



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

April 2020



EXTRAORDINARY TIMES, EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

People in the community will need the services Brother Benno's offers now more than ever. However, the Brother Benno Foundation must also balance its responsibility to our volunteers, program members, employees, and Guests (all of whom are so important) to help try and keep the Corona virus (COVID-19) from spreading. We are working with the County of San Diego, the City of Oceanside, and the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) from the Oceanside Police Department.

All staff, program members, and volunteers are required to wear gloves at this time. In addition, we have three hand-washing stations available for our Guests and visitors outside of the Center.

The following services will be available at the Brother Benno Center as of Monday, March 23, 2020:

- Sack lunch distribution – (Monday-Saturday) 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Mail service – (Monday – Saturday) 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Food Box/Food bag distribution to Guests (Monday – Saturday) 6:30 to 11 a.m.
- Thursday – only drive-through food bag distribution (in partnership with Feeding San Diego) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The above services might be limited further, depending upon circumstances. Our staff and program members are working together to help get food out to our Guests and members of our community who need help. We are grateful for everything these extraordinary individuals are doing to help keep the Center running.

The following services will be unavailable until further notice:

- Hot Breakfast/Brunch in dining room
- Thrift Shop
- Clothing Room
- Rental and Utility Assistance
- Showers
- Laundry
- Haircuts

WAYS TO HELP DURING CRISIS

Groups or individuals can help by donating the following snack-size items needed for the daily sack lunch we are providing to our Guests:

Chips	Bottled Water
Cookies	Sports Drinks (Gatorade, etc.)
Crackers	Fruit juice
Nuts	Fruit Cups
Fruit Snacks	Sandwich-size Baggies (Ziplock, etc.)

Donations will be accepted at the Brother Benno Center, 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside (760-439-1244):

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 6:30 to 11 a.m.

Saturday – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

No donations on Thursdays, please.

Questions? Please contact Jan or Darryl at the Brother Benno Center: 760-439-1244, ext. 102.

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THURSDAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In partnership with Feeding San Diego, Brother Benno's Program Members and Staff are helping to distribute food on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Feeding San Diego is coordinating emergency food distribution across San Diego County during the COVID-19 emergency. This is drive-through only for those in need. A big thank you to Program Members and Staff for adding this outreach to the things they are already doing to help our community.

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THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Brother Benno's appreciates all of our volunteers who help at the Center and the Thrift Shop. At this time, the most important thing for our volunteers to do is to stay healthy and stay home. Our Guests, Staff, and Program Members miss your smiling faces and the various things you do to help. We look forward to welcoming you back once it is safe to do so. If you have any questions, please call **Darryl Harris or Jan Roberts** at the Center (760-439-1244).

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

I am sure you have all been affected in one way or the other by the corona virus—I hope incidentally only—and that neither you nor your loved ones have gotten the actual illness.

Cooperating with Governor Newsom's guidelines and keeping our Auxiliary foremost in our minds, all work parties have been cancelled for now. The Brother Benno Breakfast Club volunteers are not serving breakfasts either, although our Guests are still being given sack lunches. Their needs are being met as best as can be.



Betsy, Michelle, Jennifer, Jeana, Jane

The picture above is of the Thrift Shop workers who were there to help and guide the second Wednesday of the month work party on March 11. Our mentors (left to right above) are not only a help to us but are cheerful and kind, and we love them a bunch.

The Reading Between the Vines fundraiser has been cancelled, and we will not be able to reschedule for the foreseeable future. People have been very generous in donating gently used books for this cause, so we will have a wonderful stock for guests to choose from when the event eventually happens.


On May 12, we were to have an opportunity to tour the Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey in Oceanside; that is on hold for now. Watch for more information in the May newsletter. It will be free.

Watch also for information about the April Auxiliary meeting.

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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, 760-941-1876 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

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.

Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope: The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

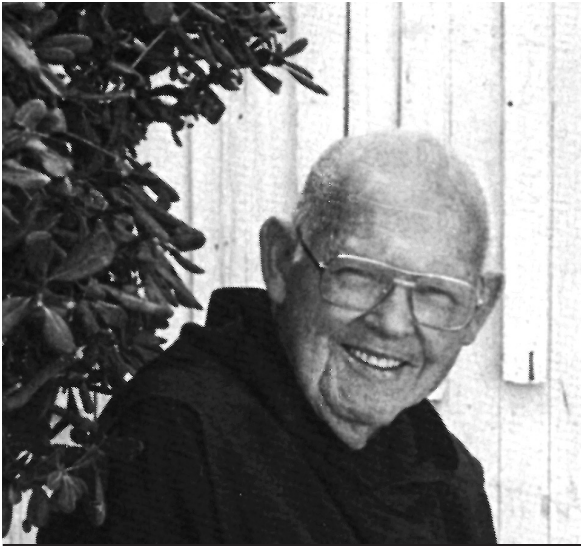
This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

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

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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2

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

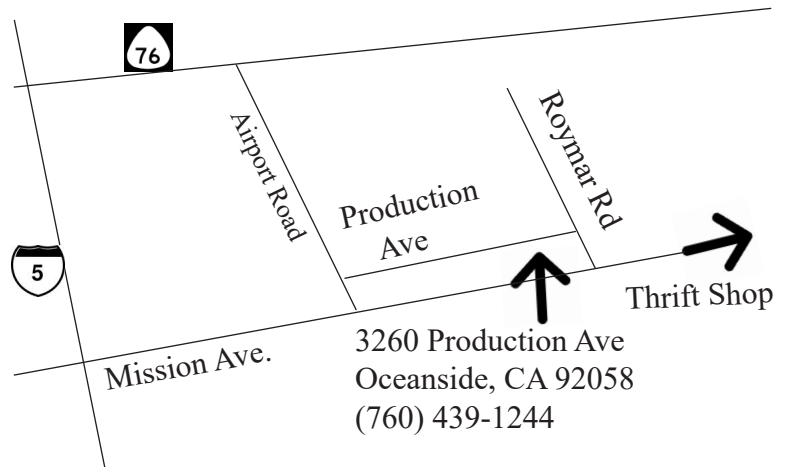
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 2020	Our 36th Year		February 2020	Our 36th Year
Meals	10,976	4,480,752	Loads of laundry	27	28,605
Nights of lodging	928	316,027	Food packs	549	351,957
Articles of clothing	3,531	1,414,648	Blankets	153	48,262
Showers	718	270,493	Tarps	92	5,933
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	34	9,906
Bus passes	132	85,907	HUGS	2,250	1,009,444