



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

April 2012

## KAY'S LEGACY

*(Part 1 of what we hope will be an ongoing series)*

The stories about **Kay Kutler's** hugs are legendary. Guests and Program Members have talked about their life-affirming encounters with her—how they felt cared for and worthwhile in a world that mostly ignored or scorned them. Since Kay's death, though, others have begun to realize the legacy that Kay left for them as well.

In the March newsletter, we printed a story by a staff member who realized that instead of bemoaning his own loss of Kay's presence at the Center, he should be following her example by hugging and loving people the way she had; and that by doing so, he himself received more than he gave. Now other stories are beginning to surface, that give credence to the feeling that Kay is more present than ever to those who knew and loved her.

**Paul Dooley**, who coordinates the monthly serving team from St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad, shared the following: “I attended Kay's funeral service at St. Mary's and came away feeling peculiarly happy. I could not quite place the feeling, until I realized it felt like I just got a hug. I realized then how lucky I was to have gotten a hug from Kay. But how do I pass that on? Right then and there, an idea was hatched....”



Dave & Terri Hall, Bob Campbell, Paul Dooley, Eileen Ciganko (Not pictured: Francie Kossak, Fred Williamson)

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## Harold's Letter to Kay

Good-bye, Dear One ~

On February 15, you joined Brother Benno in heaven. You finished carrying your Parkinson's cross after four and a half years, and you never complained once and you never stopped smiling.

Dr. Kubler-Ross tells us about the five stages of dying:

1. Denial – the diagnosis must be wrong.
2. Anger – why me, God?
3. Bargaining – I will go back to church if you will make my illness go away.
4. Depression.
5. Acceptance.

You skipped the first four and embraced number 5 as God's will.

You are the one who carried on Brother's ministry of unconditional love. During your 26 years at the Center, you hugged thousands of Guests, validating their human dignity and giving them hope that things would get better.

About a year ago, when I moved into your office and found myself surrounded by angels, I knew that you loved angels but really didn't know why. After a couple of months in your office, I found out why: You were and are an angel.

My love always,  
Your Beloved

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**MAMI Repairs.** In January, we put the word out that we hoped someone would help with some seriously needed repairs at our House of Martha Ann Mary Ida (MAMI), our shelter for women and children. Because of termite and dry rot damage, all the wood siding on the back of the house needed to be removed and replaced. Several people called immediately to offer to donate part of the necessary funds, estimated to be around \$7,000. Then came a call from long-time Brother Benno friend **Lois Berning**, who said she'd be writing a check for \$8,000—the check arrived a few days later. We are very grateful to Lois, and to the other people who offered to help. By the time this newsletter is mailed, the repairs should be well underway.

**Memorial For Kay.** The Brother Benno Board has been discussing a lasting memorial for **Kay Kutler**, who died on February 15. Several ideas have already been put forth, but Board members would like to hear from anyone who has a suggestion. Please contact Board member **Mary Robinson** by email if possible: [jnminaz@msn.com](mailto:jnminaz@msn.com), or by phone: 760-685-1021.

**Loss.** Long-time volunteer **Helene McGill** died on February 9 after a second bout with cancer. Many of her Brother Benno friends visited her at her home the last few months of her life, and they came away cheered by her ever-present good spirits and the knowledge that she was ready to die so she could be with her God. In fact, she often said, "Why is He taking so long? I'm ready!" At Brother Benno's, Helene typed and sent out Harold's thank-you letters to donors; and she was an active member of the Brother Benno Auxiliary, wearing many different hats over the years. As with all faithful servants, she is dearly missed.

**Soup and Bread Are Not Enough.** I came across a quote by St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic priest in France in the 1600's, who thought he wanted a life of wealth and comfort, only to discover that God wanted him to serve the poor. As I read St. Vincent's words, I felt he could have been talking to the many hundreds of volunteers who have graced the environs of Brother Benno's for

almost 30 years.

*"You will find out that charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile. It is not enough to give soup and bread. You are the servant of the poor, always smiling and good-humored. They are your masters, terribly sensitive and exacting masters you will see. And the uglier and the dirtier they will be, the more unjust and insulting, the more love you must give them. It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them."*

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Paul's idea was to buy 200 yellow t-shirts with the following message emblazoned on the front: "I got a hug from Kay! Touched by an angel at Brother Benno's." He asked that these shirts be given to staff, volunteers, and Guests; and they are now being seen all around the Center. "It's our way to start passing on the love that Kay always gave," he said.

Another group that was inspired to continue Kay's hugging tradition is Girlfriends Care (GFC). They've started a Hug-A-Day Campaign, and they're asking everyone they know to make a commitment to give a minimum of one hug a day to family members, friends, and even strangers. Spread the Love! And to help the campaign, they're giving out small pins that say "Free Hugs!"

Even though these examples feature organized groups, the spirit of Brother Benno through Kay Kutler's example can be adopted by every person who is willing to reach out to someone else. Kay's gifts to everyone were a hug, a smile, and her undivided attention. They're free, and they're priceless.

*(GFC is made up of women who for many years have supported the women and children who live in the two Brother Benno women's shelters, as well as those served by other organizations, and who encourage children in grades K-8 to begin a life of service through their Kidz Care program.)*

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## DONATION HAS BIG IMPACT ON BRINGING BACK NEEDED SERVICES

**Tony Robbins**, international motivational speaker and self-help author, brought eight members of his Charitable Foundation Team to the Brother Benno Center on March 6, where they were given a tour by **Harold Kutler**, **Mary Robinson**, and several staff members. They liked what they saw, and the result was a donation made to the Brother Benno Foundation. This gift will help Brother Benno's reinstate the badly needed rent and utility assistance program, which had to be cut last November, due to lack of funds. That was the first time in Brother Benno's 28-year history that critical services needed to be cut. It was a sad day for all associated with Brother Benno's who witness the need on a daily basis.

Tony's generosity to Brother Benno's didn't start on March 6—his Foundation had given donations before—but this donation was perfectly timed to help us reinstate these critical services. It will have an impact on many families, disabled people, and struggling seniors about to go homeless or lose their water or electricity. Tony said he sees the current need for help with rent and utilities as vital because so many people are out of work. In an article in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* recently, he is quoted as saying: "It keeps a person off the street when they need a month's rent to hang in."

The Tony Robbins Foundation explained in a letter to Brother Benno's in 2010 why he provides help all over the world to needy families, by referring to his own childhood. One Thanksgiving, he said, a stranger knocked on their door and handed young Tony a basket full of food, saying it was "a gift from a friend." It meant that his family would have a Thanksgiving meal they would otherwise have gone without.

The letter went on to say: "That kind gesture made such a mark on the young man that he vowed to steer his life in a direction where he would be able to give back to those in need someday." So, from the basket of food that was "a gift from a friend," the seeds for the Anthony Robbins Foundation were planted, and the giving through his Charitable Foundation became a reality.

(The Anthony Robbins Foundation continues to raise funds for Brother Benno's and other charities on Crowdrise: <http://www.crowdrise.com/brotherbennos/fundraiser/tonyrobbins> )

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Tony Robbins & Harold Kutler



Harold Kutler, Tony Robbins & Mary Robinson

**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 Linda Garvey & Judy Harris

Our Membership Drive Luncheon on February 25 was attended by 104 people, and we added 19 new members as a result. If anyone else wants to become a member, they can sign up at any time. Please contact **Linda Garvey** for an application: vegas762@aol.com or 760-295-3638.

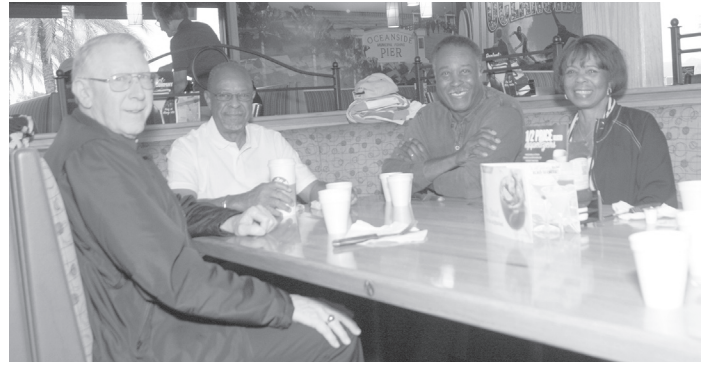
On March 17, a hearty band of 18 volunteers met at Applebee's in Oceanside at 7:30 a.m. to welcome more than 150 people for our Flapjack Fundraiser. Everyone had a great time, and we made \$1,335 for the Auxiliary. The volunteers were **Vikki Ramey, Thelma Hendrix, Alicia Sullivan** and her son **Stewart Durst, Dolly Bartelme, Kathleen Vizcaino, Dorine Meade, Carol White, Penny Sallee, Isobel Haring, Jasma Carballo, Karen Willson, Heidi Boynton, Nita Rodriguez, Carol Sanford, Edith Jones, Joan O'Connell, and Judy Harris.**

Save These Dates:

- April 25 -- regular meeting
- May 12 – Mother's Day distribution
- May 12 – Letter Carriers Food Drive, La Costa
- July 14 – Outback Fundraiser
- December 1 – Annual Luncheon

### Information & Online donations

[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)



*Abbot Charles Wright, Malcolm Jones,  
Will Carter & Margaret Carter*



*Vera Bayliss, Vikki Ramey,  
Daniel Boone & Alicia Sullivan*

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### bittersweetgratitude

**I wake up on a night like this  
 I hear the wind and rain outside  
 I am grateful  
 I am not outside  
 I am not cold  
 I am not all alone  
 I am not homeless  
 I am not you  
 . . . and my heart breaks  
 ~dp**

### 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	Jane Pfau	Tom Hayward	Helene McGill
Pope John Paul II	Ron Alexander	Richard Kurtz	Joan Hogan
Mother Teresa	Mary Peterson	Helen Lucas	Richard Shea
Kay Kutler	Frank Barnet	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl
Ann Sauer	Frank S. Dolley	Dora Ramirez	Eileen McNabb
Joe & Ida Friend	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Dick & Terry Riley	Alice Condren
Mary Nordstrom	Monty Nares	Bill Buckner	Michael Callon
Myron Eichen	Margaret Rossini	Mary Shankle	Squirrell Family
Alice Jordan	Dorothy M. Donahue	Walter Ulloa	Nysewander Family
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Teresa Carr	Fred Williamson	Gilbert Brown
Richard Farhquar	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Carole Kutler	Bernie Weiler
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Elizabeth Holms	Will Skinner	Harry & Janice
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Abbot Claude	Opatkiewicz
Catherine L. Quinlan	Ben Kouns	Ehringer, OSB	Andrea Boersma
Kathryn D. Pent	Bill Lakoff	Fr. Luke Dougherty	William Flanagan
Mary Pullman	Bernice, Samuel &	Naomi Shelton	Gretchen Hansel
Joan Boyd	Milton Silver	Rosemary Tucker	Stanley LaMonte
Agnus Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Ben E. Lewis	Dancy & Zeferino
Harold Thompson	Margaret Stephan	Roland Bond	Nares
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Bill Boster	Anna Correia	Jeanne Nickel
Bob Gleason	Louise Foussat	Geraldine Howard	

### Needs

Hygiene items                      Ponchos                      Socks                      Hoodies  
 Tight-knit gloves                  Canned food                  Aluminum cans for recycling

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April</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>2012</b>	<b>9</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>10</b> Friends from Vista	<b>11</b> Naval Hospital	<b>12</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>13</b> St. Patrick's	<b>14</b> Brother Benno's Women House
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>16</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>17</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>18</b> Grace Anglican	<b>19</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>20</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>21</b> Girlfriends Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>23</b> Christ Anglican	<b>24</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>25</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>26</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>27</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>28</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>30</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis					
<b>Schedule</b>						

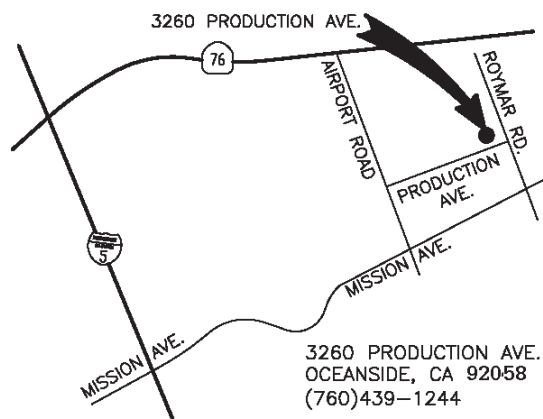
### Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

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](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:

	February 2012	Our 28th Year		February 2012	Our 28th Year
Meals	11,865	3,222,000	Loads of laundry	23	26,004
Nights of lodging	1,028	222,701	Food packs	2,428	187,516
Articles of clothing	3,704	908,036	Blankets	134	32,716
Showers	832	164,697	Prescriptions	41	6,905
Haircuts	89	13,752	ID Vouchers	8	8,237
Bus passes	87	75,388	HUGS	1,800	821,344

*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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**U.S. POSTAGE  
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