



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

February 2015

## KIDS UNDERWEAR DRIVE IS VERY SUCCESSFUL

For many years, the Neighborhood Services Department of the City of Oceanside, with the support of the Oceanside/Carlsbad Soroptimist Club, has conducted a Kids Christmas Underwear Drive for the benefit of Brother Benno's. This year, as in the past, they collected hundreds of packages of new boys' and girls' underwear, items which are not often found among our donations.



**Rich Miller, Michelle Hoppe, Margery Pierce, Harold Kutler, Dave Manley**

According to Neighborhood Services Director **Margery Pierce**, members of the Oceanside City Employees Association were asked to bring a donation to their Christmas party in exchange for the chance to be entered in a raffle. They really came through, Margery said, contributing a large number of items.

This annual drive shows once again how a group of people banding together can make a huge contribution to those in need.

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## HE JUST KEEPS GOING AND GOING

**Harold Kutler** likes to tell people about the benefits of volunteering, especially for men and women in their "golden years." In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, he devoted an entire chapter to highlighting five of these "Super Adults," who at the time of publication were in their eighties.

Sadly, three of them have died, and one had to resign due to health problems. But **John Jarvie** can still be seen at the Center almost every day. One of our volunteers posted this picture and comment on his Facebook page, and we want to share it with our many newsletter readers as well:



"This is John Jarvie. He is ninety-one years old and has been volunteering at the Brother Benno Foundation for over twenty years. He still swings a hammer, and it is almost impossible to keep him off a ladder when something around the Center needs to be fixed. John is also a retired Master Gunnery Sergeant."

Three cheers for John Jarvie!

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Strong Commitment.** Carol Brown and her grandson Mack have been faithfully keeping our hygiene supply room neat and orderly for the past six years. They come to the Center every Monday morning, where they sort the many items that come in as donations from individuals and businesses—things like shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, combs, disposable razors, baby powder—well, just about anything you can find at a well-stocked drug store. Plastic crates line wall-to-wall, ceiling-to-floor shelves, so Carol and Mack can see at a glance which items might be running low and need to be put on our Needs list.



Carol Brown, Mack Brown Johnston & Carol Muehe

“I brought Mack with me when he was in middle school,” Carol said, “and he needed someplace to fulfill his community service hours.” Now Mack is studying computer animation at MiraCosta College, and his commitment to Brother Benno’s is as strong as ever. Even when they run out of hygiene items to put away, they find other things to do for the rest of the morning.

**A Beautiful Place.** After another record-breaking sales day at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop, Manager **Michelle Hoppe** had this to say to the staff and volunteers: “Not a day goes by that I don’t receive a compliment from a customer about what a beautiful place this is to shop, and that they cannot believe we are a Thrift Shop!”

**Special Outreach.** Board Member **Jim O’Connell** told me that Brother Benno Auxiliary members knit caps and baby blankets for newborns at Camp Pendleton, and that the Center delivers food boxes there as well.

**They Really Care!** About eighty members of Girlfriends Care, some with their children, spent Saturday, December 13, at the Center. They decorated placemats and lunch bags, stuffed stockings, and wrapped gifts for the Christmas Party on December 20. They also made up special gift bags for the women in our Recovery Program—an outreach project that they’ve done for many years, and one that often touches the women in life-affirming ways.

**New Career.** I met **Denise Labreche** at the Thrift Shop Christmas party for Program Members. She’s been the Assistant Manager at the Shop for two years, after a 20-year career at a nearby resort. When I asked her how she ended up at Brother Benno’s, she said she took the Saturday tour in January 2013, which included the old Thrift Shop. She was ready to retire and wanted to do something else, so she volunteered as a cashier and eventually was hired as Assistant Manager. “I love it here!” she said.

**BIG Numbers.** According to **Bear (aka Peter Ashton)**, Brother Benno’s serves a hot meal to about 200 people a day, six days a week. And **Harold Kutler** reported that on the day before Thanksgiving and on Thanksgiving Day, we served 352 people EACH DAY.

**True Words.** A bumper sticker on a pickup truck parked in front of our furniture warehouse said: “Love People . . . Cook Them Tasty Food.” I don’t know if the truck belongs to a volunteer; but in any case, it seems like an appropriate sentiment, considering what we’re all about.

**Long-Lasting Gratitude.** A Christmas card received at the Center, from a man who apparently had been helped years ago, had the following hand-written message on it: “*You may not remember me, but once again I am compelled to say thank you for all the help you all provided back when this century was young. I still happen to have my I.D. with your address. I truly do not know what I would have done without the graciousness of Brother Benno’s. Once again, thank you, and may your futures be brighter.*”

## THRIFT STORE IS MORE THAN A PLACE TO BUY STUFF

*(Editor's Note: A man who frequents the Brother Benno Thrift Shop sent an email on December 23 to Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe**, with additional comments to your ever-questioning Editor.)*

Hi Michelle, This is **Rod Braswell** (I'm the guy in the wheelchair.) Since you're closed tomorrow, I'll have to wish you and all the men and women who work with you a most blessed Christmas ever. I do hope you know how many of us out here appreciate your time, friendly attitude, and—perhaps most of all—the smiling faces we meet each time we visit. For me it's become like the song from a long-ago TV show called "Cheers": "You gotta go where everybody knows your name."

My world got a lot smaller when my accident left me a paraplegic and sentenced me to spend the rest of my days in a wheelchair; but after I found that (the Shop) is a place I'm able to easily reach in my power chair, I found myself drawn back over and over again. I've had the privilege of meeting most of the staff and find them all to be most charming folks, dedicated to their individual roles, yet happy to direct us customers to what we're looking for.

I quite often drop items I'm trying to carry in my lap, and invariably there's a volunteer at the ready to help. Yours is the only store I've ever found that I look forward to visiting a few times a week. Almost on a daily basis, there are new items on the shelves, new furniture to check out, books to scan, and new items in the religious area. It's a rare day that I don't buy something.

I applaud your decision to remain closed on December 24, Christmas Eve, to enable the staff to spend more time with their families. We talk about that all the time and wish more stores would do the same.

(Please) extend my Christmas wishes to all your people and let them know how proud we customers are getting to know and chat with them all. Just tell them that Rod, the guy in the wheelchair, wants to say Merry Christmas, and have a Happy New Year as well!

Fondly, Rod Braswell, Oceanside

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## ONE MAN'S STORY OF FORGIVENESS

by Julie Petrie

Working in Brother Benno's intake office has blessed me with many wonderful opportunities to witness to others the gift of God's love. One such opportunity occurred recently when one of our Guests, we'll call him "John," recounted the story of how he had been shot in the head during the course of a crime. Miraculously, he survived his brush with death, but not without having to endure several surgeries.

After hearing what had happened to him, I told him what an incredible story it was; but he said he wasn't finished. The men who committed the crime had all been caught and were paying for it behind bars. It wasn't until several years later that one of them requested to see John. He agreed to the meeting, even though it caused him much nervous trepidation. After lengthy planning by the prison authorities and attorneys, John went to the prison.

While he waited for the prisoner to be brought to him, John thought about the many years that had passed since that fateful day when he was struck down by a bullet. Then suddenly he was face-to-face with the shooter.

It was a surreal moment for John, he said, especially when the man seated across from him broke down in tears. He continued to sob; and when he was finally able to speak, he humbly asked John to forgive him. John said he was so touched by the man's unbridled show of sincere remorse and emotion that he immediately said, yes, he forgave him.

That simple but powerful act of forgiveness changed John's life forever. Giving someone a second chance to wipe his conscience clean can bring new life to the forgiver as well as to the forgiven. John said he felt the release of the heaviness he'd been carrying in his heart all those years as well.

As I handed John his Brother Benno card and voucher, we wished each other a Happy New Year. I know for John it will be totally amazing!

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### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

This newsletter article will be my last, which is bitter-sweet. I have enjoyed being part of the Auxiliary's Board for the past two years and will continue to contribute to the success of our activities. Brother Benno's has given back to me in many ways, and for that I am grateful.

Thank you to all members and officers for helping me, guiding me, and putting up with everything I tripped on! You are a very warm bunch of individuals, and very giving. I always had help from you, and I want you to know how much I appreciate all the efforts of all of you.

The new Board is anxious to take over and make new waves, and I hope everyone will support them.

The next meeting will be on February 25. Hope to see you all there.

### Outgoing Board



Vera Bayliss, Isobel Haring, Bonnie Gjerde, Vikki Ramey, Thelma Hendrix. Not Pictured Joan O'Connell.

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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>

**WE NEED A FORK LIFT!!**

**PLEASE CALL**

**DENNIS MARTINEK**

**760-439-1244, EXT. 105**

**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorials

Ron Alexander  
 Frank Barnet  
 Brother Benno  
 Edith Blaiser  
 Andrea Boersma  
 Roland Bond  
 Bill Boster  
 Agnus & Joan Boyd  
 Bill Buckner  
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr  
 Mary Teresa Carr  
 Anna Correia  
 Don & Dorothea Daybell  
 Phyllis H. Dierlam  
 Frank S. Dolley  
 Anita H. Donahue  
 Dorothy M. Donahue  
 Fr. Luke Dougherty  
 Roseanne Dreibelbis  
 Fr. Abbot Claude  
 Ehringer, OSB  
 Myron Eichen  
 Richard Farhquar  
 William & Vennita  
 Flanagan  
 Louise Foussat  
 Joe & Ida Friend  
 Mary Gerrity  
 Bob Gleason

Tom Hayward  
 Elizabeth Holms  
 Alice Jordan  
 Ben Kouns  
 Richard Kurtz  
 Carole Kutler  
 Kay Kutler  
 Bill Lakoff  
 Ben E. Lewis  
 Helen Lucas  
 Bill & Joan Maloney  
 Helene McGill  
 Monty Nares  
 Mary Nordstrom  
 Bud & Blanche Ogle  
 Ben Osgrove  
 Pope John Paul II  
 Kathryn D. Pent  
 Mary Peterson  
 Jane Pfau  
 Ruth Hazel Pierson  
 Mary Pullman  
 Catherine L. Quinlan  
 Dora Ramirez  
 Dick & Terry Riley  
 Margaret Rossini  
 Ann Sauer  
 Mary Shankle  
 Naomi Shelton

Bernice, Samuel &  
 Milton Silver  
 Will Skinner  
 Mike Stendahl  
 Margaret Stephan  
 Virginia Sylwestrzak  
 Mother Teresa  
 Harold Thompson  
 Rosemary Tucker  
 Walter Ulloa  
 Fred Williamson  
 Marc Brogan  
 John "Tom" Flaherty  
 Charles & David  
 Schmuckle  
 Jane Deakin  
 Andy Zuther  
 Mike Stendahl  
 John Kolostyak  
 Gilbert Brown  
 Rose & Floyd  
 Caldwell  
 Jim Dropinski  
 Dan & Chris  
 Pankowski  
 Donna Gleason  
 Eileen Smith  
 Bob Lubeski  
 Paul Sperrazza

Paul Alberton  
 Maurice Terwiske  
 Patricia Day  
 Palmer Houser  
 Marshall Button  
 Sarah McPherson  
 Jo Jensen  
 Joe Darby  
 Zeferino & Dancy  
 Nares

### Happy Birthday

JoAnne Shlemmer

### Happy 50th Anniversary

Michael & Harriet  
 Humphrey

### IN HONOR OF

Jeanne Salamone  
 John Jarvie  
 Father Bill Barman  
 Janice Phoenix  
 Larry & Betsy  
 Mason

### Needs

Gently used furniture  
 Hotel size hygiene items

Diapers  
 Ground coffee

Reading glasses  
 Fork lift

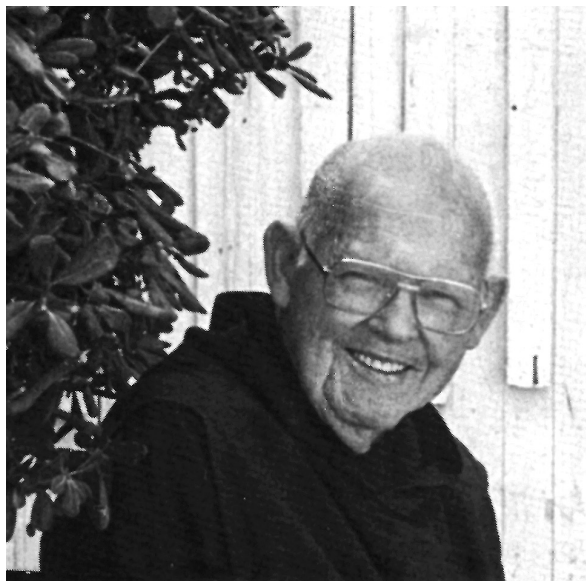
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February 2015 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>	<b>2</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>3</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>4</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>5</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>6</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>7</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>9</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>10</b> Hawkes Home	<b>11</b> Stew's Crew	<b>12</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>13</b> St. Patrick's	<b>14</b> Oak Hills
	<b>16</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>17</b> Christ the King	<b>18</b> Grace Anglican	<b>19</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>20</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>21</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>23</b> Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	<b>24</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>25</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>26</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>27</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>28</b> Catholic Daughters

### 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 Daily Specials!!**

**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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	December 2014	Our 31st Year		December 2014	Our 31st Year
Meals	13,947	3,673,490	Loads of laundry	25	26,932
Nights of lodging	1,010	257,543	Food packs	2,123	269,439
Articles of clothing	4,920	1,099,236	Blankets	261	37,839
Showers	1,058	200,253	Prescriptions	1	7,251
Haircuts	119	18,043	ID Vouchers	18	8,646
Bus passes	116	78,718	HUGS	1,800	887,944