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### **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY INNKEEPERS' BALL RAISES OVER \$1 MILLION TO FIGHT HUNGER ON LI**

Hempstead, NY (May 16, 2013) – The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding its INNkeepers' Ball, which raised over \$1 million, to support its efforts to fight hunger and homelessness on Long Island.

On Thursday, May 9, 2013 at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, over 450 friends and supporters came together to honor Sandra Atlas Bass, Ernest Scalamandre, and Martin Viette Nurseries for their dedication and support of The INN. This tremendous annual event helps raise awareness and much needed funding for the largest agency dedicated to serving the swelling numbers of those in our community facing challenges with hunger and homelessness.

Sandra and Ernest were presented with the Humanitarian of the Year Award, while Martin Viette Nurseries received the "Seven of Us" Award, acknowledging their contributions to The INN.



*From left to right: Rob Kammerer, Event Co-Chair & INN Board Member; Russell Ireland Jr., Martin Viette, Russell Ireland III, Martin Viette; Sandra Atlas Bass; Jean Kelly, INN Executive Director; Michael Ireland, Martin Viette; Maureen Nappi, INN Board President; & Ernest A. Scalamandre.*

“This year, to commemorate our 30th anniversary, we thought it only fitting to honor two wonderful people whose commitment to the agency has stood the test of time, and also to recognize the long-time support of Martin Viette Nurseries,” said Rob Kammerer, event co-chair and INN board member. “Their dedication to our mission has assisted The INN in not only providing necessary funding, but community awareness as well as the means to grow.”

This past year alone, The INN provided over 400,000 meals in our 22 soup kitchen locations, more than 2,500 men, women and children were housed in The INN’s Emergency Shelters and 23 families and 7 veterans were provided housing and supports as they work toward self-sufficiency through The INN’s Long Term Housing Program. This is all accomplished thanks to legions of volunteers and charitable support which enables The INN to efficiently operate with an annual budget of \$5.5 million.

### **The INN**

The INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) is a dynamic, not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization working to resolve Long Island’s hunger and homelessness issues by providing food, shelter, long-term housing, and supportive services in a dignified and respectful manner to families and individuals seeking assistance. A dedicated staff, committed volunteers, and broad-based community support help The INN to deliver its services through 16 soup kitchens in 22 locations, three homeless shelters, and a Long Term Housing Program consisting of 23 housing units for families and housing for up to seven veterans. As one of Long Island’s largest private social service agencies, Holding Charity Navigator’s four star rating, The INN is ranked among the most cost-effective charities in the United States. For more information on The INN please visit [www.the-inn.org](http://www.the-inn.org) or call (516) 486-8506.

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