



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

April 2019



INTAKE OFFICE IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

The Intake Office at the Brother Benno Center is where our Guests start the process of receiving services. Everyone is asked to fill out a registration form and receive a Brother Benno ID card. That card is asked for at every future visit and is checked against the computer record for that individual. It has to be shown in order to use the showers and to receive items in the warehouse.

Limits are placed on some of the items that we offer. For example, a family or individual with a place to live can receive a food box (or boxes, depending on the number of children in the family) once a month. The items in the box are meant to supplement the family's needs, not completely provide all their food for a month. When Guests have been cleared to receive a food box, they are given a voucher stating the requested item; and they are directed to go to the warehouse to pick it up. There, they are asked to sign a form required by the Food Bank (which provides the bulk of the non-perishables we give out) with their name, complete address, and number of people in their household. That list is sent regularly to the Food Bank. They are also free to take perishable items like milk, eggs, and meat whenever they are available. Homeless Guests are not given food boxes or perishables, as most of the items need a stove or oven to prepare; but they are welcome to eat the hot breakfast and take a sack lunch for later.

Records are kept in the Clothing Room with limits as to how many items can be taken at any particular time.

For our homeless Guests, we limit how often they are given certain items such as tarps, backpacks, and blankets. A recent example was a man who asked for a tarp, only to be reminded that he'd received one two weeks ago, and he'd be

eligible for a replacement in two months.

For our non-English-speaking Guests, there's always someone on staff available to translate. Recently a male Guest overheard a woman trying to communicate with a volunteer in the office, and he quickly stepped in and helped without being asked.

The Intake Office is open Monday through Friday, with volunteers taking different shifts—some working four days a week, others one day. They are: **Julie Petrie, Joan Slaughter, Carol Brown, Jan Roberts, Elana Bagley, Romie Anguiano, Jenny Troyer, and Thom Kirk.**

Ω

STUDENTS OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS

Brother Benno's has been offering scholarships to students for many years, whenever funds are available—and this is one of those times. They are for college and vocational/trade schools for students affected by homelessness, poverty, drug or alcohol abuse, or who have a history of volunteering to help those in need.

Scholarships of \$1,000 to \$1,500 will be awarded to graduating students from Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista high schools, MiraCosta College's High School Diploma Program, and those living in Carlsbad, Oceanside, or Vista who received a GED in the past three years.

Students can contact their school's scholarship coordinator to apply. GED applicants can contact **Jim O'Connell** at the Brother Benno Center (760-231-1659) on Mondays and Tuesdays, or (760-730-9125) on other days.

Applications will be taken through April 12.

Ω

HAROLD SAW "SAINTLINESS" IN BROTHER BENNO

Harold Kutler devoted an entire chapter in his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, to the virtues he saw in **Brother Benno**—virtues that Harold himself was trying to emulate. This chapter, "Saintliness in Action," is too long to reproduce here in the newsletter, but a few excerpts should give the reader a taste of the humble man whose name graces our Foundation. And in so doing, it will also shine a light on Harold and **Kay** as they carried on the loving service of Brother Benno.

On page 47: "Brother Benno . . . looked at everyone through love-tinted glasses. . . . He and Kay were eating with a hard-core street person at the Kitchen. 'I know what you want to do, Brother,' the man said. 'Change me.' 'No, son, I just want to love you,' Brother answered, with a twinkle in his eye."

". . . Kay and I celebrated (our 25th anniversary) with family, friends, and guests at the Brother Benno center. An area had been cleared for dancing, and everybody was having a wonderful time, especially Brother Benno. One of our modern-day Mary Magdalenes asked him to dance. He graciously got up and danced with her. Kay and I tried to figure out if he was doing the Irish Jig or the Benedictine Bunny Hop.

"When I thought about this incident later, I realized what it really meant. Brother didn't see this woman as a lady of the evening. He saw a struggling young lady, another human being, starved for acceptance and unconditional love. This saintly servant was doing his best to give these gifts to her. By the smile on her face, we could see she had received his love with great joy."

On page 53: "Forgiveness is a virtue we all admire; but when we are put to the test, we are often found wanting. Not so with Brother Benno. He never got angry in all the years I knew him. His forgiveness was ready, even when someone acted against him.

"On one occasion, three migrants came to the Abbey, desperate for work. Brother got

some hoes and a shovel and took them part way down the hill to hoe weeds. He said he'd give them five dollars an hour. A couple hours later, he went back to pay them. When he took out his wallet, they grabbed it and ran.

"Those of us who knew Brother were aware that his wallet was his 'office.' He kept everything in it: phone numbers, messages, money people had given him to help the poor, as well as his driver's license and other documents. The next day when he came by the Kitchen to tell me about the incident, there wasn't a trace of anger or resentment in his voice or demeanor.

"The money in my wallet was given to me to help the poor' he said, 'and they were certainly poor. My friends on the other end of those phone numbers know where I am if they need to get in touch with me. If the messages were important, people will get back to me. I already have my temporary license, so everything's fine.'

"Fine! I said to myself. How could those ungrateful bums do that to Brother? He was trying to help them. Brother never mentioned the incident again, but I couldn't let go of it for months.

"As I mulled it over, I thought about the saying, 'To err is human, to forgive, divine.' Brother was so full of love that there was no room for negative feelings like anger and resentment."

(For more of Brother Benno's virtues, please see Harold's book.)

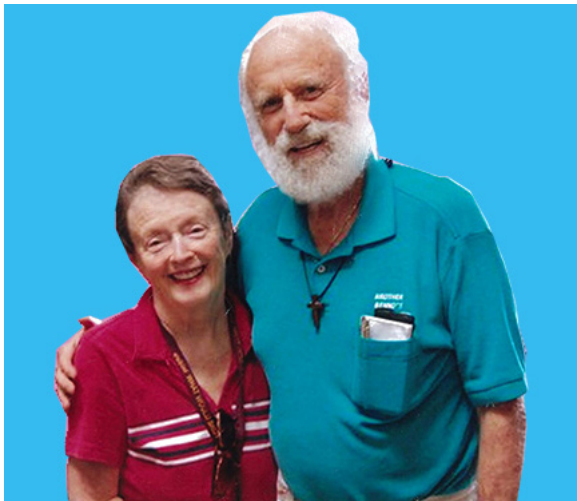
Ω

Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

OUR FOUNDERS' LEGACY

by Frank Doherty

When **Harold** and **Kay Kutler** started the Brother Benno Foundation with the blessing of **Brother Benno Garrity** from the Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, they were heavily influenced by the work of Mother Teresa. Both Mother Teresa and Brother Benno were known to carry a loaf of bread to symbolize the work they did for the poor. Although our founders have passed away, they would be very pleased at how well the Staff, Volunteers, and Donors are doing in helping to carry out what they originally intended Brother Benno's to be.



If you work at the Center, you will often hear our poor say "Thank you, I am so grateful for this place." Many of our Guests, including families and single parents with children, indicate that they could not get by if it weren't for Brother Benno's. Our food, clothing, and other support services have helped them meet critical needs and in many cases have saved or transformed lives.

I took a look at some of the expressions of appreciation from thank-you cards that are posted on one of our bulletin boards in the Center. Here are just a few:

"Dear Jimmy, Thank you for everything you have done for me. God is working through you, and you are doing His work daily. Love you."

"To Brother Benno's ~ Thank you for all the support and help you gave to our son."

"To Brother Benno's ~ Thank you for my new life and thank you for teaching me to love myself and everyone else."

"To Dennis: What an eye-opener. Didn't know the extent of what you do. The different types of

problems that the homeless face make my problems seem small. It's nice to know that there are really good people in our society helping out others who have suffered and have next to nothing. Stay strong! God Bless."

Our Staff, Volunteers, and Donors may never know the immense amount of good they have done for those people who have come across their path. But God knows.

(Editor's Note: There's a picture of Brother Benno meeting Mother Teresa opposite page 41 in Harold's book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen.*)

Ω

A DIAPER PARTNERSHIP

Brother Benno's was recently selected by the San Diego Food Bank as a partner in the distribution of diapers. We anticipate that we will be ready to give out these diapers in mid to late April.

This does not mean that we no longer need donations of diapers; it just means we'll be better able to meet the needs of the families we serve. Each person will be limited to one sleeve (approximately 30 per child) at each visit to the Center.

Many people do not realize that we provide this kind of help to needy parents, including many single moms who live in their cars with their children. And of course, we also see to it that they have food, clothing, and baby care supplies when available.

Ω

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 Nita Rodriguez

Our first fundraiser in 2019 was held at Applebee's in Oceanside. So many hands working together made this a successful and fun event. Thanks to Applebee's for sponsoring this event. Thank you to **Vikki Ramey and her crew of volunteers** for your service with a smile. Also, thanks to **Susan Weslund and Kumiko Sycks** for ticket sales. Lastly, a heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported our efforts by buying a delicious breakfast, making a donation, and giving generous tips.



Kevin Lefter, a cook at the Brother Benno Center kitchen, spoke to our group at our March meeting. He shared with Auxiliary members the many aspects of food preparation and distribution. We all enjoyed his informative presentation.



Our next Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, in the Center Dining Room: 1 p.m. for snacks, 1:30 meeting. All are welcome to attend and bring a friend. Can't attend a meeting but want to be a member? Call **Sara** (760-560-6089) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, September 27, 2019, for the Brother Benno's Auxiliary 1st Annual Golf Tournament. Watch this space for more information.

Ω

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Donated Items: If you want your donations to be used for a particular purpose, please mark the bag or box in big, bold letters—Thrift Shop, Program Members, Poor and Homeless.

Money Donations: When we ask for help with a special project such as kitchen equipment, motel vouchers, new truck, etc. (examples only), please include a note with your check.

Special Donation Requests: When sending a donation to remember the death of a loved one, make a notation that it's "In Memory Of" or simply IMO. Sometimes we get donations saying "In Honor Of" and we don't always know if it's a memorial or something else.

Thanks!

Ω

Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Joe Carver
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Dora Ramirez	Norman & Ronald
Frank Barnet	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Dorion
Brother Benno	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Dustin Tate
Edith Blaiser	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Bill & Billy Pry
Andrea Boersma	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Robert Buchach
Roland Bond	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Floyd Atkinson
Bill Boster	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Tim Hart
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	James Johnson
Bill Buckner	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Alice Kennedy
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Kevin Finn
Anna Correia	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	Clay
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Alice Shutter
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	Alfred Apodaca
Frank S. Dolley	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	Liz & Bill Adams
Anita H. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	
Dorothy M. Donahue	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nares	Harold Thompson	
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	
Richard Farhquar	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	
William & Vennita	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	
Flanagan	Jane Pfau	Gilbert & Donna	
Louise Foussat	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Brown	
Joe & Ida Friend	Alan Port	Gordon Sargisson	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Peggy Miville	

Needs

Gently used furniture

Twin sheet sets with deep pockets

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2019 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Riverview Church	10 Fairwinds	11 Oceanside Civitanis	12 St. Patrick's	13 Work Partners
	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	18 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
	22 St. Thomas More RCIA	23 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	27 Catholic Daughters
	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Welk Resort				

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-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up

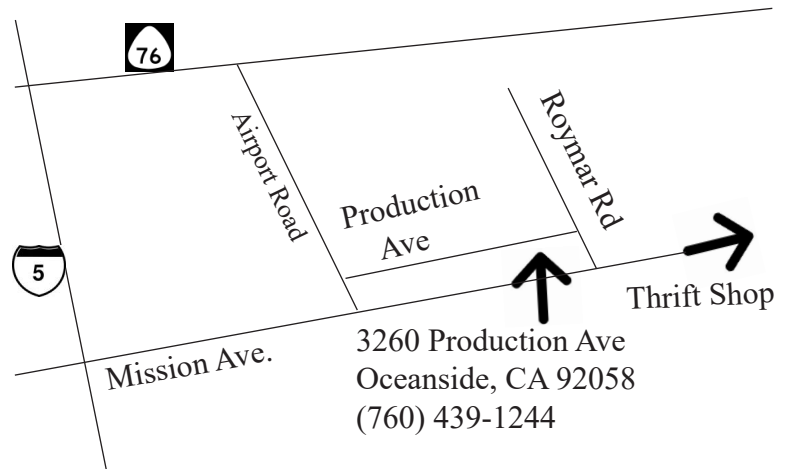
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 2019	Our 35th Year		February 2019	Our 35th Year
Meals	12,076	4,330,259	Loads of laundry	24	28,285
Nights of lodging	900	304,782	Food packs	1,372	342,186
Articles of clothing	4,430	1,365,405	Blankets	210	46,546
Showers	985	257,979	Tarps	116	4,647
Haircuts	29	22,690	ID Vouchers	38	9,438
Bus passes	93	84,358	HUGS	1,800	985,594