

# Hands Together NY and the Interfaith Nutrition Network

**Author:** kp

**A beautiful partnership helps feed Long Island's hungry and homeless**

"I can hardly remember a time when we didn't support The INN [Interfaith Nutrition Network]. They run the largest soup kitchen on Long Island — the Mary Brennan INN in Hempstead. And they share our mission of working to feed those who are hungry and homeless on Long Island. It's just a natural fit."

That's Hands Together NY board member and National Grid employee **Marilyn Reid** talking about our more than decade-long — and counting! — partnership with The INN. HTNY is a volunteer group made up of caring employees from both National Grid and PSEG Long Island. To help make a difference, they've:

- Helped run The INN's largest annual fundraiser, 'The INNkeepers' Ball,' for 11 years
- Sponsored a meal at the Mary Brennan INN every year since 2010
- Sponsored the appetizers/beverages/desserts served at The INN's Holiday Party for shelter guests
- Donated \$5,000 in memory of National Grid employee/HTNY Board Member **Armand DiPardo**, which the Mary Brennan INN used to purchase a much-needed new freezer and icemaker back in 2014 (see photo).

National Grid also provided The INN with a 'Cinderella' economic development grant to build its Center for Transformative Change's Computer Room.

"We count on the generous contributions — of time, money and goods — from our kind individual and corporate donors. And we count the lovely Hands Together NY group among our longest-term, most dedicated volunteer groups," says INN Director of Corporate and Community Relations Cynthia Sucich. "They're some of the nicest people around," she adds, "and they're always there when we need them, often before we even ask."

The feeling is mutual. Says HTNY board member and PSEG Long Island employee **Ray Homburger**, "The INN is the group we probably most consistently support, for their mission but also for the unique culture of respect they have for everyone who

comes in their doors. 'Guests' always come first, even before us volunteers, as it should be!"

Hands Together NY is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to, and passionate about, raising funds to help those struggling with issues of hunger or homelessness in our local communities. To find out more or join the group, go to [hands.together.ny@gmail.com](mailto:hands.together.ny@gmail.com) or call **516-545-3321**. The organization could always use more helping hands!

**Date:** 18-09-2018

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