



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

October 2012

STUDENTS LEARN AS THEY GIVE

College students have the opportunity to do service learning hours or internships at Brother Benno's. One such internship program is part of the Sociology Department at California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) under the leadership of **Professor Mary Roche**. Students are required to put in 100 hours, and most of these hours must be in direct service to the people who come for help, with a minimum amount of time spent in administrative duties.

The students are given a list of organizations that have agreed to be part of the internship program, and they are free to choose the one they prefer. Brother Benno's has always been a favorite among the students, and Mary herself has a soft spot for us. “I grew up in Oceanside,” she said, “and I knew **Harold** and **Kay** (from the early days).”

According to Servant of the Poor **Denise Seymour**, college students help in the clothing room and on the food line; and they often greet Guests as they come in the door. Some also volunteer at the Thrift Store. **Hannah Collins**, who was just starting her internship one morning in early September, said she was very excited about the prospect of working at the Center, and she could hardly wait to have someone tell her what to do.

Mary Roche said that other departments at the University oversee a 20-hour service learning program. The goals of both programs are similar: to give students a chance to interact with people in the community who have specific needs, and to tear down stereotypes. She added that the students she deals with have told her that most of the volunteers at Brother Benno's are open and

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GIFT-GIVING CONNECTS FAMILIES

The men in our Recovery Program will be escorted to a special boutique set up at the Center on Saturday, December 8. There, with **Girlfriends Care** volunteers, and after hours of planning by **Kathy Christensen**, the men will be able to “shop” for Christmas gifts for members of their families.

Some of these men have been out-of-touch with family members for many years, and this is a way for them to reconnect during the Holidays. Many cannot afford to buy gifts, and that's where Brother Benno supporters come into the picture. We are hoping to receive new gifts for all ages and all sizes. Wives, children, teens, parents, brothers and sisters—in other words, gifts for just about anyone will be appropriate.

At the boutique, each man will have a personal shopper to help him choose gifts, cards to include with the gifts, and gift-wrapping service. And—when necessary—these gifts will be mailed out-of-state at no cost to the guys.

If you'd like to be part of this special event, please bring your gifts to the Center or to the Thrift Shop at 3965 Mission Avenue in Oceanside, marked Men's Boutique.

Helen Parsons, Board member and liaison to the Thrift Shop, says, “Your generosity will be deeply appreciated. It will indeed be a gift that keeps on giving!”

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“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others lives on.”

~ Unknown

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Love in Action. Every week, Brother Benno's welcomes several groups of mentally disabled adults (or as one Servant of the Poor likes to call them—specially abled) who perform tasks such as decorating lunch bags, rolling forks into napkins, organizing books in the children's reading room, or bagging rice and beans. One of these helpers is "**Lily**," who can charm almost anyone with her smile and her dogged persistence.

A volunteer named **Julie** shared the following story with me: She was sitting at the front desk one morning, chatting with "**Raymond**," a homeless regular who also has a charming way about him. Lily noticed that Raymond was wearing a beautiful beaded necklace with a cross attached to it, and she told him repeatedly how much she "really, really liked it." She asked him where he got it; and after he told her, she said, "I would just really, really love to have one just like it!"

Without missing a beat, Raymond took the necklace off and gently placed it around Lily's neck. His comment to Julie went something like this: "If anyone likes something that much, then they are the true owners, not me." Needless to say, Lily was "very, very happy!"

Don't Need a Thank-You Card? If you'd like to join an ever-increasing number of donors who are asking not to receive a thank-you card for each donation, just send a note to that effect with your next donation. The usual reason these people give us is: "Save the postage!" With the cost of postage continuously going up, that savings is like another donation. But please know that we still appreciate every single donation, large or small; and we are thanking you in our hearts.

Joyful Service. Servant of the Poor **Dennis Pinnick** told me about two couples—**Chris and Karen Willson Weber**, and **Rod and Windy Smith**—who have been faithful volunteers for many years. Three of them make sandwiches for the bag lunches that are given out to Guests every day, and Karen—who calls herself the "bag lady"—puts together 171 bags each Friday. Windy started helping out at Brother Benno's five days a week, starting in 2004, when Rod, now a

retired Colonel, was deployed to Iraq. As a result of his experiences there, they are now part of a program to help Iraqi kids. When asked why they continue to serve at Brother Benno's, Rod said, "Because we still can."

Chris and Karen said they love serving here, "it's the highlight of our week." Dennis reported that after 29 years of marriage, these two seem like newlyweds, with Chris kissing Karen every time he has to leave the work area.



Chris & Karen, Rod & Windy

I'm sure these two couples aren't looking for recognition, but we like to feature volunteers every once in a while to share the joy of service. To every one of the hundreds of volunteers who come in every month, please know that we appreciate you just as much as those we feature in our limited space.

Inspiration. In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, (pages 3-5), **Harold Kutler** credits his encounter with **Mother Teresa** in Philadelphia in 1976 as the seed that became the Brother Benno Foundation. I just finished reading a new book, written by a priest who traveled the world with her. In the book, he tells "50 inspiring stories never before told" about this saintly woman whose legacy lives on in others who devote themselves to the service of the poor and marginalized among us. If you look around at our world today and wonder if there's any hope for peace, I encourage you to read about how Mother Teresa was able to make such a huge difference with only one weapon in her possession: love. **The book is *Mother Teresa of Calcutta* by Leo Maasburg.**

TOUCHING OTHERS, ONE AT A TIME

Two recent encounters at Brother Benno's exemplify what we are all about, and two of our Servants of the Poor, **Carol Muehe** and **Diana Shields** were a big part of these stories.



A new male Guest with a shaggy beard and soiled clothing came in one Friday afternoon, hoping for a hot meal, some clean clothes, and a shower and shave. It was too late to provide any of these services, but Diana gave him a sack lunch and invited him to come back Saturday morning for his other needs—which he did. After he ate, Carol took him into the clothing room and helped him find a set of clean and comfortable clothes, even though we don't usually dispense clothing on Saturdays.

Monday morning, he walked up to the intake window where Diana was working and said, "Good morning! Do you know who I am?"

Diana confessed that she didn't remember him, and he said, "I'm the guy you gave the new razor to!" (A box of high-quality razors had been donated on Friday, and Diana had set one aside for this man before he left the Center on Friday.)

"He was cleaned up and nicely dressed," Diana said, "so I honestly didn't recognize him. And it was exciting to see that the razors that had been donated the first day he came in went to such a great cause!"

The second encounter involved three brothers, ages 20, 18, and 16, who came to the Center for the first time in great need of a hot meal. Their parents' lives were consumed with drugs, so the boys had moved to a place of their own and were trying rather unsuccessfully to make ends meet.

Diana—as we've reported before—makes it a habit to circulate among the Guests during the morning meal with a carafe of fresh hot coffee to offer seconds and thirds. "I noticed that the youngest boy was eating so fast he could hardly take a breath," she

said. "Then I saw him in line for seconds, and he looked just as hungry. A bit later I talked to them again, asking how they were doing with food; and they told me they had nothing at home. We were able to give them a very nice box of food from the pantry to tide them over for a few days, in hopes of them finding more resources." She gave them a list of other organizations that might be able to help them, in addition to Brother Benno's.

Diana came away from this encounter with the following thoughts: "It was such a blessing to be able to speak more with these young men and to be a part of giving them hope and love. . . . If I hadn't spoken to them (the second time), they probably would have just had a meal and left—lost in the shuffle. They now know where they can come for a hot meal, and hopefully (they'll) accept Brother Benno's as their new family in love."

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embracing to the Guests, and they set a good example by their compassion. But as with any organization, they also see adults who have a somewhat patronizing attitude; and this, too, can be a learning experience for them.

Denise said that the students "really work hard and bring in a fresh perspective and joy of serving, and they usually gain so much from their experience about the needs in the community with the poor and homeless. Sometimes their experiences are very touching."

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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

We received a check for \$233.51 from Shakey's Pizza for the fundraiser we had there in August. Thanks again to all who came out to enjoy a good meal and a wonderful time.

It's time to make your reservations for our **Annual Luncheon on Saturday, December 1**, at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$500 for a table. This year's theme is "Special Hugs" in memory of **Kay Kutler**. For more information or to order tickets, please call **Vera Bayliss** (295-0059). We will appreciate having all members help out this year. For opportunity baskets, contact **Sharon Tasker** (597-2890); silent auction, **Edith Jones** (529-0875); donations and sponsors, **Vikki Ramey** (803-6267) or **Alicia Sullivan** (815-6876).

Carol Richards is asking all members to bring in items for the teen baskets which will be distributed to young girls during the Christmas holiday. Be sure to get your items/banks at the October meeting, as we will assemble the baskets in November.

Quilt opportunity tickets will be available from **Penny Sallee** or from Auxiliary members. They are \$1 each, or eleven for \$10. The quilt is on display at all meetings. The drawing will be held at the November meeting.

Save the Dates:

October 24 – General Meeting (note: there are five Wednesdays in October)

November 14 – General Meeting, Installation of Officers (note date change)

December 1 – Annual Luncheon

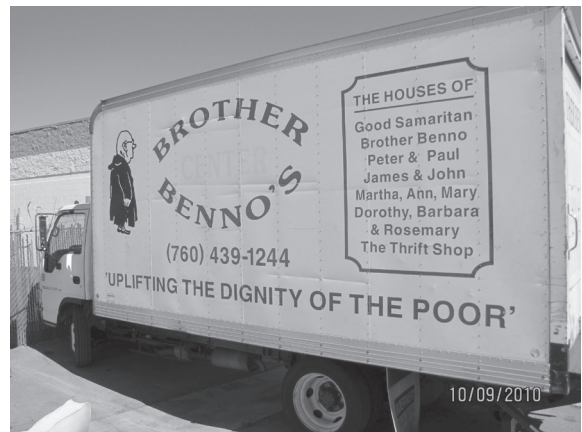
January 23, 2013 – First General meeting of 2013 (note: there are five Wednesdays in January)

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SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be setting up clothing-sorter teams at the Center, Monday through Friday, 9-11 a.m. If you can help on any of those days, please call 760-439-1244, ext. 107.

We also need volunteer truck drivers to pick up donated items at markets around the area, and also to deliver used furniture sold at the Center. A driver can work one day a week or as many days as he wishes. Hours are approximately 7 to 11 Monday through Friday, and 8 to noon on Saturday.



There is some lifting involved, and we require drivers to show proof of a clean DMV record. If you need more information or would like to volunteer, call 760-439-1244, ext. 105.

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Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	Ream Braegger
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Sharon Radt
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Floyd & Rose
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Caldwell
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Vennita Flanagan
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Helen & Walter
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Shlemmer
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Mike Stendahl
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Sr. Martha Vega
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Jose Acuna
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Robert Provost
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Rick & Naim Provost
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Alice Condren
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Dancy & Zeferino
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Nares
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Gilbert Brown
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	George McCauley
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	Nyswander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	Provost Family
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Sarah Christensen	Ethel Urban
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	John Simpson	William Pry
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Cecilia Weimer	

Needs

Diapers (All sizes, especially 4 & 5) Men's jeans & other casual pants
 Men's socks and underpants Sturdy shoes for men, women, & children
 Volunteer truck drivers (see page 4)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2012 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Friends from Vista	10 Naval Hospital	11 Oceanside Civitans	12 St. Patrick's	13 Oak Hills
	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Grace Anglican	18 Carlsbad Rotary	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
	22 Christ Anglican	23 St. Mark's San Marcos	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Fallbrook Presbyterian	27 Catholic Daughters
	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Welk Resort	31 Soroptimist International			

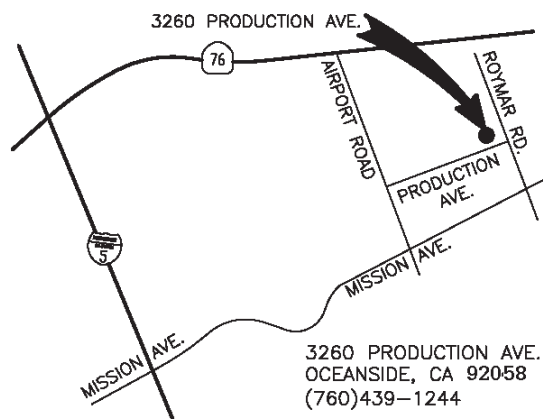
Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

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.

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:

	October 2012	Our 29th Year		October 2012	Our 29th Year
Meals	13,891	3,300,843	Loads of laundry	32	26,180
Nights of lodging	1,086	229,198	Food packs	2,513	203,066
Articles of clothing	6,607	938,922	Blankets	108	33,358
Showers	1,176	170,676	Prescriptions	11	7,068
Haircuts	123	14,471	ID Vouchers	17	8,308
Bus passes	79	75,812	HUGS	1,800	833,494

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, religion, 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**

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