



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

August 2013

SERVICE LEARNING IS EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

Students from Palomar College often choose Brother Benno's for their service learning project, in which they volunteer about 12 to 20 hours at one or more local organizations that help the poor and homeless. According to **Denise Seymour**, our Volunteer Coordinator, these students perform a variety of tasks that usually include working on the food line and in the clothing room; and they always socialize with the Guests as well.

The following (with a bit of editing) are the reflections of three of these students:

* * *

This project taught me a lot about what true homelessness means. The most important thing I learned is that not all homeless people are drug addicts or alcoholics. Some of them just need a little help, like they have a job but don't make enough to have a home. I also learned that some homeless people are very nice and respectful. They spark conversations and sometimes just need people to help them, or just having someone listen to their problems is good enough.

At first I was very scared to do service learning. I had never volunteered before, so it was hard to do at first; but once I went, I felt like I became part of them and that being there was enough. I can relate to them, because right now my son and I are living on a couch—if it wasn't for my son's grandma, I'd probably be in a shelter. It makes me happy to have what I got and to never take advantage of it because without her I'd have nothing. When I was a kid, there were many days I relied on school for food, and on weekends we didn't eat at all.

The world to me is very sad and self-

ish, and people need to reach out more. Because of my service learning, I have an understanding about homelessness, and it has made me want to go out and help as much as I can.

* * *

I got to meet so many awesome people who care about social problems. The most important lesson I learned would be that no one is too busy or too rich or too poor to give a hand to help someone in need. Service learning is a great way for anyone to help someone else. I am much more open now to new ideas of helping out in the community, and just in general to have a more open mind. I am also more aware of what is going on in my community and the world around me. I'm grateful for all the programs that help feed people, or help addicts reunite with their children. And for the Thrift Shop, where I helped out, for having cheap prices for people who can't afford to shop in regular stores.

* * *

I very much enjoy working at Brother Benno's and being around people who are so appreciative and are such happy and kind people. You get the full effect of, to me, what community service is all about—meeting people with all different personality types and different nationalities. Being an outsider didn't last very long. Everyone is very welcoming and kind, coming up to me to introduce themselves, to say Good Morning and Thank You, always being so sweet to me.

The most important lesson I learned was to be more conservative and to appreciate all that I have. I love buying new clothes, and seeing people walk in on a daily basis needing clothes and shoes and seeing how much more they need them than I do, really changed me. I knew that

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Gratitude. The following note was written by a grateful Guest: "Dear Brother Benno's, Thank you so much for the bus ticket to my parents' house in Northern California. I've got lots of chores to do, and my mom says it like she sees it. And that's what I really need at the moment. Thank you so much. Your friend, A.P."

Summer Reading. St. Patrick School in Carlsbad is doing their second Read-a-thon as a fundraiser for Brother Benno's this month. We hope it becomes an annual summer event. Go, kids—read, read, read!

Want email? Would you prefer receiving your newsletter via email instead of mail box? Just send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com and include your complete mailing address so we're sure we have the right person to take off the paper mailing list.

A Reciprocal Arrangement. Every time I walk into the dining room at the Center and see a group of people with physical and/or mental challenges doing one of our volunteer jobs, I feel grateful that Brother Benno's gives everyone a chance to be of service to others. The other day, one young man just lit up when I smiled and said Hi to him, and I thought: Maybe people don't usually give him that kind of simple recognition—and how easy it is to do. They serve us, and we serve them.

Have Fun Helping the Auxiliary. The main purpose of the Brother Benno Auxiliary is to raise funds to support many of our outreach projects. The members are continually coming up with new ideas for fundraisers, and they do a great job of it—but they need the help of others to actually raise the money. Almost every month in the newsletter, they feature one or more of their fundraising efforts. I encourage you to read the Auxiliary News to find out what you and your family and neighbors and friends might participate in that month or the near future. In this issue, they are promoting a new event—a **musical show** at the Broadway Theater in Vista. And their **Annual Luncheon** in October will celebrate the fact that

Brother Benno's has been around for 30 years and is still going strong! Don't miss the chance to be part of that day of fun—make your reservations now. (Please see page 4 for more info.)

Our Beautiful Art. I was walking around the dining room one morning, checking to see what was going on. It was busy as usual, with volunteers "taking care of business," and with Guests patiently waiting to get help. Walking along one wall, I passed the chapel, then the children's reading room, and finally the clothing room. Wait a minute, I thought. There's something new on the door to the reading room—a large, beautifully painted picture of kids and books.

I knew it had to have been done by someone with artistic talent, so I asked around. Turns out it was painted by **JoAnn Ervin**, daughter of **John Jarvie**, one of our very-long-time volunteers. (**Harold Kutler** featured John in his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope*, in Chapter 12, "The Golden Years.") I called John later that day and found out that JoAnn has created other works of art for Brother Benno's—for example, the beautiful area in the dining room known as "Kay's Korner."

John himself is no slouch in the artistic department. He has created many warm spaces in the Center with wood or tile, and he designed and oversaw the installation of a brick planter in front of the building, filled with plants and flowers that seem to reach out to greet everyone who comes by.

I know those of us who are at the Center regularly appreciate the talents that JoAnn and John have shared over the years. If you're someone who's never set foot in our Center, please take a few minutes to stop in—Monday through Friday from 8 to 11 a.m., or on Saturdays from 10 to noon.

Brother Benno's will be 30 years old this October. We're still doing it with an all-volunteer staff, helping one person at a time. It's a miracle!

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STORIES ABOUT BROTHER BENNO

Chapter 8 in **Harold Kutler's** book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, tells great stories about **Brother Benno**, the Benedictine monk whose name graces our Foundation. Here is an excerpt:

“Enter Brother Benno, a man who looked at everyone through love-tinted glasses. The following is a typical example of Brother's love in action. “He and **Kay (Kutler)** were eating with a hard-core street person at the Kitchen. ‘I know what you want to do, Brother,’ the man said, ‘change me.’ ‘No Son, I just want to love you,’ Brother answered, with a twinkle in his eye.

“Then there was our 25th wedding anniversary party. Kay and I celebrated with family, friends, and guests at the Brother Benno Center. An area had been cleared for dancing, and everybody was having a wonderful time, especially Brother Benno. One of our modern-day Mary Magdalenes asked him to dance. He graciously got up and danced with her. Kay and I tried to figure out if he was doing the Irish Jig or the Benedictine Bunny Hop.

“When I thought about this incident later, I realized what it really meant. Brother didn't see this woman as a lady of the evening. He saw a struggling young lady, another human being, starved for acceptance and unconditional love. This saintly servant was doing his best to give these gifts to her. By the smile on her face, we could see she had received his love with great joy.

“Brother Benno was an ambassador of hope. . . . A salesman in an electronics store (told me the following): Diego and his mother had moved into a low-income housing unit and had very little furniture. ‘I was still in school,’ the young man told me, ‘and the earnings from my part-time job and my mom's meager income weren't enough to pay for anything more than food and rent.’

“Diego's mother heard about Brother Benno, so she called to tell him about her need for furniture. Before long, Brother had her place well-furnished, and supplied with food, too. As others moved into this 20-unit complex, he also helped them furnish their apartments. . . .”

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Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do

My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: \$ _____
(make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)

In memory of: _____

Please send a card to:

(name) _____

(address) _____

For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.): _____

Send a card to: (name) _____

(address) _____

Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

Outback. Thanks to all who came out for our annual fundraiser at Outback Restaurant. Proceeds will go to buy school supplies for our Guests' children. We had 64 military personnel join us. More than 185 people attended for the fun of a good meal, meeting service men and women, and winning door prizes and "Name Game" cash drawings. Many, many thanks to **Janice Koehler** and her staff at Outback; they did a superb job as always. Thanks also to **Mau-reen Tutino** and **Tanya Bryson** for chairing this event.

Song-and-Dance. Seats are still available for an evening of non-stop song and dance at the Broadway Theater, 340 Broadway St. in Vista on Sunday, August 25, at 4 p.m. "Hooray for Hollywood" is a 90-minute show of many tunes from musical movie classics. Tickets are \$25, which includes appetizers before the show and coffee and cookies during intermission. Contact **Joan O'Connell** (760-730-9125) or **Vikki Ramey** (760-803-6267). Seating is limited.

Celebrate 30 Years! Preparations are underway for the Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon on Saturday, October 26, at the Sheraton Carlsbad. This year's theme will be "Harvest Gold," celebrating 30 years of service for the Brother Benno Foundation. Tickets are \$60 per person, or \$600 for a table of ten. There will be opportunity baskets, silent auction, cash drawings, and entertainment by The Harmonettes. For reservations, please contact **Vera Bayliss** (760-295-0059).

Save the Dates:

August 10 – Distribution of School Backpacks and Supplies

August 25 – "Hooray for Hollywood"

October 26 – Annual Luncheon

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people live in poverty everywhere you go, but getting to know them and call them by name made me care more.

After my first few weeks at Brother Benno's, I called my family and asked them to clean out their closets and get rid of some of their clothes and shoes. Now I find myself asking people on a daily basis that if they have anything to donate, to call me and I'll give it to Brother Benno's. And my new rule is that when I feel like buying something for myself, I decide whether I really need it; and if I do, what other item of clothing am I willing to donate. I've learned to cut back, to live lighter, so to speak.

Working here has given me an even deeper appreciation for everything—not just clothes, but food, water, a home, a job, everything. I plan to continue working here throughout the summer. This opportunity has made my life more purposeful.

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Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 **[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)**

 **[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)**

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:

The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	Lorraine Ybarra
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Jim Maxwell
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Mike Stendahl
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Gilbert Brown
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Elizabeth Weber
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Virginia Sylwestrzak
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Jeanne Nickel
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	William & Vennita
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Flanagan
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Stanley LaMonte
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Dancy & Zeferino
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Nares
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Ted Paradise
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Alan Port
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Tim Hurlbut
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Bernie Weiler
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	In Honor Of
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	Frank & Sharon
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	Jacobs
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Judy Chow	John Kopp
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Rose & Floyd	
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Caldwell	

Needs

Men's shaving products (disposable razors, shaving cream)
 All women's feminine products, especially tampons

Gently used furniture
 Diapers

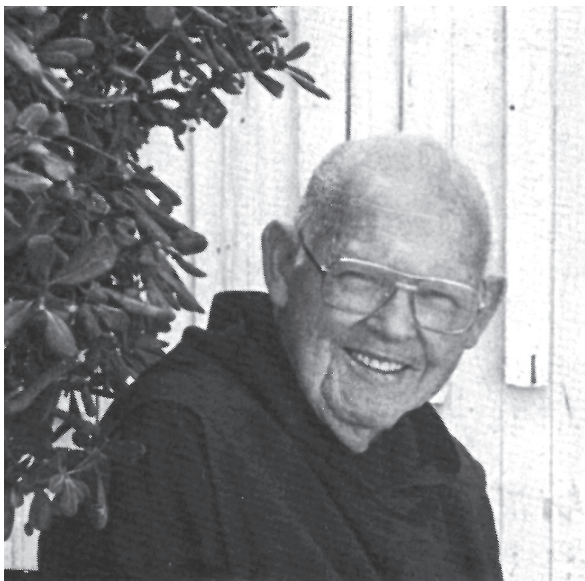
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2013 Monthly Serving Team Schedule				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitans	9 St. Patrick's	10 San Raphael
	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Hawkes Home	14 Stew's Crew	15 Carlsbad Rotary	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Fallbrook Presbyterian	24 Catholic Daughters
	26 Christ Anglican	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Grace Anglican	30 King of Kings Lutheran	31 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

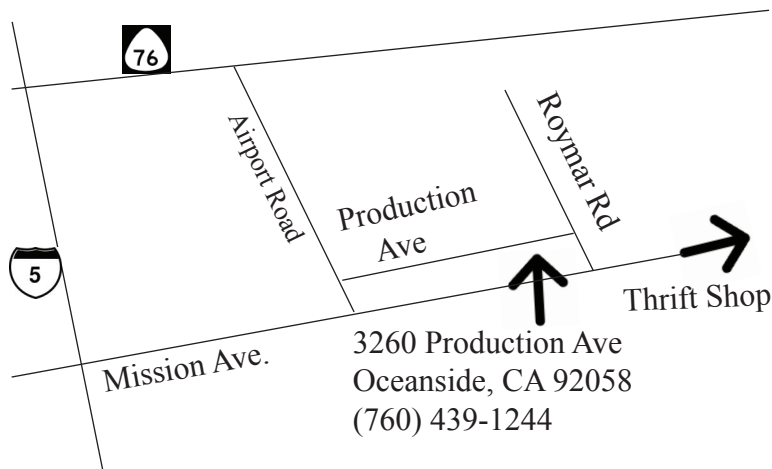
Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you are viewing this online you can donate by going to brotherbenno.org and click on Donations. This will allow you to make a secure donation using PayPal or a Credit Card.

Your donation is used each month at our main center and eight operational houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, laundry facilities, bus vouchers, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security, and veterans' issues, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. We thank you for your continued support. 100% of your contribution goes directly to assist those we serve. Our modest administration costs are paid for by our Thrift Store revenues.

www.brotherbenno.org



Brother Benno's Services:

	June 2013	Our 29th Year		June 2013	Our 29th Year
Meals	12,887	3,433,638	Loads of laundry	26	26,449
Nights of lodging	1,014	239,727	Food packs	2,069	226,785
Articles of clothing	6,787	997,411	Blankets	152	34,917
Showers	1,100	180,661	Prescriptions	8	7,144
Haircuts	164	15,594	ID Vouchers	8	8,431
Bus passes	115	76,892	HUGS	2,250	852,844