediately put on. He continued toward Peninsula Boulevard. Looking past James, I noticed what looked like discarded clothing on the sidewalk in front of the Center for Transformative Change.

When the food drive was completed, I again looked in the direction of Peninsula Boulevard. The pile of clothing was still there, but this time there was an arm protruding from the pile. Looking more closely, I saw that James had tucked himself into the pile and appeared to be sleeping.

Before heading home, I called my wife to tell her the food drive went well, and I had met a nice man named James. who was now sleeping on the sidewalk. She said I should ask him if he had a place to stay that night. "But he is sleeping, I don't want to bother him." Maybe I am dense at times. She proceeded to convince me to wake him and ask if he had a place to stay. I did and he did not. I then asked if he would like to stay indoors for the night. Many people actually decline this offer, but James

looked up at me and said yes. He became very concerned that his brother would not be able to find him, and asked that I call his brother (Thomas, the one he was waiting for) to let him know where James would be. James gave me Thomas' number and I left a message on his voice mail. By the time the Uber driver arrived, James had packed up his sidewalk belongings and had been given food for the night. End of Story.

No, not end of Story.

The rest of the Story: Although James' appearance was ruffled and his sleeping on the sidewalk unusual, his conversation (to a layperson) seemed coherent. But why would someone be waiting for his brother in a deserted neighborhood on a Saturday morning?

After leaving home a generation ago, James began to have health problems. Thomas tried his best to help his brother, but it became increasingly difficult to reach him. They lost touch. Until Friday morning, May 21 when Thomas received a call from CTC, James was there, and he wanted Thomas to know. "Wait right there", Thomas shouted, "I'm coming to get you." (Thomas lives in Florida.) The only way James could understand this was very, very literally. Despite being offered shelter Friday evening, James instead slept on the sidewalk in front of the CTC. When he awoke, he asked me for a hot chocolate. When he finally gave in and accepted shelter, he needed Thomas to know where he would be. On Saturday afternoon, May 22, after 24 hours on the sidewalk and eight years of being "lost", James was reunited with his brother Thomas.

So why was James at the food drive? Fate and brotherly love.

## Amazing Race (continued from pg 2)

challenges like push-ups and planks. They unscrambled all the clues at the end to reveal that they will be enjoying an outdoor movie night to celebrate their graduation to middle school next year. The students exceeded their \$200 fundraising goal and raised over \$1,000 from family and friends.

When asked if she felt like she was too young to make a difference, 10-year-old Liza said, "I don't think there should be an age limit to helping people. With a bit of help, we can do something good for others." 5th grader Teddy wanted to give guests an encouraging message. "It's going to be ok. Don't give up."



This article continues the introduction of the staff at the **Edna Moran INN (EMI) emergency family shelter.**

The EMI staff is dedicated, compassionate, talented and they work tirelessly to bring comfort and stability to all the families. If you would like to learn about how you can help EMI, please call Cynthia Sucich at (516) 486 – 8506, ext 115.

**We asked two questions: 1) What do you like about working at EMI?  
2) Do you have a favorite guest story?**



**Ayodele Carnage** – Per-Diem Support Worker. *“I enjoy making a difference in the lives of each of the families at EMI. My favorite guest story is the time I met a family a year after they left EMI and hearing how we assisted them find housing and how well they were doing.”*

**Sandra McCain** – Per-Diem Support Worker. *“Interacting with the guests, especially the children. I enjoy seeing guests and former guests at the same events I’m attending!”*



**Rose Onuoha** – Per-Diem Support Worker. *“I like working at EMI because of how quickly the guests’ lives can be transformed and I can help encourage them to move on and not to dwell on the past. The warm atmosphere at EMI makes them build their confidence in the staff. One guest story that touched me was a young girl who came into the shelter a few months pregnant and was determined that she would never have her baby in a shelter. She worked tirelessly with the staff and was able to get a place a few weeks before she delivered.”*

**Mirna Perrin** – Per-Diem Support Worker. *“One of the things I like most about working at the shelter is seeing the guests’ desire to improve their lives. I often need to remind them they are more than their past failures. There was a young mother who came into the shelter and shared her story of shame and embarrassment after losing her business. She was also a survivor of domestic violence. With our assistance, she was able to connect with support services and rebuild her life.”*



**Nicole Rowe** – Part-Time Weekend Worker. *“I enjoy the family atmosphere The INN provides for the guests and being able to impact people’s lives by simply providing a positive attitude. My favorite guest story is about a guest who came to The INN with a newborn. She disclosed that she had very little parenting skills. She asked my assistance in learning to bathe and groom her baby. I offered guidance and instructions on how she should care for her baby. She developed a comfort in bathing and dressing her baby without assistance.”*

**Kimberlee Sutton** – Per-Diem Support Worker. *“What I enjoy most about working at EMI is being able to make a difference in someone else’s journey of overcoming homelessness, and the family you gain while working with The INN. I have so many favorite guest stories but the first one that always comes to mind is a single mother and her son. She was a mom to a son who was conceived in the least desirable way – however, the way she loved and protected her son despite her circumstances was unforgettable.”*



# INN EVENTS

## 2021 INN Golf Classic

Thursday, September 23,  
Nassau Country Club

This year commemorates the 25th Anniversary of The INN's Golf Classic. Thank you to Board member Joseph Mancino and his wife Laurel Anne for founding the "Classic". Being recognized in 2021 are our Honorees from the past 25 years – who have inspired 25 successful outings (the full list is available on The INN's website).



Laurel Anne and Joe Mancino

The 2021 Golf Classic will be on September 23 at Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove. Eric Kramer and Mike Watson, Co-Chairs, cordially invite all golfers. Enjoy golf and support The INN at the same time. Please visit [www.the-inn.org/event/2021innngolf](http://www.the-inn.org/event/2021innngolf) to sign up.

## 2021 INN Luncheon

Friday, October 22,  
Garden City Hotel



As social activities continue to return to normal, so does The INN Luncheon. We are pleased to be honoring Ernst & Young – Long Island at the 2021 INN "in-person" Luncheon. The EY Long Island "team" has been actively supporting The INN for more than 20 years.

Event Co-Chairs Lisa Arning and Susan MacDonald welcome your attendance. It will be a great way to reconnect with friends. You may also attend virtually or participate as a sponsor. For tickets and additional information, please visit [www.the-inn.org/event/2021-inn-luncheon](http://www.the-inn.org/event/2021-inn-luncheon).

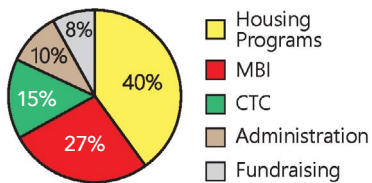
For more information on these events, visit [www.the-inn.org](http://www.the-inn.org), or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108.

# 2020 – A Year of Dramatic Growth at The INN

The Long Island Community has stepped up and helped with gifts of food, essentials, financial support and time. The INN was able to serve everyone who came to its doors during Covid and we could not have maintained the safety net without your generosity. The numbers tell the story of a record-breaking year! To view the full fact sheet scan the QR code to the right or go to [www.The-INN.org/2020factsheet](http://www.The-INN.org/2020factsheet). Thank you!



### EXPENSES: \$6.426 Million



\* Audited Annual Report

### OUR RESOURCES



### THE MARY BRENNAN INN (MBI)

COVID's economic impact has driven a sharp increase in the need for meals and essentials.



### THE CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE (CTC)

The number of guests seeking assistance from CTC has grown dramatically.



### THE INN HOUSING PROGRAMS

The guests are facing critical housing shortages.



### Emergency Shelter Housing:

**54 Beds and 5 Cribs** in two family-like homes for families and single men

# YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

## Goes Virtual

The INN's High School student group, the Youth Advisory Board is made up of students from all over Long Island who participate in community service activities in their own towns and communities to help The INN. This school year concluded in April 2021 after its first virtual season. Zoom meetings were held each month, and although students were unable to participate in person, many of them held collection drives of needed items and fundraisers to show their support and gain community service hours. For more information about the Youth Advisory Board, visit [www.the-inn.org/youthadvisoryboard](http://www.the-inn.org/youthadvisoryboard) or contact Dana Lopez at (516) 486-8506, ext 138 or [dlopez@the-inn.org](mailto:dlopez@the-inn.org)



## Our Wish List

The INN is in need of:

- Non-perishable food – **no glass, please**
- New underwear (men, women & children)
- Gift Cards (supermarket and Visa) – preferred amounts, \$10, \$25 and \$50
- Diapers/wipes – larger sizes (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.*

## "INN Gratitude" Podcast Spotlights Supporters

Our new podcast, "INN Gratitude," shines a light on some friends of The INN who have creatively supported our mission through events, fundraisers and donations. Check out all of the episodes on our YouTube channel, [www.the-inn.org/getinvolved](http://www.the-inn.org/getinvolved) for in-depth interviews and heartwarming stories of giving back to The INN.



## Extra! Read All About It!

Have you noticed the U.S. Mail has been a little slow recently? We have. So to help keep you up-to-date with what's going on at The INN, we want to let you know "E-News" – a monthly, electronic "News-Page" (yes, it is one page) is available. It doesn't replace the printed Newsletter, but supplements it with bonus material. If you would like to receive the E-News, 1) you can go to The INN's website, [www.the-inn.org](http://www.the-inn.org), and click, "I would like to receive the E-News", or 2) call (516) 486-8506, ext 138. Thank you!



"Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders"

211 Fulton Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550  
(516) 486-8506 • [www.the-inn.org](http://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:

