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 2011

IMMERSION BRINGS VOLUNTEERS AND GUESTS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Brother Benno’s has recently started an Immersion Program to help people gain a better understanding of what it means to be poor, and how we as a society can more effectively serve those in need.

Immersion means to be profoundly involved and to have a first-hand experience of a situation as it affects you and others around you. At Brother Benno’s, the Program starts at the Center on a Saturday morning. You will be part of a group of about 15 people who will have a tour of the Center, then join Guests in line and sit with them to enjoy a delicious meal. You will likely find yourself conversing with them and finding, to your surprise, that you have much in common.

After the initial immersion experience, you will be encouraged to reflect on what you experienced and what you might do with your group or with other like-minded individuals to continue reaching out to those in need. You will also be invited back to Brother Benno’s to serve coffee and donuts and once again sit with our Guests and enjoy a meal. Hopefully this will keep the experience of serving others fresh in your mind and will help motivate you to continue along the path of service to others.

Joe Barreras, who attended an Immersion Saturday in February, came back later to share his experience with Harold Kutler. Joe said he had talked to a couple who were living in their van but who desperately wanted to get back into a house. They were actually in escrow at the time, but they discovered that the house had been trashed by its former owners before they moved out. The couple then tried to get the realtor and the mortgage company to give them their money back, but their pleas went unanswered.

Joe knew about a law that bound the realtor and mortgage company to refund the couple’s money. He helped them get their money back within two days, and he also led them to another home in their price range.

“This experience validated my belief that serving others up close and personal is what we’re all about,” Harold said. “Unless we hear their stories, we don’t really know how best to help people in need.”

Harold cites Matthew 25:31-46 as the basis for the Immersion Program. In it, Jesus tells us that our life journey should be primarily about love of others and the welfare of those most in need–whenever you serve the least of His brethren, you serve Him. At Brother Benno’s, you will have the opportunity to experience Jesus in His disguise as the Needy One.

This Program is open to groups as well as individuals. For more information, please contact Dennis Pinnick (760-681-2616 or dennispinnick@yahoo.com). If you’re ready to schedule a Saturday tour and meal, contact Suzy Martinek (760-439-1244, ext. 118, or suzymartinek@brotherbenno.org).

“We are each of us angels with only one wing, and we can only fly by embracing one another.”

Lucretius

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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!!
EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Well Deserved. I stood chatting with Harold Kutler one Saturday morning, as Guests streamed into the Center for the usual spaghetti feast. After a while, I became aware of how many men—Program Guys and Guests—came over to Harold to hug him, always saying thanks for everything he’s done for them. I smiled at him with admiration, and I swear I saw a little mist in his eyes.

Serving Team Needed. We have an opening for a new serving team on the fourth Monday of each month. If you have a group of six to eight people who would enjoy serving breakfast to our Guests at 6:30 in the morning once a month, please contact Suzy Martinick (760-439-1244, ext. 118). This request is usually answered quickly, so don’t delay!

Across the Country! Support for Brother Benno’s often comes from unexpected places. Harold Kutler told of a recent donation from a woman in New Jersey, who sent a big envelope full of plastic bags after she read in the newsletter that we need them for the clothing we give to Guests. What a thoughtful thing to do! And she addressed her note with this greeting: “Dear Good Volunteers of Brother Benno’s, “wore braces on his legs, so he couldn’t get around very well. We were able to give him bus passes and some furniture.”

Not a Number. We seem to be inundated with numbers in the news these days; and even here at Brother Benno’s, we’re required to keep track of our services by numbers. (See Services on back page.) The difference, though, is that we don’t see a Guest as a “number.” The volunteers and staff members who deal directly with those who come to us for help see each person as unique, valuable, and worthy of being treated with dignity.

Jewel. You know how busy life gets in December, so put December 3 on your calendars now, and you won’t miss the never-to-be-missed Auxiliary Luncheon fundraiser. It’s the jewel in the Auxiliary’s crown! (See page 4.)

Dear, Dear Kay. The following note from a former Program Member was delivered to Harold recently. (The song mentioned is one that Kay Kutler sang at the close of every gathering at the Center.)

“Dear Harold and Kay, The people at bus stops are bragging how good—different—it makes them feel to be able to shower each day. Last night I sang, ‘May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You,” Tell Us Celebrate Brother Benno’s Sober and Clean Living Again!’ If you like, will you please sing it for us all? We are both sober and clean in Brother Benno’s Spirit.”

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Brother Benno's Newsletter

Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Ann Sauer
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Nordstrom
Myron Eichen
Alice Jordan
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Richard Farquhar
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Don & Dolores 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 Stephon
Bill Boster
Louise Foussat
Tom Hayward
Richard Kurtz
Helen Lucas
Bill & JoAnn Maloney
Dora Ramirez

Dick & Terry Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler
Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Naomi Shelton
Rosemary Tucker
Ben E. Lewis
Roland Bond
Anna Correia
Geraldine Howard
Coirea Family
Jim Rost
Bernie Weiler
Sister Marie Kodaia
Floyd & Rose
Caldwell
Clarence Schlehuber

Brother Benno’s Newsletter

Memorials

Dick & Terry Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler
Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
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Naomi Shelton
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Jim Rost
Bernie Weiler
Sister Marie Kodaia
Floyd & Rose
Caldwell
Clarence Schlehuber

Needs

“Newer” computer (1G Ram or more)
Men’s casual shoes
Socks, socks, socks
Gently used furniture

Brother Benno’s Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
CHECK OUT NEW LOOK
AT THRIFT SHOP!
by Helen Parsons

If you haven’t been by Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop in a while, please stop by! Come see our new look!

We are committed to making everything we offer affordable for our guests. All our prices have been lowered. For example, blouses are $2, ladies pants $4, and men’s tee-shirts can be as low as 50 cents. On Thursdays we take an additional 20 percent off all clothing, and most Saturdays we have 50 percent off items that we have in abundance. Our “$5 a bag” sale takes place the last week of every month.

Our furniture department has more than doubled in size, and we can arrange delivery for you.

Starting August 3, our shop will stay open until 7 p.m. every Wednesday. We call this “Working Women’s Wednesday,” but all are welcome. We offer a 20 percent discount plus free refreshments after 5 p.m.

We are hoping to relocate our donation area at the shop. In the near future, you will be able to drop your donations out in front of the shop in the parking lot, where we’ll have a truck with a large Brother Benno logo and able-bodied men to assist you with your donations.

Your donations and support are needed more than ever. We are facing some competition with a new Goodwill Store now open a few doors down. We welcome them and hope they will draw in customers who will also visit our shop. With their capacity to be open seven days a week, and therefore can accept donations seven days a week, we ask that you continue your support of Brother Benno’s and our efforts to serve the neediest among us.

We encourage you to spread the news to friends and neighbors that Brother Benno’s needs their gently used or new household items, clothing, and especially furniture. We will make arrangements to pick up donated furniture if you call us. The Thrift Shop phone number is: 760-967-7505. We are located at 3965 Mission Ave. in Oceanside in the Albertson’s Plaza.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of new office equipment in order to meet the statistical requirements given to us in order to receive grants. We anticipate purchasing three new computers and one new fax machine at a minimum cost of $4,000. This does not include the software we will also need in the near future. If you’d like to make a monetary donation toward these purchases, please contact Tom von Betticher (760-439-1244, ext. 105). And Thank You!

ONCE AGAIN, “THE BOOK”

(excerpts from Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen by Harold Kutler)

“Mother Teresa stated that the need to feel human and worthwhile far exceeds the physical need for food and shelter. . . . We ... decided to refer to those we served as Guests rather than clients. A Guest is someone we invite to join us, someone we treat with respect.” (pp 32-33)

“We have found that until we put a face on the homeless, they remain a misunderstood statistic. Once people come to our Center to personally experience these struggling people, they are no longer an abstract whom we can help or not, without any emotional involvement. Instead, they become someone’s father or daughter or grandchild, trying to keep their heads above water. After looking into their faces, we can no longer write them off as freeloaders or bums.” (p 109)
**AUXILIARY NEWS**

by Vikki Ramey

Our Outback Fundraiser was a hit again! Over 210 people came to enjoy a meal in the company of 46 Marines/Corpsmen on July 9. It was a thrill to see Kay Kutler there for a few minutes, getting hugs from all. We raised well over $5,000, pending expenses. Our thanks to Janice Koehler and her marvelous kitchen staff and food servers! Thanks also to Veronica Hines of Pacific Western Bank for supplying the door prizes for our military personnel, to our photographers Linda Misuela and Julia Hicks, to all Auxiliary members who performed various tasks, and finally, to Vicky Squires for doing an excellent job of organizing this event. Name Game winners were Karen Gallagher and Jackie Halle.

Back-to-School Backpack distribution will be held on Saturday, August 13, starting at 10:30, in the Center warehouse. (The packs will be assembled on Friday, the 12th at 9 a.m.). If you can purchase school supplies before the 12th, please call Vikki Ramey (760-803-6267).

The winner of our Annual Luncheon theme was Claire Carter, who submitted “A Giving Spirit.” The Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 3, with tickets at $50 per person, $500 for a table of ten. All members, as well as last year’s guests, will receive a letter soon.

Two lucky members will be chosen in a drawing on August 24 to partake in a taste-testing for the luncheon at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Opportunity baskets and money trees/frames are needed for the luncheon. Please let Sharon Tasker know the basket theme and amount donated.

Carol Richards is asking all members to bring items for the teen baskets that will be distributed to young girls at Christmas time. We’ll be assembling these baskets in November.

**Our next meeting will be on August 24 at 1:30 p.m.**

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**Information & Online donations**

brotherbenno.org

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**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_______________________