



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

April 2018



REMEMBERING HAROLD AND KAY

Harold Kutler, the beloved founder of Brother Benno's, died peacefully on March 6, 2018, at the age of 91, from complications following a fall. During the week prior to his death, countless family members, friends, and Brother Benno staff and volunteers had the privilege of spending time with Harold at his home. Although he was not always alert during these visits, it seemed obvious that he was hearing the prayers and good wishes being offered for him.

Harold and his wife **Kay** (who died in 2012) started a soup kitchen in October, 1983, in a small house in downtown Oceanside, in order to serve the homeless of the area. They named it Brother Benno's Kitchen, in honor of **Brother Benno Garrity**, a Benedictine monk at the Prince of Peace Abbey.



Brother Benno was well known for handing out his home-baked bread and other items he gathered from nearby farmers to the poor and homeless. He also loaded up his dilapidated truck with used furniture and clothing and drove around town, where he knew he'd find people in need. Harold wanted to expand on those services, and Brother was more than happy to lend his name to the efforts.

In 1991, Brother Benno's moved from the tiny house to a 12,000 square-foot warehouse in Oceanside in order to be able to offer many more services such as clothing, showers, haircuts, laundry facilities, and much more. They also ran an alcohol and drug recovery program for men, which was eventually expanded to include women.

* * *

The services for Harold began with viewing at the mortuary on Friday, March 16, where family and friends gathered in an informal way to share memories or sit in the quiet of the chapel to think and pray.

On Saturday, the 17th, at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Oceanside, a rosary was recited at 12:30, followed by Mass at 1 o'clock. The church was filled with family members, friends, City officials, monks from the Prince of Peace Abbey, and staff and volunteers from Brother Benno's. Abbot Charles Wright (retired), also from the Abbey, was the celebrant at the Mass; and he was assisted by several other priests, as well as Harold's fellow permanent deacons from throughout the San Diego Diocese. Eight women—six who are volunteers at Brother Benno's and two of Harold's caregivers—were honored to serve as pallbearers.

Following the Mass, a reception with food and beverages was held at the Brother Benno Center for Brother Benno staff, volunteers, Board members, Recovery Program graduates, and special guests, some who were former volunteers. People in attendance were invited to come up to the microphone to share their experiences with Harold and Kay, and about twenty responded.

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MEMORIES

Jo Grady. This is how I came to Brother Benno's. I lived in Kansas, and when my husband Joe died after 43 years of a happy marriage, I needed to find a new purpose, something to dedicate myself to. I really wanted to enter a convent, but at 66 I didn't find any group of nuns willing to take me. On retreat, I read a magazine, *Response*, that listed volunteer opportunities for Catholics all over the world. Two positions asked for talents I felt weren't a good fit for me, but the one at Brother Benno's was for a bookkeeper. That was perfect, since I had lots of work experience for that role; and I was certainly not opposed to living in California, either.

At that time, the Lay Minister Program (Servants of the Poor) at Brother Benno's was very religiously oriented. Once a month we had a Holy Hour at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Mass and Rosary, and every First Friday Mass and lunch at the Prince of Peace Abbey, followed by a talk given by Harold. The Servants lived in two Brother Benno houses, and we had a combined dinner once a week with sharing and camaraderie. Harold and Kay always came to these dinners. It felt much like family.

Harold and Kay were at the Center every day. Kay sang people into the day and hugged everybody. Harold was always gentle and kind, and we all knew he wanted peace and harmony above all. We felt he was very close to God. They both were totally dedicated to helping people as much as they could, and they were equally dedicated to seeing that the volunteers felt appreciated and that we were an important part of the team.

I am still here after 20 years. I love the spirit of Brother Benno's and am grateful for being part of something so good.

Mary Robinson. It's time to say goodbye to my precious friend Harold. I shared a small office with him for ten years, and I knew this would be a volunteer job like none other. When we met, he asked me about my past experience in working with the poor. At the end of our discussion, he asked if I'd be willing to be his Assistant. I had no idea what a blessing that day would be for me.

Early on, I noticed that everyone wanted

to be in Harold's presence, to have his calmness, love, wisdom, and sense of humor wash over them. He was a beautiful shepherd, leading so many to service, where we would all find that we got back so much more than we could ever give. I never took for granted how lucky I was to be in a position to learn from someone who had dedicated so much of his life to the poor. But with that, he also carried so much weight on his shoulders. He patiently mentored me over the years; and in turn, I did my best to relieve him of some of the stressors that come from running a non-profit that holds itself to the highest ethical and spiritual standards.

I've thought long and hard about how I would summarize Harold and Kay's legacy once they left us. Now that it's happened, it seems quite simple; but it's something many of us find hard to do each day. **Harold and Kay simply practiced all aspects of their faith—every day.** And that, dear friends, is how powerful our faith can be if we strive to live it, too. Harold and Kay showed us that love and kindness can change the world. It all starts with us believing and reaching out to those around us who need a hand to hold.

Helen Parsons.

We both met Mother Teresa
We were touched by her missions
She touched both our hearts
Showing wretched conditions.

But it was Harold and Kay
That gave them a face
That made me so aware
They're part of our race!

They loved each one
Never turned away
They fed and clothed them
Each and every day.

So forward I will go
Loving kindness leading the way
Asking myself often
"What would Harold say?"

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John Jarvie. He lives – wore out his old body, but his spirit lives all around us each and every day. His handprints are on so many people he saved from addiction, his inspiration of unconditional love toward our fellow man. Knowing him for five minutes, you walked away a better person. He lives. See you later ole, buddy.

Frank Doherty. When I try to describe Harold, I am inevitably led to Mother Teresa. Harold's unconditional love and humility define who he was. He gave all of himself to loving and serving the poor and needy.

Harold was always there for people; so when anyone, including the Brother Benno staff and Program Members, had a problem, they turned to Harold. He was always the "court of last resort" when the Foundation was faced with impossible cases that truly needed God's love and understanding.

One such case was a mother with two children, one of whom was autistic. They'd been living in their car, which eventually broke down. After providing hotel coverage for many days, and paying a large sum of money to fix her car (which still wasn't fully functional), the Foundation had come to the end of the amount of money it could afford to help this family. The only alternative would have been to turn them out on the street.

Harold made the determination that he was going to help them, using an emergency fund. In that way, the Foundation was able to help with hotel costs, and the Staff got her top priority on a waiting list for a family winter shelter. The mother was given a much better car that had been donated to Brother Benno's, and the family was eventually transitioned into Solutions for Change, where they gained self-sufficiency.

This is just one example of many hundreds of people Harold helped. He was the guiding light in helping the Staff address the needs of people who did not have good alternatives, and who were most in need of help and unconditional love.

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On Sunday, the 18th, Harold was laid to rest next to Kay at Eternal Hills Memorial Park in Oceanside.

As is to be expected, copious tears, smiles, and stories were shared about both Harold and Kay in the days before his death and throughout the three days of services. Many people expressed the belief that, in spite of their absence, the work they started in 1983 and carried out with so much love and commitment will continue in the same spirit that has always been the hallmark of the Brother Benno family.

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John Jarvie and Harold

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>



Frank Doherty and Harold



Dennis Pinnick and Harold



Harold and Vikki Ramey



Brandon Kutler Beveridge, Jim Kutler, Kevin Kutler, Harold, Blake Kutler Beveridge and Cayley Kutler



Dr. Richard Schlemmer and Harold



Harold and Mary Robinson

**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	Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Carol & Herb
Dixie & Lou Bales	Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Thornberg
Frank Barnet	Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Rosemary Tucker
Brother Benno	Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	Walter Ulloa
Edith Blaiser	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	June Williams
Andrea Boersma	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson
Roland Bond	Tom Hayward	Alan Port	Gilbert Brown
Bill Boster	Elizabeth Holms	Mary Pullman	Rebecca Anderson
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Catherine L. Quinlan	Louise & George
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Dora Ramirez	Casperson
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Dick & Terry Riley	Jack Gillen
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Margaret Rossini	Lawrence Hadland
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Ann Sauer	Margaret Beitey
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Mary Shankle	Clayton & Helen
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Naomi Shelton	Beckman
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Bernice, Samuel &	Robert Buchach
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Milton Silver	Louise Hayward
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Will Skinner	W. Ross Sr.
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Michael & Monty	Ann Grier Smith	Evelyn Mazzella
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares	Squirrell Family	Michaeleene Stasio
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Mike Stendahl	Bob Strawbridge
Myron Eichen	Nares	Margaret Stephan	Curt Love
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Harold Thompson	

Needs

Gently used furniture Q-tips Neosporin
 Disposable razors Mouthwash (no alcohol)

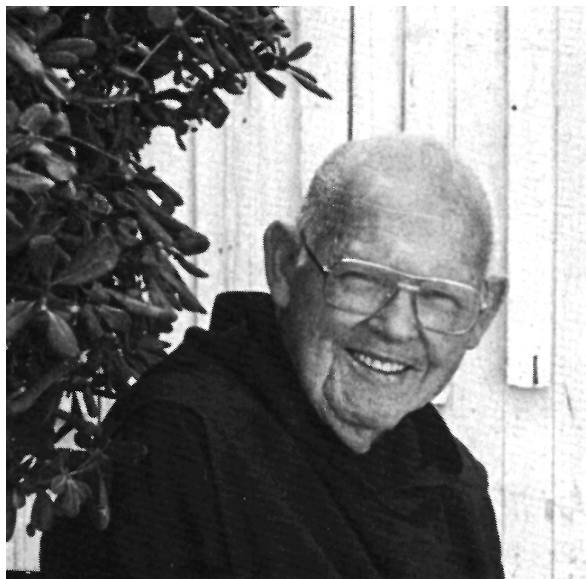
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Riverview Church	11 Fairwinds	12 Oceanside Civitans	13 St. Patrick's	14 Female Athlete Volunteers
	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	19 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
	23 Christ Church	24 St. Mark's San Marcos	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	28 Catholic Daughters
	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis					

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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

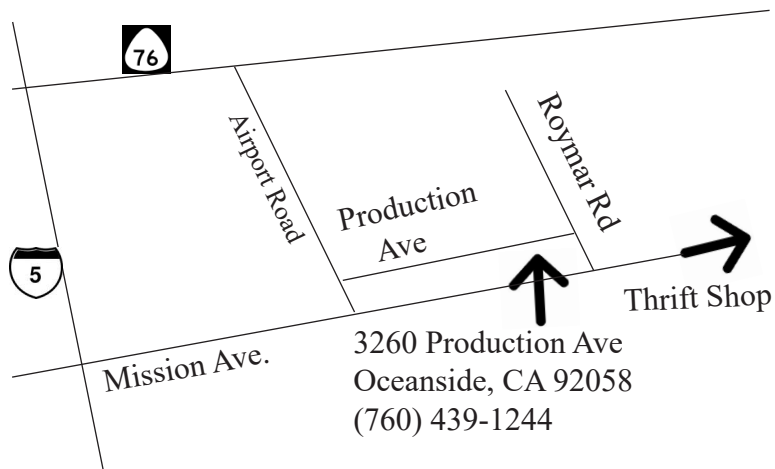
Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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 2018	Our 34th Year		February 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	12,187	4,175,387	Loads of laundry	26	27,961
Nights of lodging	862	293,681	Food packs	1,056	328,880
Articles of clothing	4,850	1,306,361	Blankets	166	44,344
Showers	1,081	244,643	Tarps	122	3,261
Haircuts	37	22,158	ID Vouchers	9	9,074
Bus passes	132	83,135	HUGS	1,800	962,194