PAY IT FORWARD CHARITY GOLF FUNDRAISER
PLANNING IS UNDERWAY

By Amy Selich, Golf Fundraiser Chair

Brother Benno’s Auxiliary will be holding its third annual golf fundraiser on Tuesday, October 5, at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. This is the Auxiliary’s largest fundraising event of the year, and the proceeds go toward helping the Brother Benno Foundation support and strengthen the most vulnerable in North San Diego County.

This year, we are excited to bring back civilian golfers to join our local military for a day of golf on the course nestled among the rolling foothills of Windmill Canyon, one of the top-ranked military golf courses in California.

We have many sponsorship opportunities, including three new branding options for the golfers’ breakfast, lunch, and golf towels that are ideal for businesses that want to grow their awareness and offer coupons or other items to their customers. We will also have an online silent auction in September to enhance our fundraising and to give local businesses more options to show off their goods and/or services. Sponsors and donors will be recognized on our fundraiser website, on event signage, and—for the two top sponsors—on the golf carts.

Brother Benno’s Auxiliary launched the Charity Golf Tournament in 2019; but due to the pandemic, it was converted to a “Pay It Forward” event just for our local military in 2020. Thanks to the generosity of the community, we exceeded our fundraising goals even during a pandemic! Now, as we approach a post-socially-distanced world, our goal is to raise even more from this 2021 tournament. We are encouraging readers to join in our efforts by asking the businesses they frequent to become sponsors for this event; and if you are fortunate to be in a position to give, we hope you will support this fundraiser as well.

For more information or to receive our sponsorship packet, please email amy@selich.com and look for our fundraising website to go live on May 1 at www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021
By Philippine Balmadier

I have always loved reading since I was a kid. I think my love for reading started when I was young and my parents would read me the stories of the gods of Greek mythology, or The Thousand and One Nights in French and English, since my mom is American and my dad is French. When I remembered that I had book certificates, I decided that I would donate them to help children. And even if I will never meet these children, all I want is to give them the same opportunity and love for books that I have.

My family and I have been good friends with the Diehlmanns for many years, and when we saw that Kathleen is President of the Board of Directors at Brother Benno’s, we thought it would be the perfect place to donate the books.

A couple days later, we ordered the books and had them shipped to California. When they arrived, Holden (Kathleen’s son) and I talked about how we would organize the books, categorizing them by age interests (adventure novels, board books, etc). I was disappointed not to be able to give away the books since I live in Paris, France, but I am very grateful that my friends Holden and Felix brought me along virtually.

By Holden Diehlmann

When we received the books, we organized them into categories that Fifi (Philippine) and I had talked about. We packed up the books in boxes and took them to Brother Benno’s at a weekly drive-through where people receive food and other free items. I was expecting that a lot of people would reject the books, but it was quite the opposite. I would say it was a 75 percent acceptance rate. I was very happy that these books were able to be used instead of collecting dust.

By Felix Gross

I am honored to help these local families and individuals. It was nice helping the ones who really need the books for their kids. I am happy we are getting more books, because the first time around (February 20) we ran out of books for teens and preschoolers, which were in high demand. I’m looking forward to helping give out books again on March 20.
SPOTLIGHT: MEET RON LAMB
by Gregg Prather

Of all the people coming through Brother Benno’s seeking recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction, one of the most amazing transformations is that of Ron Lamb. His journey from drinking to sobriety is truly inspirational, and quite nearly unbelievable.

Ron was born on the South Side of Chicago, the oldest of six children. (He is quick to tell you he is a White Sox fan, not a Cubs fan.) He grew up fast and started drinking early in life because he “liked that feeling” one gets after a couple of drinks. Little did he know he would chase that feeling for years to come. At only 15 years old, he left home for good.

He ran the streets of Chicago, and by the time he was 20, he was in jail for stealing cars. Sometimes our mistakes in life can be a wake-up call, and in Ron’s case it was. He got out of jail and began working at a tool and die shop. At 23, he moved to Tucson where his dad lived.

He tried to control and manage his drinking over the years, but as any sober alcoholic can tell you, that strategy doesn’t work. In 1997 he lost his job, his dad died, and he lost his wife of 13 years. That’s when he really started to spiral down. His drinking increased and he started doing drugs again. For the next five years he was in and out of prison. And then things got worse.

Out of prison in 2002, Ron spent the next ten years “just going through the motions.” In 2008, he was walking into a liquor store for a bottle when a man pointed a gun at him and shot him. The bullet hit his chin and lodged in the back of his shoulder. That’s crazy enough, but what he did next was even more insane; instead of calling 911, he continued to walk into the store to get his bottle. He was a bloody mess, but he could still walk; and he wanted a drink . . .

Almost out of options, Ron came to Oceanside where his brother works as a plumber, but his drinking quickly overtook him again. When his job ran out, he lost his home and became a regular in the Oceanside Police Department’s drunk tank. He began using the services at Brother Benno’s as a homeless Guest. He was in survival mode for two more years; then he decided to enter our Recovery Program.

One never knows when the grace of God will present itself, but that day in 2012 it happened. Ron woke up to another day in the endless cycle of drinking and said, “I just can’t do this any more.” That was almost ten years ago, and he hasn’t had a drink since.

Today Ron is happily married to Joan whom he met at Brother Benno’s. His official title at the Center is “Facilities Maintenance,” which is an important job; but his real talent and purpose is his relationship with our homeless Guests. To put this in context, the photo of Ron with two police officers is a perfect example.

Ron Before

Several years ago, the Oceanside Police Department formed a homeless outreach team (HOT). The two officers came to the Center to introduce themselves and take a tour of the Center. Ron went up to them, called them by name, and thanked them. They didn’t recognize him until he told them his name; they had arrested him more than once over the years. Today the three men are friends.

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NEW CUP APPROVED BY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Oceanside Planning Commission, on March 8, approved a slightly altered Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Brother Benno’s after a year and a half of meetings of the Commission’s three-member Standing Committee. The vote was 6 to 1 in favor of the new CUP.

Several items in the proposed CUP were eliminated after Brother Benno’s expressed concern, such as time limits for the homeless to use the Brother Benno Center address in order to receive their mail. They also said it was unacceptable to be required to share client information with the Oceanside Police Department, so that was dropped as well.

The Commission has asked City staff to report back to them in six months as to whether or not Brother Benno’s is living up to the requirements set by the new CUP.

Kathleen Diehlmann, Foundation Board President, said, “Brother Benno’s looks forward to working with our neighbors and the City of Oceanside. We are grateful to be able to continue to uplift the dignity of those we serve through the services we offer at the Center.”

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GRANT WRITERS NEEDED!

Brother Benno’s needs volunteer grant writers. If you are looking for a way to make a difference in terms of helping the poor, grant writing may be one possibility for you. Getting a grant approved can be a great source of satisfaction. Our grant writers raised over $90,000 last year, which made a significant difference in our ability to serve those who come to us for help, especially in the area of rent and utility assistance.

No special skills are required. We train you, and you can work at home. If you are interested, please call Kaye Kelly, our Grant Writing Team Leader (619-933-0339).

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online: 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___________________________________       Donation $___________
Address_________________________________           Number of copies__________
City, State, Zip Code______________________

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Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie & Lou Bales
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Anna Correia
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
Anita H. Donahue
Dorothy M. Donahue
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Myron Eichen
Richard Farhquar
William & Vennita
Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales
Tom & Louise

Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
John Jarvie
Dorothy and Walter
Jellig
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Harold & Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben E. Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Michael & Monty
Nares
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Nysewander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pfau
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Alan Port
Mary Pullman
Catherine L. Quinlan
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Margaret Rossini
Ann Sauer
Nick Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel &
Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Ann Grier Smith
Alva & Frances
Snider
Squirrel Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb
Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Carreen Golden
Jeanne St. Amant
Alva & Frances
Snider
Timothy Diem
Barbara LaMothe
Ron Beckman
Ream Braegger
David Paxton
Andrew & Jane
Yandura
Toni Keane
H. Edward Smith
Family
Robert Buchach
Evelyn Mulvee
Al Basteri
Nelson & Joan
Elmore
Dorothy Barnell
Steve Gallagher
Frank Beeson
Donna & Gilbert
Brown
Peggy & Beverly
Miville
Albert Manuel, Jr.
Floyd & Marie
Atkinson
Pat Carpenter
Dennis O’Connor
Ronald Devey
Molly Wilbur
Matt Hagan
Mary Baker

In Honor Of
John Roripaugh

NEEDS
small bags of chips
fruit cups
protein bars
crackers
bottled water
small juices
Gatorade

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
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 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

Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>February 2021</th>
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