Brother Benno’s was pleased to support a Homeless Resource Fair at the Brother Ben-no Center in Oceanside on Friday, March 17th. Many unsheltered guests and those from extremely low-income households attended. The event was sponsored by the San Diego County District Attorney’s (DA) office whose DA staff member, six public defenders and a number of California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) representatives combined their efforts to hold Homeless Court sessions at the Fair.

The Homeless Court cases provide a path for the resolution of a range of misdemeanor offenses that primarily result from a homeless condition. Settlement of the cases follows an agreed path reached at the court sessions that takes into account the causes of a participant’s homelessness, the actions participants are taking to improve their lives and the support the settlement will have to the continuing efforts of homeless persons to become employed, enter into permanent housing and, if applicable, resolve family issues such as child support.

The services provided by the Homeless Court included: warrant relief, warrant look-up, parking ticket relief, low level misdemeanors/infractions, littering tickets, and DUI extensions. The court sessions addressed a total of twenty-nine cases, composed of eight misdemeanors and twenty-one traffic cases, and eighteen stipulations. The DMV representatives identified infractions to the court and provided identification cards/licenses. At the conclusion of the Homeless Court, eighty-nine Guests received assistance.

In addition to the Homeless Court sessions, representatives from fourteen government agencies and non-profit organizations were active in answering questions and in providing assistance. The following is a list of agencies/organizations that participated in the Homeless Resource Fair:

continued on page 2....
STRIVING TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO ALL
By Steve Oetting

Over the last three years, Brother Benno’s has witnessed a tremendous surge in the number of people requiring assistance. With the closure of other providers and impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this increase in demand has also resulted in a higher concentration of needy people in the area around Brother Benno’s. The challenges posed by this concentrated surge have been many and varied. They include not only the obvious difficulties of providing resources to those who need them most, but also ensuring that Brother Benno’s remains a good neighbor to the surrounding community at large.

As Joe McDevitt, Co-President of Brother Benno’s Board of Directors, notes, “Our team is focused on being proactive in taking the needed steps to be a good neighbor.” To this end, Brother Benno’s has been meeting with local businesses, city officials, and police representatives to determine the concerns of the local community regarding changes brought about by the last three years of increased demand for our services.

As a result of these productive meetings, Brother Benno’s has acted to increase awareness among those receiving services of the rules of conduct necessary to ensure Brother Benno’s good relationship with the community. Brother Benno’s has also expanded patrols of the surrounding neighborhood to remove trash and assist with enforcement of local regulations. Staffed by members of the recovery program, these patrols begin at 4:30 in the morning and extend until 7:00 at night. Perhaps most notably, Brother Benno’s has additionally hired two full time employees to provide enhanced security.

Serving over 5,000 people in need, Brother Benno’s is a fundamental and longstanding part of the solution to the problems facing North County. “Being a good neighbor,” notes Joe, “means being a good neighbor to all—both the unhoused and the industrial businesses nearby.”

Ω

....continued from page 1

1) County of San Diego - LiveWell Mobile Office - Hub of health and community services
2) County of San Diego - Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities - Office of Equitable Communities
3) San Diego Humane Society
4) League of Women Voters
5) County of San Diego - Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk
6) ECTLS - East County Transitional Living Center
7) EXODUS – North Coastal Mobile Crisis Response Team
8) Legal Aid Society of San Diego
9) Pantry of Hope – Operation Hope - North County
10) Interfaith Community Services
11) County of San Diego - Dept of Child Support Services
12) North Coastal Mental Health Center
13) Brother Benno’s Outreach Services
14) Humanity Showers

Ω
attention to detail and the beautiful displays she creates. When asked what she gets out of volunteering, Linda said: “I like being creative and seeing how it helps the Thrift Shop, and mostly I just love the people there.”

Mae Signori and Linda Sweeney

The Brother Benno Foundation appreciates all the people who work hard supporting our Thrift Shop. We are grateful for every employee and customer, but we are particularly thankful for our volunteers! This April, we celebrate two volunteers of the month: Mae Signori and Linda Sweeney.

Mae Signori was originally a part of the Brother Benno Auxiliary. She began volunteering at The Thrift Shop for at least 15 years. An energetic 96-year-old, Mae works in furniture sales every Thursday. She also helps on the last Saturday of the month. According to Thrift Shop Manager Michelle Hoppe, Mae “is amazing and very popular with the customers!”

Linda Sweeney also belonged to the Brother Benno Auxiliary with her mother, Shirlie Laiho. Shirlie volunteered at the Thrift Shop until she passed away in 2011. Following in her beloved mother’s footsteps, Linda became a regular volunteer at the Thrift Shop. She processes and prices all the jewelry donations. Linda also shows off her creative side by making beautiful displays during all the various holidays over the year. Merchandise flies off the Thrift Shop shelves in part due to Linda’s

Shirlie Laiho and Linda Sweeney

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
Giving Heart

A gentleman approached Board Member Helen Parsons after a speaking engagement and handed her a sum of money. He asked her to provide a needy child with some joy!

A grandmother was shopping with her granddaughter at the Thrift Shop and trying to budget. Her granddaughter, a sweet child, had fallen in love with a pair of sparkling shoes and the toy she was holding. Thanks to our donor we were able to give her both. It made the child and the grandmother so happy.

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The Brother Benno Foundation
5th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
September 1, 2023
SAVE the DATE!
MORE INFO brotherbenno.org/golf-2023

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Benno’s online:
Facebook.com/BrotherBenno
Twitter.com/brotherbennos
Instagram.com/brotherbenno

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.

April is National Volunteer Month
Are you interested in volunteering?
Please contact us at Volunteers@brotherbenno.org

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.
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 Farquhar
William & Vennita
Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales

Tom & Louise
John Jarvie
Dorothy and Walter
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Harold & Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Monty, Natalie, &
Miville
Helene McGill
Bill & Joan Maloney
Nysewander Family
Mary Nordstrom
Mary Peterson

Ruth Hazel Pierson
Mary Pullman
Catherine L. Quinlan
Dora Ramirez
Margaret Rossini
Ann Sauer
Nick Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel &
Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Ann Grier Smith
Alva & Frances
Snider
Squirrell Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb
Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Andrew & Jane

Yandura
Alan Port
Dennis E. O’Connor
Mary Wilbur
Barbara La Mothe
Ricci & Eginton
Dorothy
David Watson
H. Edward Smith
Toni Keane
James Sanseverino
Bill Pry
Thomas Kennedy
Frank Beeson
Timothy Diem
Lydia Zamora
Wayne Patterson
Dr. Mike McCarthy
John Haggerty
Joe Erno
Blair Frazee
Barbara Havens
Ron Beckman
Virginia Steffen-Moore
Donna Brown
Hope Wrisley

In Honor Of
Richard Kahl

Needs

Gently used furniture
Blankets
Baseball caps
Diapers size sizes 4, 5 & 6
Adult Unisex Diapers
Women’s underwear, sizes 4 & 5
Men’s 2x and 3x t-shirts
Baby wipes
Travel-size toothpaste & deodorant
Travel-size shampoo & body wash
Bottled waters, sodas, & juices

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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 “Ways You Can Help”. We’ve expanded your donation options to include bank transfers, Venmo, Apple Pay, and Google Pay in addition to PayPal. You can scan this QR code to make an online donation too.

Your donation is used each month at our main center and seven recovery and sober living 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.

Please Note Our Mailing address:
The Brother Benno Foundation
Post Office Box 308
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

If you wish to drop off donations or deliver donations in person, our physical address is:
3260 Production Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>February 2023</th>
<th>Our 39th Year</th>
<th>February 2023</th>
<th>Our 39th Year</th>
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<td>Meals</td>
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