

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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 Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

December 2011



Brother Benno's Services:

	October 2011	Our 29th Year		October 2011	Our 29th Year
Meals	12,882	3,170,798	Loads of laundry	21	25,913
Nights of lodging	1,134	218,147	Food packs	2,570	175,938
Articles of clothing	4,330	891,657	Blankets	132	32,177
Showers	869	161,419	Prescriptions	46	6,722
Haircuts	143	13,347	ID Vouchers	5	8,190
Bus passes	87	75,057	HUGS	2,250	814,144

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

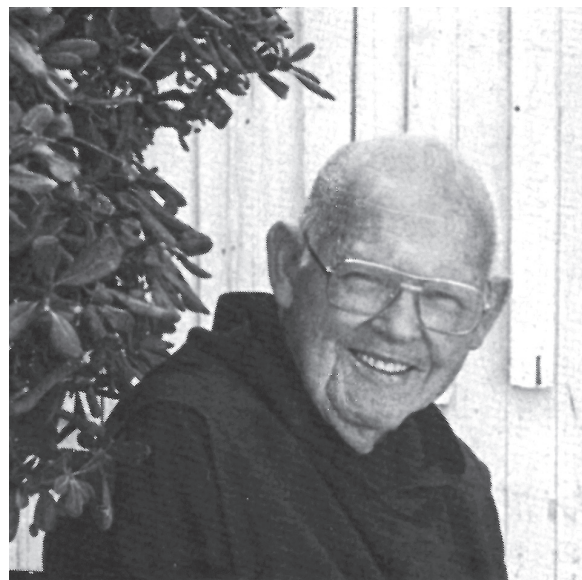
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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

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

Non-Profit Organization
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A FINANCIAL UPDATE

Brother Benno's has been blessed since the very beginning in 1983 with the high level of care and support it has received from individuals, businesses, corporations, and grant-awarding organizations; therefore it is difficult to ask for more. We do so, only because we see the desperate needs of the men, women, and children in our community who come in day after day, especially now in this time of the ongoing economic turn-down that doesn't seem to have a foreseeable end.

There are three factors at work here: donations are down, needs are up, and food prices continue to rise.

In the fiscal year ending July 2010, Brother Benno's spent \$185,500 on food. In the same period in 2011, that cost rose to \$237,500. One example is peanut butter (a staple in our food packs), which has risen as much as 40 percent in the past few months, partly because of drought in the South, and partly because many peanut farmers have switched to growing cotton, which is more profitable.

Donations from corporations went from more than \$100,000 in 2010 to just over \$10,000 in 2011, and other donations followed a similar trend. The area of giving that prevented the Foundation from having to cut services were monetary bequests from the wills and estates of our supporters. If you'd like to know more about how to leave a bequest in your will, please contact **Liz Windle** (760-439-1244, ext. 113, or elizabethwindle@att.net).

Some needs can be met only with monetary donations, but donated food also helps a great deal. We encourage you to consider doing a food drive with your family, co-workers, church

continued on page 4....

BROTHER BENNO'S HONORED FOR SERVICE TO VETERANS

Harold Kutler, on behalf of the Brother Benno Foundation, received a Certificate of Recognition from the Oceanside City Council and the Veterans Association of North County on November 9, honoring the Foundation as the 2011-2012 Nonprofit Veteran Organization of the Year. The Certificate said in part: "in recognition of its continued efforts to provide assistance so important to Oceanside's veteran community . . ."



Harold Kutler and Councilman Jerry Kerns

The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in San Diego had presented a certificate to Harold earlier in the week that said: "Congratulations on your nomination for the 2011 San Diego County Veterans Allegiance award. Your dedicated support to the veterans is well documented and greatly appreciated by the entire San Diego veterans community."

continued on page 4....

Experiencing the Brother Benno Scene

by Barbara Ladwig

Wanna Play? Men, if you enjoy playing pool or poker, you might like to volunteer at Vista Village, an assisted living facility in Vista, which is one of Brother Benno's beyond-the-Center programs. **Heather Pine**, who's been active in this program since last May, is even teaching a cooking class there! To volunteer, please call **Denise Seymour** (760-439-1244, ext. 107).

Mailing List and Cards. Brother Benno's acknowledges every monetary gift received, no matter the amount, because we appreciate all donations sent by our supporters. But sometimes we hear from people who would prefer not receiving the thank-you card, and we respect those wishes. If for any reason, you'd prefer not having us mail that thank-you, just let us know with a phone call or note. Your name will still be on the newsletter mailing list.

Another bit of help you can give us is to let us know when your mailing address changes, when someone on the mailing list has died, or if you'd simply like to be taken off the list. **Mary Spitz** comes in every Wednesday to keep our mailing list current. She's a detail-oriented volunteer who's a real gem!

More About Immersion. Individuals and groups continue to take advantage of our Saturday morning Immersion experience. It includes an overview of our services, a short video, a tour of the Center, and a meal with our Guests. **Harold Kutler** says the experience makes the poor real. The program has met with positive reactions from participants, many of whom sign up on the spot to become a volunteer. While their decision is appreciated, it is by no means required—our staff is just happy to be able to share Brother Benno's with others. Contact **Dennis** if you'd like to sign up (760-439-1244, ext. 116, or dennispinnick@yahoo.com).

Trash Can Be Treasure. Brother Benno's has gone from paying to have trash picked up to making money on that trash. **G.***, who runs the warehouse, did some investigating and found out that we can make about \$100 a week by collecting and recycling all kinds of stuff, instead of paying \$42 a week just to have the bins of cardboard

picked up by the City's waste collector.

"Just tell people to drop stuff off at the back of the Center," he told me, "and I'll put it in the right bins." He'll take scrap metal, all cans, plastics, cardboard, and pallets. Hours are the same as for all donations: Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8:15 to 12:30.

** It is the policy of the Brother Benno Foundation to respect the anonymity of our Program Members, present and past, in keeping with one of the basic traditions of the AA Twelve-Step program. Therefore, we use initials or aliases in all newsletter articles, and we refrain from publishing their pictures.*

Coincidence or ?

Tom von Betticher was about to leave the Center to buy turkeys for Thanksgiving, when a call came in from **Jim and Kathy Caputo**, who said they'd be delivering 40 turkeys that morning.

Specific Cold-Weather Needs. Usually our requests for clothing for our Guests are pretty general, like: men's pants, socks, jackets. But after talking with **Karen Mehlick**, who oversees our Clothing Room, it might be helpful to spell out some specifics that she has figured out over the years.

For our homeless Guests, Karen suggests the following: Pants—jeans, work pants, and sweat pants. Jackets and sweatshirts—casual and warm, and hoodies are especially popular. Socks—warm, athletic-type. Shoes—athletic-type with good support and strong soles. Caps—all kinds are appreciated, but those that are tightly knit and close-fitting are the most serviceable. Gloves—with fingers, lightweight, tightly knit.

Karen said, "Everyone is so generous, and we are very grateful for everything," but she went on to explain why she is so specific with our needs, especially for the homeless. They will walk up to 20 miles a day, she said; therefore also strong

continued on page 3....

Memorials

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|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Brother Benno | Phyllis H. Dierlam | Fred Williamson | Al Basteri |
| Pope John Paul II | Monty Nares | Carole Kutler | Arthur & Estelle |
| Mother Teresa | Margaret Rossini | Will Skinner | Couturier |
| Ann Sauer | Dorothy M. Donahue | Fr. Abbot Claude | Andrea Boersma |
| Joe & Ida Friend | Mary Teresa Carr | Ehringer, OSB | Gilbert Brown |
| Mary Nordstrom | Ruth Hazel Pierson | Fr. Luke Dougherty | Virginia Buttitta |
| Myron Eichen | Elizabeth Holms | Naomi Shelton | Phyllis Daheim |
| Alice Jordan | Edith Blaiser | Rosemary Tucker | Jean Braun |
| Roseanne Dreibelbis | Ben Kouns | Ben E. Lewis | Hal Gibson |
| Richard Farhquar | Bill Lakoff | Roland Bond | William Flanagan |
| Deacon Art & Mary Carr | Bernice, Samuel & | Anna Correia | G. Preston |
| Don & Dorothea Daybell | Milton Silver | Geraldine Howard | McCauley |
| Catherine L. Quinlan | Anita H. Donahue | Jerry Napierala | Richard & Edna |
| Kathryn D. Pent | Margaret Stephan | Dorothy & Ford | Showalter |
| Mary Pullman | Bill Boster | Secuws | William Pry |
| Joan Boyd | Louise Foussat | Bud Maloney | Marshall Button |
| Agnus Boyd | Tom Hayward | Gene Daley | Bill Foran |
| Harold Thompson | Richard Kurtz | Rosemary Tucker | Robert Desmond |
| Bud & Blanche Ogle | Helen Lucas | Nysewander Family | Nola Hanson's son |
| Bob Gleason | Bill & Joan Maloney | Squirrel Family | Leo Labossiere |
| Jane Pfau | Dora Ramirez | John Simpson | John Boudreau |
| Ron Alexander | Dick & Terry Riley | Tish Rail | Gene Riopelle |
| Mary Peterson | Bill Buckner | Stanley Lamonte | |
| Frank Barnet | Mary Shankle | Bradley Brinson | |
| Frank S. Dolley | Walter Ulloa | Robert McCoy | |

Needs

Tarps, Ponchos, Jackets, Blankets
Please see articles on page 1 and 2 for more needs
New toys
Canned foods

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
2011	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitans	9 St. Patrick's	10 Girlfriend's Care
Monthly	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Friends from Vista	14 Naval Hospital	15 Carlsbad Rotary	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girl Scouts
Serving	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Fallbrook Presbyterian	24 Catholic Daughters
Team	26 Christ Anglican	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Grace Anglican	30 King of Kings	31 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 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.

KNITTING PROJECT GROWS

by Jean McMath

In April of 2011, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside had an original goal of knitting maybe 25 scarves by the fall to be donated to Brother Benno's. However, in early October, church members blessed more than 125 scarves and 45 hats! More of both have come in since then from church members and also from other knitters and crocheters in the area and beyond.

What I love most about this project is the diversity of sources. Not only have the ladies in our Prayer Shawl group made scarves, but some have also come from women in my Bible Study group, as well as from friends who have seen me knitting wherever I go. A large number of the hats came from a lady in the drama group in Oceana where I live, when she saw me knitting one at a meeting one evening. My daughter **Valerie**, who lives in Thousand Oaks, used to make scarves for the military, but now she sends them to Brother Benno's, since the military no longer needs them.

Most surprising of all is the number of beautiful scarves and hats contributed by several ladies from the La Jolla Braille Institute, who said they are so pleased to be doing something really worthwhile. I learned that many of the women are "legally blind," not totally blind, so they could appreciate the photo I sent them of the blessing of the scarves and hats at church.

After the article about this project appeared in the Brother Benno newsletter, at least four local ladies donated yarn or asked about specifications for the scarves. You can still donate yarn, scarves, or hats by dropping them off at the Center clearly marked "For Clothing Room."

Another interesting "aside" to this knitting project occurred when I was knitting in a doctor's waiting room. A lady asked me what I was making (amazing what a conversation-starter this project has been!), and I told her. She asked me more about Brother Benno's, so I gave her a few highlights. It turned out she had three big bags of clothing for little girls in the back of her car that her daughter had given her after cleaning out some closets. She gave the bags to me to bring to Brother Benno's. You just never know

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shoes and heavy socks are a must. They deal with the wet and cold for months, so warmth and durability are important. Hoodies are great, because they provide warmth on the neck and head. With gloves, they have to be able to zip or button a jacket, or open up a backpack, so thick ski gloves or mittens don't work very well. However, if that's what you have to donate, they can be given to our non-homeless guests, who have less stringent needs.

As we finished our conversation, Karen showed me the bins where they keep the socks and gloves. They were almost empty. She pointed to the section of the room where men's pants are hung, and most of the meager supply were dress pants. Again, some men need them, but the most urgent need is for the casual types.

If you'd like your donations to go specifically to the Clothing Room, please mark the bag accordingly in big, black letters. And as always, thank you so much for your response to the needs of our Guests.

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"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."
~ Lily Tomlin

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

A big thank-you to all our members and supporters for attending the Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon on December 3. We can't do it without you; you always help make it successful. We'll have more details in the January newsletter.

A reminder to all members who are helping serve refreshments during the Christmas toy give-away on December 22. Don't forget to be there, and thank you for your time.

2012 Events:

Auxiliary meeting on January 25, 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting.

Membership Drive Luncheon in February.

Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast Fund-Raiser on March 17.

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....continued from page 1, Financial....

group, school, social club, or neighbors. The items that are most useful are: all canned goods—vegetables, fruits, beans, meats, tuna and salmon; beans and rice in bulk; peanut butter and jelly.

We have seen over the years that no donation is too small. As Harold Kutler has said: if God wants Brother Benno's here, He will provide what we need.

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Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

ROSES

by Helen Parsons

Dozens of roses to the staff at our Thrift Shop who gave up a Sunday in order to get the shop ready for Christmas. **Michelle Hoppe, Mary Yett, Denise Seymour, C.S., and T.S.** spearheaded this event. Their enthusiasm and spirit have continued to make the shop a special place for our shoppers to find affordable clothing, household goods, books, furniture, etc. The shop has consistently provided the Center with financial support.

“Thinking of You” bouquets for **Helene McGill, Pat Kouns, Virginia Sylwestrzak, and Kay Kutler!**

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....continued from page 1, Veterans....

Two other certificates were presented: one was the California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition signed by **Nathan Fletcher** of the 75th District, and said in part: “for their support of veterans and the military and for honoring those who have served their country.”

The other was a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, signed by **Duncan Hunter**, Member of Congress: “in recognition of your support of veterans and the military services.”

Harold took a large, framed picture of himself and **Kay** to the Council meeting, because he said it was Kay who unfailingly hugged the veterans and brought them the acceptance and comfort they so sorely needed. In the corner of the picture is an inset of Brother Benno, thus rounding out the trio of caring people who have been the heart and soul of Brother Benno's for more than 28 years.

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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 _____