



By Benno
1984
R.H.

Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

April 2015

OUR AUXILIARY FINDS TRUE MEANING AT BROTHER BENNO'S

by Frank Doherty

Mother Teresa is quoted as saying:

"Alone we can do nothing, but together we can do something beautiful for God." This was the case recently, when representatives of Brother Benno's Auxiliary presented the Foundation with a check for \$25,000, the results of their fundraising events over the past year.



Thelma Hendrix, Bonnie Gjerde, Carol Sanford, Frank Doherty, Vera Bayliss, Penny Sallee, Vicky Squires

Mother Teresa also said: "Find them, love them, and put your love for the poor into living action." The Auxiliary does this so well—and what a difference they make—whether it be in sponsoring events such as our Christmas party and gift-giving to the children of the poor, volunteering as a team on our food-serving line, providing blankets and knit caps to newborns, or providing grated cheese to go with our spaghetti meal on Saturdays. They are also at the Center on special days such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Easter to give gifts to the poor—putting their love into living action.

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CHILDREN ARE NOT FORGOTTEN AT BROTHER BENNO'S

(The following article appeared in the Brother Benno newsletter in 1998. Stories like these continue to happen today.)

Several years ago, a seven-year-old girl was waiting while her mother had an interview with a staff member about getting into a shelter. The time dragged on, and she looked so forlorn that volunteer **Pat Kouns** gave her some construction paper, crayons, a scissors, and stickers. "Here, honey, this'll give you something to do until your mother is finished," she said.

Sometime later, the little girl came to Pat and handed her a beautiful thank-you card that she'd made from the supplies Pat gave her. "I cried," Pat said, "it was so wonderful."

Many people don't realize how many children are helped in various ways at Brother Benno's. Saturday was a good example. It was a Back-to-School party, and 105 children were there.

As always, the day started with a meal and singing. Then the children lined up to receive new socks and underwear, a stuffed animal, and school supplies. The Brother Benno Auxiliary had given money for the purchase of new school uniform shirts for those who attend parochial school, and Thrift Store workers had put together packets of folders, paper, notebooks, and pencils. . . .

A huge sheet of paper lay on a table where the children were asked to trace their hand prints and sign their names as a thank-you card to all those who donate goods and money to Brother Benno's. It was then put on display at Walmart for

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Check It Out. We have a new and improved website! I thought the old one was great; but I see that this one is even easier to navigate, and there's so much good information presented in a concise manner regarding every facet of the Foundation. brotherbenno.org

Just Down the Road. A graduate of our Men's Recovery Program shared a beautiful story about what some people might call a coincidence but others at Brother Benno's call a "God Wink."

"Artie" was visiting his family for several weeks. They live in a small, isolated town; and as with many such gatherings, things got pretty stressful for Artie. He felt in great need of an AA meeting, but he knew there were none within a 50-mile radius, so he decided to do the best he could at an upcoming family dinner.

As he was driving down a long, winding road to his parents' house, he spotted a large dog heading his way. Being a dog-lover, he stopped and went to the dog. At that moment, a car came along and the driver, seeing Artie and the dog, stopped and got out of his car. Turned out, it was the man's dog, who had been heavily medicated, and the man said he was frantic, because in looking for the dog, he was afraid he was going to miss the new AA meeting that he himself was about to start!

The meeting was to be held at a school down the street, so Artie, the man, and the rescued dog headed that way. Artie found the peace he'd been looking for, and he was able to help another man at the meeting who needed the encouragement that Artie could offer.

Exchange. All items and services are provided to our Guests free of charge, but Brother Benno's believes it's good for people to give back whenever possible. Therefore, two services—laundry and replacement of personal papers such as ID's and birth certificates—require recipients to perform two hours of service at the Center in exchange. No one seems to be complaining about this arrangement.

Quilts. "Stitches of Hope" is an outreach ministry of Faith Temple Christian Center in Oceanside, whose members made and donated ten beautiful quilts to our Thrift Shop as a means of generating money for Brother Benno's. **Helen Parsons**, who oversees the Shop, reported that the ministry members who delivered the quilts to the Shop were **Barbara Crayton** and **Brenda Howard**. She added, "We are indeed grateful!"

Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe** said that several quilts have already been sold. If you love beautiful quilts, hurry down to the Shop before they're all gone!

Cha . . . I'm always amazed by the great variety of backgrounds that our volunteers bring to Brother Benno's. A case in point is **Bill Harper**, who meets with Guests who need help paying their rent or utility bill or prescriptions.

About ten years ago, Bill formed a band of six musicians that he calls The Billy Harper Band, "The Band With a Beat." They play at senior centers and nursing homes, as well as for events like weddings and bar mitzvahs. Bill plays percussion and sometimes sings, and he said he'll even leave the stage to dance with one of the women in the audience. On one such occasion, the woman said to him, "I haven't danced with a man in 35 years!"

As he talked about his band, he reminisced about how he'd paid his way through college by performing with a band on weekends. Then after he married and they were expecting their first child, he again turned to music in order to accumulate enough money to pay the doctor and hospital for the upcoming birth.

. . . **Cha Cha!**

Saintly Words. "The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot. . . ."

~ St. Basil

GLASSES ANYONE?

by a Volunteer

We have two stories that involve the opportunity for our Guests to receive eyeglasses.

First, we had a great response to our recent request for reading glasses. A woman came by the Center and dropped off a large box of reading glasses. When asked if she'd like a receipt, she declined and didn't give us her name. She was in and out in a flash!

The box was sealed, and thinking it was filled with used glasses, we were surprised and delighted to find more than 120 pairs of brand-new, tagged reading glasses ranging from strengths of 1.25 to 3.00.

We've seen the joy of our Guests when they try the different strengths and say, "Wow, this one works great, thank you!"

Thank you for such a generous donation, whoever you are!

Our second story deals with the Encinitas Lions Club "Gift of Sight" program. We were able to provide transportation for Guests and Program members to take part in the Lions Club Health Fair that took place on March 7 at Oak Crest Middle School in Encinitas. They provided a free eye exam, a pair of refurbished glasses, diabetes test, hearing screening, blood pressure test, and some vaccinations.

We want to extend a big Thank You to the Encinitas Lions Club for their generosity and public service to those in need. We appreciate the opportunity to join with other organizations in order to help the people we serve.

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We are called to serve others. This is what gives us true meaning in our lives. What our volunteers experience is joy—a joy that is hard to explain, but a feeling that our volunteers know well as they find they are making a difference in people's lives.

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AN AUXILIARY PHOTO OP

Brother Benno Auxiliary members might not be as well-known as other volunteers because they tend to work mostly behind-the-scenes. It's even possible that some newsletter readers skip the Auxiliary News on page 4 because they assume it's just for members—but that is not the case. The success of the Auxiliary depends on the participation of the community at large, and what better way to be part of their mission than to know about all the good things they're doing!

A recent event took place on February 28—their annual Membership Drive. Members and their guests gathered at Coco's Restaurant in Oceanside, and from there they went out for a tour of the Brother Benno Center, several of our Houses, and the Thrift Shop.

It just happened that while members were setting up at Coco's, two people came over to say hello to them—**Brother Kevin Dismas Moshier, FSP**, a volunteer at Brother Benno's, and **Sister Carole Therese Grisotti, SSC**. It was a perfect photo op!



Iris Alvarez, Carol Sanford, Brother Kevin, Sister Carole, Vicky Miller, Pearl Velasquez, Minerva Anderson

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"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community; and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die; for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future generations."

~ George Bernard Shaw

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Carol Sanford

Our first successful fundraiser of 2015 was held at Applebee's on Saturday, March 28, adeptly handled by Co-Chairs **Vera Bayliss** and **Terri Keyes** and their crew of volunteer pancake servers. Thank you, Ladies, for all your hard work!

We turn next to the NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) food drive on Saturday, May 9, in the afternoon hours, at the La Costa Post Office. Our own **Debbie Knight** has volunteered to chair that activity this year while **Janetha Bailey-Long** takes time off to enjoy her family's local reunion. Lots of volunteers are needed for this most important activity, since all the donated foods will come directly to our warehouse via Brother Benno trucks, to be used in food packs, etc. This is all much-appreciated foodstuffs that Brother Benno's does not have to buy! Contact Debbie (760-630-1824) for more details about time and place.

And coming up quickly will be the "Christmas in July" event, our annual fundraiser at the Outback Restaurant on Vista Way in Oceanside. We are now looking for someone to chair (or co-chair) this event, which raises funds for toys and other items for the children at the Center's Christmas party. It's EZ and FUN!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 22, at 1 p.m. Don't forget to bring men's or women's socks (any variety), granola bars, or wrapped candy for the gift bags to be packed and given out at the Center for Mother's and Father's Days. Give them to **Claire Carter**, who is chairing those events. Giving is heavenly

See you at the meeting!

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the community to see. . . .


Most of us take for granted a late-summer trip to the mall for school clothes and supplies, but some kids never get to do that; and they seldom have anything new. Brother Benno's changes all that. It's just a pebble in the ocean, but the ripples spread out in mysterious ways.

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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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>

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:

The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

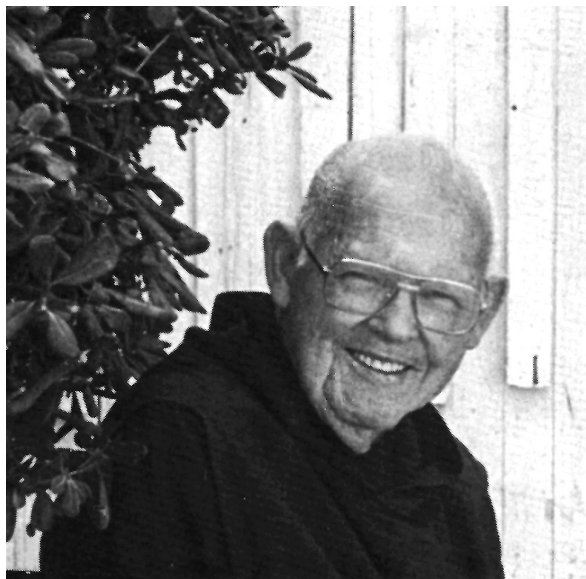
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(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

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 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:

	February 2015	Our 31st Year		February 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	12,681	3,699,747	Loads of laundry	23	26,983
Nights of lodging	976	259,555	Food packs	1,835	273,328
Articles of clothing	4,600	1,108,793	Blankets	109	38,172
Showers	995	202,351	Prescriptions	2	7,255
Haircuts	141	18,324	ID Vouchers	13	8,677
Bus passes	97	78,947	HUGS	1,800	891,994