



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

## Interdenominational Volunteers Making a Difference in This World

April 2013

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### BROTHER BENNO'S SOCK-HOPS INTO THE NEW THRIFT SHOP

by Amanda Martinek

Slick, greased-back hair and leather jackets, paired with poodle skirts and pony tails, members of the community came decked out for Brother Benno's Thrift Shop Grand Opening on March 12, which was celebrated with a 50's-themed sock hop. Held from 6-8 p.m., a huge gathering of Brother Benno volunteers and staff, community members, and lovers of good old-fashioned fun came out to support the opening of the new location.

Tasty pizza began to dwindle as more was ordered, due to the impressive turnout. Then there was the sweet sundae bar with homemade fudge sauce and a myriad of colorful toppings. Many graced the dance floor, held in the furniture section of the shop, doing the twist, jitterbug, and bop to classic 1950's tunes; and everyone felt the joy of this exciting new chapter in Brother Benno's history.

What started as a simple idea of a small thrift shop grew into the reality of a big, bright, brand-new 10,580-square-foot space that Brother Benno's now calls its own. About a year and a half ago, a decision was made that the old shop was beginning to feel cramped and a change was needed—the opportunity to grow in a larger location.

After looking at several leases, and even facing a whopping 52-pager, the space next to the old shop miraculously opened up. It was formerly a gym and dance studio that fell on hard financial times during the recession; and **Harold Kutler**, at first glance, said the space was “way too big.” But with the addition of a wall right down the middle, the location was cut into 3955 A and B, making one half a do-able size and the

other half available for rent.

With the help of volunteers, it took about a month to clear out some merchandise with a huge bargain sale, pack up the rest, and move into the new space. “The original shop was nice and cozy,” Harold said, “but now we've graduated into the big leagues. I have to give huge credit and thanks to the volunteers who had a vision and did something about it.”

The response from the community has been nothing but positive. “Brother Benno's has been a wonderful institution in the community,” said **Gary Felien**, Oceanside City Council member. “It's great to participate in the opening of the Thrift Shop that will provide a wonderful service to our community.”

Harold Kutler summed it up: “It's amazing. That's the only word for it. It's making a statement to our community. It's a new pearl in the crown that is Brother Benno's.”

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Thrift Shop Staff- Robin, Helen, Tom, Jennifer, Jackie, Michelle, Harold and Christie

## EXTRA CARE TOUCHES GUESTS

by Barbara Ladwig

**Julie Petrie**, one of our Servants of the Poor, works mostly in the intake office at the Center, where she takes care of many Guests who come to us for help. She seems to have a knack for being able to see beyond the obvious, and as a result she often touches people in ways that some of us might miss.

Julie looked back at a few of the encounters she had during the month of February that she said “just really touched my heart,” and she wanted to share them with our readers.

A young man we'll call “Peter” had recently become homeless, and he approached the intake window to register for services. He was very shy, and he seemed to be having trouble understanding what he needed to do to get a Brother Benno card. Julie took extra time and care with him, slowing everything down, making sure he understood what we offered and where he had to go to get things like a food pack or clothing.

After the intake process was finished, Peter thanked Julie over and over again and disappeared into the breakfast crowd. About an hour later, there he was, standing at the intake window again. Julie asked if he needed anything else, and he said, “No, I just wanted to tell you thanks so much for being so kind to me.”

“I was blown away,” Julie said, “because this young man, after waiting in line once, waited in line again just to tell me that!”

Another man who touched Julie's heart arrived at the intake office just as they were getting ready to close. She forgot the clock and started taking “Andy” through the registration process, when he suddenly started crying. As she handed him some Kleenex, he broke down even more, saying he'd just been released from the hospital and was worried about where he was going to live. At that point, Julie thought he looked like he needed to sit down, so she motioned him to a seat in the dining room and joined him.

Sitting there, Andy was able to fill out the paperwork, and he told Julie he'd been staying with his uncle, but now that was no longer an option, because the house was too small and the

uncle couldn't afford to provide the extra food and other necessities. At that point, Andy was sobbing again. Julie explained that his uncle could also apply for help at Brother Benno's, and maybe that would prolong the time they could manage together, until Andy had time to find a job and a place of his own. “When he heard this, he seemed noticeably relieved,” Julie said, “and I could tell that he was now feeling hopeful.”

After she finished processing his paperwork and gave him a voucher for food, she offered to walk out to the warehouse with him “so he wouldn't have to go the first time alone.” She let the warehouse guys know that she was coming with someone new; and she said that “**T.J., Marty, and Jeff**, who are absolutely awesome and always willing to help out, even at the last minute, were ready. They gave the man, not only a food pack, but also a lot of other goodies they had on hand.”

Julie walked out the front door with this new Guest and gave him a hug. “He walked away carrying his food box with a spring in his step,” she said. “That's what I call the Miracle of Brother Benno's!”

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## A COUPLE “HOUSEKEEPING” ITEMS

“Going paperless” is a big thing these days, and Brother Benno's wants to keep up with our friends' wishes in this area. If you prefer to receive the newsletter in your email rather than your mailbox, just send an email to [brotherbenno@gmail.com](mailto:brotherbenno@gmail.com) and include your full name and mailing address so we can be sure we are removing it from the paper mailing list.


And speaking of mailing, we are also happy to add your name to the “Do Not Send a Postcard for Donations” list. Just add a note to that effect with your next check, and we'll see to it that your wishes are followed.

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## FORMER GIRL SCOUT RETURNS AS ADULT VOLUNTEER

by Brandy Pearson

It was around 1994 and I was seven years old, visiting Brother Benno's with my Girl Scout troop. We collected food to donate to the Kitchen, and we came in and sang for the Guests during the holidays. I still have a picture of our troop in the dining hall. We also got a great tour of the facility. Visiting a place like that when I was small really opened my eyes to see life beyond my little neighborhood. It was comforting to see that no matter how hard there are care and think it's kids in their years to get learn that how young are, they



life can be, people who will help. I important for formative out there and no matter or small they are part of a greater community. It empowers them and inevitably increases their capacity for appreciation and empathy.

My own family donated clothes and food once in a while. In the mid-90's, we picked oranges at a friend's orchard and donated the produce anonymously to Brother Benno's for Christmas-time. I think we left the crates outside in the evening. It was quite a stock load, and I hope they got to the Kitchen. We weren't rich by any means, but it was great that an average family like ours could still contribute something once in a while.

Eventually we moved out of the area, and I never would have guessed I would be back nearly 20 years later. I moved to San Diego from Los Angeles last year and was looking for a place to volunteer. Some organizations make it tougher than it should be to volunteer, having to wait months for an orientation; and often the positions are competitive. I remembered Brother Benno's, checked out the website and went to one of the monthly orientations. It was simple and straight-forward. I appreciate how the organization makes it easy for the community to give their time, and I love how it's completely run by volunteers. I started volunteering last December in the Reading Room, and it's been great to look

forward to every month.

I think the point is that it doesn't have to be often, and it doesn't even have to be much. All the small efforts add up to create a great safety net for our entire community.

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“Cowardice asks the question,  
‘Is it safe?’  
Expediency asks the question,  
‘Is it politic?’  
But conscience asks the question,  
‘Is it right?’  
And there comes a time  
when we must take a position  
that is neither safe, nor politic,  
nor popular,  
because conscience tells us  
it is right.”

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**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)**

**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 have five new members as the result of our membership drive luncheon on March 2, and 130 members have renewed their dues. Thanks to all for being part of this organization. The Thrift Shop would also like to thank everyone who shopped during the Membership Drive. Your purchases totaled \$995 in sales!

A reminder that dues are \$10 per year or \$150 for a lifetime membership. The deadline to get into the directory is April 13, 2013. Contact **Linda Garvey** for an application or information (760-295-3638 or vegas762@aol.com).

Our Applebee's Flapjack Fund-raiser was again very successful. Thanks to **Judy Harris** and **Vera Bayliss** for co-chairing the event. We had over 100 guests come and enjoy a wonderful breakfast served by the "best ladies" in the world. Thanks also to members who helped: **Lyn Standefer, Penny Sallee, Dorrine Meade, Isabel Haring, Thelma Hendrix, Claire Carter, Debbie Knight, Anne Speraw, Helen Parsons, Michelle Hoppe, and Mary Jo Flores**. We raised \$1,168. Our special thanks to Applebee's management—**Shannon, Billy, Colton**, and the rest of the staff for their continued support of community organizations.

By popular demand, we will again tour the Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside on Thursday, May 23. This will take the place of the May meeting. The day will consist of Mass at 11 a.m. (optional), lunch at noon, followed by a brief history of the Abbey by **Abbot Charles Wright** and a tour of the grounds (please wear comfortable shoes). After the tour, the gift shop will be open

until 4 p.m. Cost for the day is \$10 and is limited to 70 people. For more information and reservations, call **Vikki Ramey** (760-803-6267).

### SAVE THE DATES

- April 24 – General Meeting
- May 11 – National Association of Letter Carriers Food Collection
- May 11 – Mother's Day
- May 23 – Abbey Day



Vikki Ramey, Vera Bayliss, Harold Kutler, Mary Vernaci giving Harold a check for \$25,000 for the Auxiliary fundraising efforts for 2012



Auxiliary members along with Applebee's personnel

### 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	Rose & Floyd
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Caldwell
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Bernie Weiler
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Audrey Brewer
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Stanley LaMonte
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	William & Vennita
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Flanagan
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Andrea Boersma
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Squirrell Family
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Janice Harmon
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Caroline Dusak
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Joan & Larry Lieux
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Jeanne Nickel
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Jim Reynolds
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	P.J. Daheim
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	Mike Stendahl
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	Spence O'Brien
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Tim Hurlbut	
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Marty McElfresh	
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Gilbert Brown	

## Needs

Men's sweatpants, jeans, chinos

Hoodies and sweatshirts

Socks and underwear for all ages, all sizes

Diapers

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 2013 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>	<b>1</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>2</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>3</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>4</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>5</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>6</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>8</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>9</b> Hawkes Home	<b>10</b> Stew's Crew	<b>11</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>12</b> St. Patrick's	<b>13</b> De Masi family
	<b>15</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>16</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>17</b> Grace Anglican	<b>18</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>19</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>20</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>22</b> Christ Anglican	<b>23</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>24</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>25</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>26</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>27</b> Catholic Daughters
	<b>29</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>30</b> West Resort				

## 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.

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

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE  
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 Oceanside, California  
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### **The Thrift Shop**

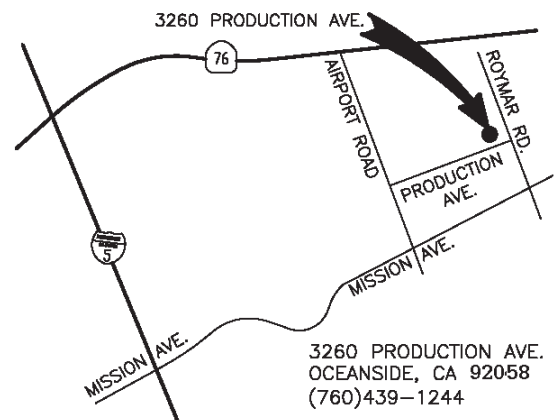
**3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505**

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

**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 2013	Our 29th Year		February 2013	Our 29th Year
Meals	12,647	3,380,581	Loads of laundry	23	26,343
Nights of lodging	1,009	235,874	Food packs	2,272	218,261
Articles of clothing	5,661	973,583	Blankets	135	34,301
Showers	889	176,378	Prescriptions	0	7,121
Haircuts	133	14,996	ID Vouchers	12	8,394
Bus passes	99	76,430	HUGS	1,800	844,744

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