

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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 Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

August 2010



FALL LUNCHEON SET FOR OCTOBER 16

by Vikki Ramey

It's that time of year again—time to buy your tickets for the Brother Benno Auxiliary Fall Luncheon. It will be on Saturday, October 16, at the NCO Club at Camp Pendleton from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme this year is "A Salute to Service," featuring the **Harmonettes**, a female trio that will sing songs of the 40's and perform skits.

In addition to lunch and entertainment, we will have a silent auction, opportunity baskets, and a share-the-wealth cash drawing. Also available for sale will be tickets for an Alaskan cruise, tentatively scheduled for June 2011.

As always, the proceeds from the Luncheon will benefit Brother Benno's two women's shelters: The House of Martha Ann Mary and Ida (MAMI) for homeless women and women with children, and The House of Dorothy Barbara Rosemary and Joan (DBRJ) for women in recovery.

Tickets are \$45 each, or \$360 for a table of eight.

If you are unable to attend the Luncheon but would like to help us with up-front expenses, we invite you to become a Brother Benno Angel. Your donation is tax-deductible and you will be honored in the program.

Another way to help is to become a Sponsor. You will receive a full-page ad in our program for a \$500 donation, or a full-page ad PLUS a table for eight for \$1,000.

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HONORING A LOVED ONE

by Harold Kutler

One of the ways our donors honor their loved ones is by making a donation to Brother Benno's in their loved one's name. The donor chooses to give a monetary donation in memory of a family member or friend, or to honor that person on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. These honored ones are noted in the newsletter, usually the month after the donation is received.

Recently, a woman decided to send us a large donation in memory of her husband on his birthday and on Father's Day. Because the gifts were substantial, we wanted to translate them into specific services. In this case, we have been able to provide 163 food packs a month for six months for families, seniors, and the disabled.

In each of these food packs, we included the following note: "Dear Guest: This Food Pack is given to you in memory of (husband's name) and has been generously paid for by (wife's name). We are blessed to have such wonderful supporters. The Brother Benno Foundation."

If you would like to honor a loved one, living or deceased, with a monetary gift for a specific purpose, please let us know. It can be a one-time donation or an ongoing contribution on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary, holiday, or memorial. It will be a legacy that will keep them in the thoughts of others while it helps those in need.

Please call me, Harold Kutler, at 760-439-1244, ext. 106.

Brother Benno's Services:

	June 2010	Our 27th Year		June 2010	Our 27th Year
Meals	11,857	2,974,123	Loads of laundry	24	25,430
Nights of lodging	1,068	199,475	Food packs	2,421	137,680
Articles of clothing	4,617	821,323	Blankets	39	30,629
Showers	813	147,092	Prescriptions	46	5,974
Haircuts	76	11,194	ID Vouchers	10	8,028
Bus passes	91	73,147	HUGS	1,800	782,644

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

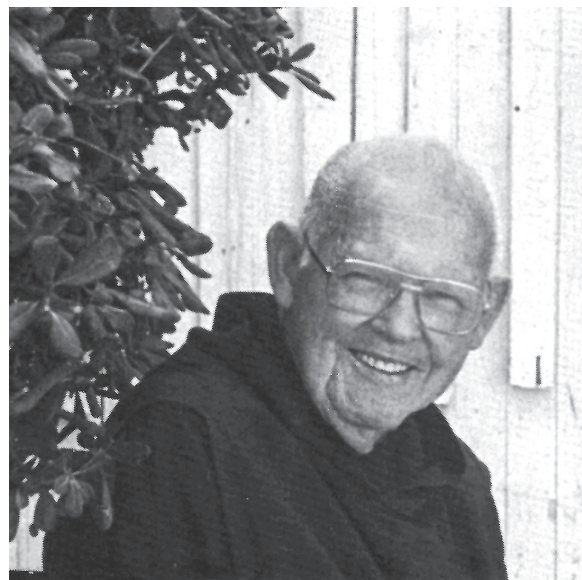
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049
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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Honesty in Action. Harold Kutler shared one of his feel-good stories about the goings-on at Brother Benno's recently. A volunteer named Sue comes in at 5:30 a.m. to make sandwiches for the bag lunches offered to our guests after breakfast. "She's very faithful," Harold said. "Hardly ever misses a day."

One day she called the Center after she got home, saying that she'd lost a diamond pin that morning, and had anyone found it. Yes, she was told. One of the Program Guys found it on the floor behind the serving line—it's here whenever you want to pick it up.

"What a great example for the rest of the guys in the Program!" Harold said.

Need a House Painter? Speaking of Program Guys, some of them are having an extra challenge these days—what with the poor economy—finding a job after they graduate from the Program. But a local painting contractor has stepped up to the plate and is willing to hire several of the men who have experience as painters. So if you need your house painted, call **David Dobbs (760-420-2640)** for an estimate. The graduates you will be helping in the next step of their recovery process will be most grateful, and it will give hope to those following in their footsteps.

Brother Benno Himself. Most people who love and support the Brother Benno Foundation did not have the privilege of knowing Brother Benno himself. Although Brother did not start the Foundation, he was the inspiration that led **Harold and Kay Kutler** to name the ministry after him.

In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope: The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, Harold wrote about Brother Benno's Last Years (Chapter 19, page 171).

"By 1986, at the age of 76, Brother Benno was in poor health, mostly due to Parkinson's Disease. He retired from his cooking duties at the Abbey, and from that time on, devoted himself to prayer and his ongoing passion of helping the poor.

"With the help of a volunteer driver, Brother supervised the daily collection and distribution

of food and continued to make his furniture run each afternoon. First he'd stop at the DAV to pick up their excess furniture, then go out to the poor neighborhoods to deliver it. Once or twice a week, he stopped at the Kitchen to drop off produce, bring visitors, and greet and encourage our guests.

"One afternoon I went to the Salvation Army's facility in a poor area, and there was Brother, handing out food from the back of his pickup truck.

"Thank you, Father Benno," a dear lady said to him.

"Thank *you* for the promotion," Brother answered with a smile. . . ."

Specials and Bargains. The Brother Benno Thrift Shop has 20 percent off sales on Thursdays, on everything except furniture. Saturdays you'll usually find 50 percent off on clothing, and they offer additional weekly specials on items in large supply. Most important about this information is the fact that all goods are priced very reasonably to begin with!

If you've never tried thrift store shopping, give Brother Benno's a try. And if you have, you already know that this shop is one of the best anywhere. It's at 3965 Mission Avenue in Oceanside.

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To reserve tickets for the Luncheon or to become an Angel, please call **Vicky Squires (760-724-7371)** or send her your check (made out to Brother Benno Auxiliary) to 681 Matagual Drive, Vista, CA 92081.

To become a Sponsor, call Vikki Ramey (760-803-6267) or Debbie Knight (949-368-3526).

By the way, men are always welcome at this fun event!

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Memorials

Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Ann Sauer
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Nordstrom
Myron Eichen
Alice Jordan
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Richard Farhquar
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Catherine L. Quinlan
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Pullman
Joan Boyd
Agnus Boyd
Harold Thompson
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Bob Gleason
Jane Pfau

Ron Alexander
Mary Peterson
Frank Barnet
Frank S. Dolley
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Monty Nares
Margaret Rossini
Dorothy M. Donahue
Mary Teresa Carr
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Elizabeth Holms
Edith Blaiser
Ben Kouns
Bill Lakoff
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Anita H. Donahue
Margaret Stephan
Bill Boster
Louise Foussat
Tom Hayward

Richard Kurtz
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Dora Ramirez
Dick Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler
Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Naomi Shelton
Al Basteri
Aurelia & Karl Kutzke
Ann Witherow
Mary Fogg
Frank Stasio

Joe Weseloh
Chuck Speakman
Bob Nysewander
Stanley LaMonte
William Flanagan
David Thayer
Bernie Weiler
Irene Milbrodt
Danny Muzyka
Zeferino & Dancy Nares

HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Griffin

GET WELL WISHES

Rosemary Tucker

Needs

Volunteer drivers/helpers Mondays and Thursdays, 7-11 a.m.
Motel-size shampoo, soap, lotion

Socks, men's clothing
Aluminum cans for recycling

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2010	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
Monthly Serving Team Schedule	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Friends from Vista	11 Naval Hospital	12 Oceanside Civitans	13 St. Patrick's	14 Brother Benno's Alumni
	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Grace Anglican	19 Carlsbad Rotary	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
	23 5/11 Marines	24 St. Mark's San Marcos	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Fallbrook Presbyterian	28 Catholic Daughters
	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Vista Community Clinic				

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-439-1244 x115 **Open Tue. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to brotherbenno.org, click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

PREMIE NEEDS HER PARENTS, BROTHER BENNO'S HELPS

Baby Katarina came into the world prematurely on December 29, 2009, with almost no chance of survival. Her parents, **Elizabeth** and **Francisco**, who live in San Marcos, visited her daily in the ISCC (Infant Special Care Center) at UCSD Medical Center in San Diego. In March, 2010, Brother Benno's came into the picture.

The parents had both lost their jobs after Katarina's birth and were living with Elizabeth's parents. A social worker at UCSD contacted **Mary Robinson** to see if Brother Benno's could help the young couple with money for transportation and parking so they could continue to be involved in their daughter's care. Mary said Yes.

In June, Katarina was released from the hospital. True to their word, Elizabeth and Francisco brought her to Brother Benno's to show everyone the baby they had helped to save. "What impressed me," Mary said, "was that they didn't ask for any additional assistance, even though they could surely use the help; they just wanted to bring the baby by to see us as they promised they would. They even said they had some items they wanted to donate to us."



It's because of the generosity of you, our donors, that we can provide help to whoever comes to us in need. This story is not typical of the kinds of help we usually provide, but it does highlight the spirit of giving that is so prevalent in our ministry. You, as a donor, trust us to use your donation of goods or money in a loving way, and we in turn can improve the lives of those we serve.

continued in next column ...

A VOICE OF GRATITUDE

Harold Kutler came across a letter in his files from a woman who had stayed at the House of Martha Ann Mary Ida (MAMI) for several months in 2006. He remembers her as a gentle woman, well-dressed, but homeless by choice.

"She was surely a little mentally unbalanced," he said. "Older women who end up on the streets make a life for themselves; they find friends and they become comfortable."

Here is her letter, dated January 2007:

*"Dear Kay, Joane, Peter, Sherman, Tom and All –
It's 5 a.m. in beautiful downtown L.A. It is wonderful to wake up thinking about all the people who will be loved and cared for at Brother Benno's today. It is truly comforting!*

"I think it will bless you to know there are persons in this city who are shouldering the burden of the homeless. I know it comforts me. I look forward to the day when America will be truly beautiful again because there is no one living on the street!

"Thank you for all you do. God bless you richly and multiply all you do. Give my love and prayers to all I knew. From the City of Angels : 'He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.' (Psalm 91:11).

Grace D."

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...continued

Mary Robinson summed up the values held and promoted by the Brother Benno Foundation:

"Every life matters to us—that of a little baby who barely had a chance, the drug addict who lands on our doorstep in despair and makes a change in his or her life, or the homeless guy who was trying to save his dog's life. We value life because it's what God gave us to love and respect."

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

What a wonderful turnout we had at the Auxiliary's Outback Steakhouse Luncheon on July 10! Over 275 people attended, including 60 Marines who were sponsored by our members. Special guests included City of Oceanside Councilmen **Jerry Kern** and **Chuck Lowery**, and last year's Auxiliary President **Dixie Bales**.

At the first seating, the Share-the-Wealth cash prize of \$175 went to **Don Hua**, a Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton. There were door prizes for both men and women, and all the Marines in attendance received a goodie bag, compliments of **Veronica Hine** and **Joanne Ramos** from Pacific Western Bank. Thank you, Ladies!

Many thanks also go to **Vicky Squires** and her committee, to **Judy Harris** for being the last-minute replacement for taking care of Share-the-Wealth, and to **Barbara Barreras** for publicity.

The funds raised at the Outback Luncheon will be used for our Back-to-School Backpacks, which will be distributed at the Center on Saturday, August 14, starting at 9 a.m. Children have been given tickets, and this year an exception is being made to allow parents to pick up their children's backpack if their children are not available.

*(Editor's Note: **Harold Kutler** reported that the presence of the Marines at this luncheon was a huge hit with everyone in attendance.)*

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Judy Harris & Don Hua

Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

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>

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 _____