



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

April 2022



BROTHER BENNO'S PARTICIPATES IN ZERO WASTE FOOD RESCUE

by Ben Meyer

Forty percent of uneaten, completely edible food in the United States goes directly into landfills.

For years, the Brother Benno Foundation has rescued millions of pounds of donated food from grocery stores, restaurants, and other food generators, and has distributed it directly to people in our community. We pick up from an average of twelve vendors a day, six days a week.

A simple Google map search of stores and restaurants in your immediate area will quickly reveal that twelve food providers are just a fraction of the food generators in the North San Diego County area. Imagine for a second the thousands of pounds of perfectly good food being thrown into the trash every single day.

The State of California has now taken action to combat this wasteful practice. With the implementation of Senate Bill 1383, every food generator is now required to donate any left-over, over-stock, or unsold edible food to Food Rescue operations in their city. Furthermore, each city is encouraged to provide support to these Food Rescue organizations.

Here at Brother Benno's, we have taken an active role in this effort by not only rescuing food and distributing it to the people of North County, but also by participating in the Food Scrap Recycling program, collecting and delivering food scraps to local farms for composting efforts. We also provide our trucks to help small-

er organizations with transportation of their food.

The wonderful people at Feeding San Diego, North County Food Bank, Food Donation Connection, and the San Diego Food System Alliance have been actively educating and backing hundreds of organizations, including Brother Benno's, with this food rescue initiative.

As we move forward in this new environment, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize and appreciate the incredible effort that all of the aforementioned organizations have made to rescue and re-purpose food. The work we do at Brother Benno's will only be enhanced and expanded by this type of forward-thinking.

There is no reason for anyone to go without food in our region, or anywhere in the United States for that matter. Next time you are at a grocery store, look around at all that food and imagine that an overwhelming amount of it will end up in a dumpster, still perfectly edible. We at Brother Benno's are dedicated to doing our part to end that practice and get that food to the people who need it.

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NEW "OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT" TO LEAD BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION

by Joe McDevitt

Each February, our Board of Directors elects officers per our bylaws. This year the decision was made to set up an "Office of the President," which consists of three Co-Presidents instead of a single President. The addition of three leaders within the Office of the President reflects Brother Benno's continued progress to provide improved and increased services to our unsheltered and low-income Guests, including new initiatives that better serve our Guests throughout the North San Diego County region.

We are pleased to announce that **Kathleen Diehlmann, Jeff Bizzack, and Joe McDevitt** were elected as Co-Presidents. **Jim Napier** was re-elected as Treasurer. He has been integral in his leadership of the Accounting offices, which were relocated this past year. The remaining Directors of the Foundation Board are **John Blasier, Dan Boone, Patrick Gilligan, Mary Holguin, Helen Parsons, Gregg Prather, Richard Shlemmer, and Father Charles Wright.**

All Board members serve as volunteers with no compensation.

Over the past two years, we have been fortunate to have Kathleen Diehlmann as President. Her very capable leadership was demonstrated each day, particularly her efforts to navigate through periods of the pandemic shutdown without reducing critical Guest services. Her efforts to improve our internal processes and initiate steps to incorporate a database system, Mission Tracker, which is used as a key tool in tracking services and managing activities across the organization has been especially beneficial. We are thankful she will remain with Brother Benno's as one of our Co-Presidents. She will focus her efforts on improving internal and external communications, making continued progress to assist with the full use of our database system, and in aiding our volunteer program to regain applicants after being slowed over the past two years due to the pandemic.

Kathleen, Jeff, and Joe worked together frequently this past year, and they will continue a

close relationship in carrying out their combined responsibilities as Co-Presidents. They are excited with the progress achieved by our volunteers and staff members, all of whom work with compassion, understanding, and devoted love to enthusiastically pursue meeting the needs of each Guest.

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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS STILL OPEN

Brother Benno's is fortunate to have a group of volunteers filling key positions, and a dedicated staff committed to serving persons in need. Three key volunteer positions are currently open.

Human Resource: An experienced Human Resource professional is needed to manage the human resource needs of our volunteers and staff. This is a part-time position reporting to our Board of Directors.

Grant Writer: This position is responsible for drafting applications as a member of our grant-writing team. Good writing skills and experience in writing proposals is preferred. Grant writers have the benefit of working closely with the Brother Benno staff and volunteers in drafting detailed and compliant applications. They especially find it rewarding to work with team members in securing financial support for the services provided to those in need.

IT Professional: An experienced IT Professional is needed for the overall management of the IT functions at Brother Benno's.

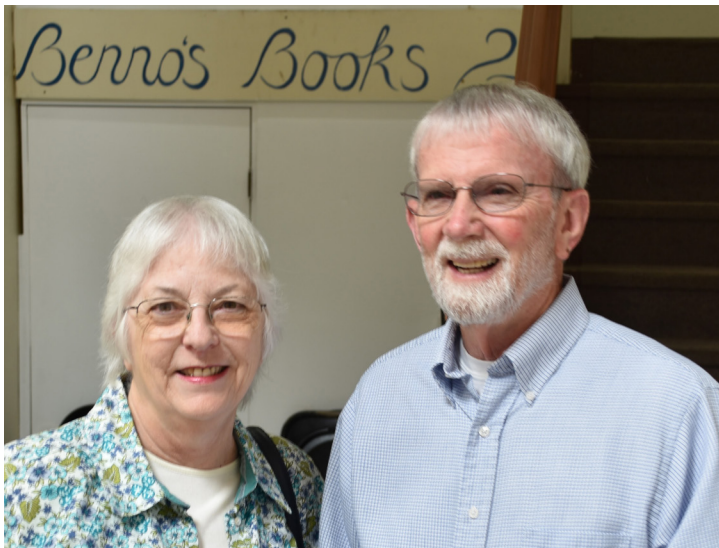
Most duties for the above positions can be performed off-site, with some duties performed at the Brother Benno Center. For those interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, **Renee Stepp**, via email: volunteersatbb@gmail.com or leave a message at 760-231-1613.

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SPOTLIGHT: MEET JOHN McCAFFREY

By MaryLynn Datic-Bryce

John McCaffrey has been a volunteer at the Brother Benno Foundation for 17 years. It started when he and his wife **Judy** saw an advertisement in the local newspaper asking for volunteers to help serve the Thanksgiving meal. They answered the ad and have been serving on Thanksgiving Day ever since.



Every month, John formats the newsletter on the computer and sends it to the printer. He also sends it to all our email subscribers who prefer to read it online; and finally, he prepares an electronic copy for the Brother Benno website.*

Last year, John started writing grants for the Foundation, and one of his grants resulted in the receipt of \$5,000!

John, 83, grew up in Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota where he majored in Mathematics and ran track. After college, he worked for IBM in Colorado, and in 1972 he transferred to the IBM in San Jose, California. He and Judy moved to Southern California in 1997, and he retired from IBM in 1999.

John and Judy have been married for 56 years and have two daughters and seven grandchildren who all live in the Bay Area. Before the pandemic, they visited them often.

John and Judy love to play Bridge. They play twice a week, once at each of the Senior Centers in Oceanside and Carlsbad. And again, before the pandemic, they went to Bridge tournaments in Las Vegas.

Besides joining John on a serving team on Thanksgiving, Judy regularly buys food and hygiene products to donate to the Center. They are both assets to Brother Benno's.

* (Recent newsletters can be found at brotherbenno.org Click on Newsletter)

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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.

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) _____

The Brother Benno Foundation
PO Box 308
Oceanside CA 92049

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

FACEBOOK COMMENTS

Our Facebook page brings kind words, and sometimes a touching plea. Here are a few recent examples:

“We had such an incredible event over at the Brother Benno’s Center. I just love all of them over there, and they just absolutely change the story out here every single day. Get to know them. Volunteer your time. Help them over there. They truly are the real deal. We are grateful for our collaboration and our friendship.”

~ Vanessa Graziano, Homeless Outreach Services

“Huge heart in this place! We met some staff and volunteers. They help a lot of people, offering dignity, safety, and loads of resources.”

~ C. H.

“You have helped my brother in the past. He’s been out of communication with us for a bit, so pray he is OK.”

~ D.B.S.

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The Essence of Brother Benno’s Kitchen

–John Gaines, San Diego-Union Tribune


“Brother Benno’s was never about ‘tough love,’ as are some of the service providers for the homeless and needy today. Brother Benno’s is about unconditional love. The down-and-out can walk in today, be fed, get a hug, hear the one kind word they might hear all day, and be welcomed back tomorrow.

“Maybe after enough of that they’ll be ready for tough love, and to try to get their affairs in order. But after being beaten down for who knows how long, it takes a little caring to get the homeless ready for tough love. That has been the philosophy at Brother Benno’s.”

(This excerpt from John Gaines’ editorial in December 1995 appears in Harold Kutler’s book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, on page I.)

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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**
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	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Joe Hart
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Alan Port	Hill Family
Brother Benno	Hayward	Mary Pullman	David Mitchell
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Catherine L. Quinlan	Michael Chapa
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Dora Ramirez	Tyler Grob
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Dick & Terry Riley	Nancy Shobert
Bill Boster	Jellig	Margaret Rossini	Tim Diem
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Albert & Alva
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Nick Sauer	Freiburger
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Jeanne St. Amant
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Bernie Weiler
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Richard Nelson
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Mary Baker
Frank S. Dolley	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Will Skinner	Tim Zinl
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	Ruth Penny
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Alva & Frances	Fr. Thomas Stehly
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Snider	Fr. Mark Stehly
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty, Natalie, &	Squirrell Family	David Ring
Fr. Abbot Claude	Michael Nares	Mike Stendahl	Conor Espoy
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	Toni Keane
Myron Eichen	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Floyd & Marie
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Atkinson
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb	Evelyn Opatkiewics
Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Thornberg	Gene Villinski
Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	
Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa	IN HONOR OF
Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	June Williams	Jan Roberts

Needs

Gently used furniture Blankets Adult Unisex Diapers Baseball caps

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2022 Monthly Serving Team Schedule					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas Moore
	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Juanita's Team	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Main OR Group
	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 Rotary Clubs of Carlsbad	14 Open	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ The King Church	20 Friends of Brother Benno	21 Open	22 Open	23 Catholic Daughters & Ahee Group
	25 Servers R Us	26 Rotary Club of Vista	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Feeding San Diego	29 King of Kings	30 Shiloh Church of God

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: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon

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 2022	Our 38th Year		February 2022	Our 38th Year
Meals	8,576	4,692,101	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	836	336,658	Food packs	931	366,527
Articles of clothing	2,587	1,471,036	Blankets	92	50,597
Showers	596	273,277	Tarps	58	6,830
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	24	10,392
Bus passes	140	87,255	HUGS	0	1,011,244