



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

April 2021



## **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](mailto:amy@selich.com) and look for our fundraising website to go live on May 1 at [www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021](http://www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021)

## TEEN REACHES ACROSS ATLANTIC TO HELP KIDS READ

(Editor's Note: Philippine, in France, is 15. Holden and Felix, in California, are 16.)

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.



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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 Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or jim.napier@cox.net.



### 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.

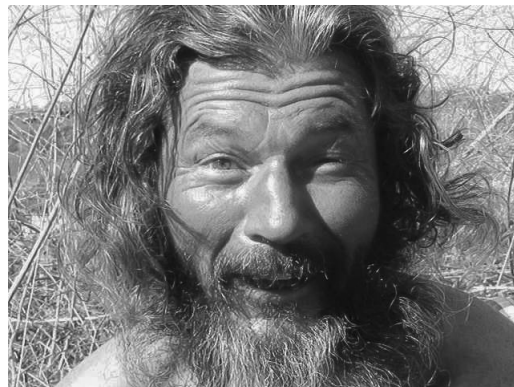
Out of prison in 2002, Ron spent the next ten years "just going through the motions." In 2008, he was walking into a liquor store for a bottle when a man pointed a gun at him and shot him. The bullet hit his chin and lodged in the back of his shoulder. That's crazy enough, but what he did next was even 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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Since Ron was once part of the homeless population, he feels compelled to assist our Guests from a position of understanding and compassion. This unique perspective allows him to reach many who would not otherwise trust anyone else. To watch someone who is unreachable open up makes all of us recognize how fortunate we are to have Ron with us. He is a living example of a true Brother Benno Miracle.

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**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 dona-  
 tions: [brotherbenno.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorials

Ron Alexander	Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	David Paxton
Dixie & Lou Bales	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Andrew & Jane
Frank Barnet	John Jarvie	Ann Sauer	Yandura
Brother Benno	Dorothy and Walter	Nick Sauer	Toni Keane
Edith Blaiser	Jellig	Mary Shankle	H. Edward Smith
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Naomi Shelton	Family
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Bernice, Samuel &	Robert Buchach
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Milton Silver	Evelyn Mulvee
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Will Skinner	Al Basteri
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Ann Grier Smith	Nelson & Joan
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Alva & Frances	Elmore
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Snider	Dorothy Barnell
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Squirrell Family	Steve Gallagher
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl	Frank Beeson
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Margaret Stephan	Donna & Gilbert
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Brown
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Harold Thompson	Peggy & Beverly
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Carol & Herb	Miville
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Thornberg	Albert Manuel, Jr.
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Rosemary Tucker	Floyd & Marie
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Walter Ulloa	Atkinson
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	June Williams	Pat Carpenter
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Fred Williamson	Dennis O'Connor
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Carreen Golden	Ronald Devey
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Jeanne St. Amant	Molly Wilbur
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Alva & Frances	Matt Hagan
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Snider	Mary Baker
Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Timothy Diem	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Barbara LaMothe	John Roripaugh
Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	Ron Beckman	
Tom & Louise	Dora Ramirez	Ream Braegger	

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

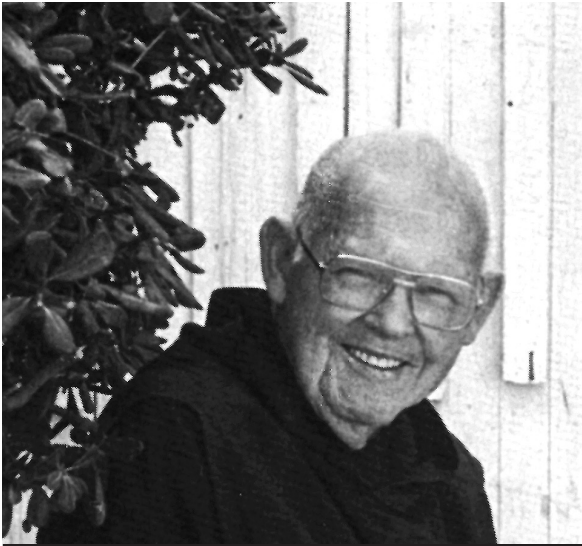
For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Send a card to: (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (address) \_\_\_\_\_

**Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>**

**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**

**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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	February 2021	Our 37th Year		February 2021	Our 37th Year
Meals	9,296	4,594,654	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1,116	326,436	Food packs	614	358,989
Articles of clothing	2,700	1,435,701	Blankets	121	49,347
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	44	6,329
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	27	10,078
Bus passes	81	86,248	HUGS	0	1,011,244