

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



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	June 2011	Our 28th Year		June 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,854	3,119,952	Loads of laundry	31	25,803
Nights of lodging	1,246	213,332	Food packs	2,286	166,062
Articles of clothing	4,563	873,820	Blankets	77	31,840
Showers	948	157,768	Prescriptions	48	6,524
Haircuts	174	12,742	ID Vouchers	15	8,158
Bus passes	122	74,616	HUGS	1,800	806,044

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

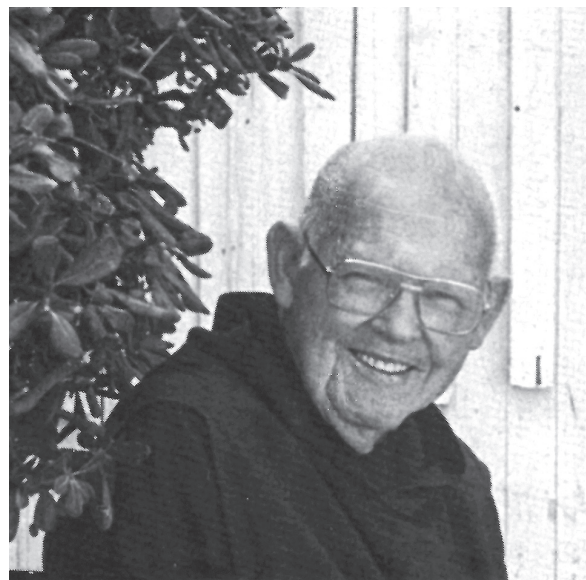
**The Thrift Shop**

**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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# 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 brothers, 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](mailto: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](mailto:suzymartinek@brotherbenno.org)).

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

## 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 Martinek** (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 at Brother Benno's Foundation."

**A Really Big Sale.** The Brother Benno Thrift Shop is known for its great merchandise at unbelievably low prices, but recently there was a stand-out sale that was certainly untypical. A beautiful leather couch that originally sold for about \$5,000 was purchased at the Shop for \$1,000. Somebody got a really good deal, and just think how many items of food could be bought with that \$1,000! Do you have any unneeded furniture cluttering up your home or garage? Give us a call and we'll take it off your hands. (See article on page 3 for more info.)

**Reaching Out.** Brother Benno's continues to go beyond its doors in order to serve those in need. Servant of the Poor **Dennis Pinnick** told me about a program called PACT (Parole And Com-

munity Team) meetings, which are held under the auspices of The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. At regular meetings, ex-offenders can connect with various community organizations that can help them get back into the mainstream. Some examples are: banks, mental health providers, community clinics, libraries, colleges, and groups such as the Alpha Project and Brother Benno's.

"One of the men we helped," said Dennis, "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 to 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, Till We 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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## Memorials

Brother Benno	Frank Barnett	Dick & Terry Riley	Patricia Weseloh
Pope John Paul II	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Squirrell Family
Mother Teresa	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Nysewander Family
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Ann & Tom
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Witherow
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	William Flanagan
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Timothy Kopsco
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Merle Stokes
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Geraldine Howard
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Sister Martha Vega
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Margaret Zachan
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Stanley LaMonte
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Andrea Boersma
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Bill Foran
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Thomas McCall
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	William Pry
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Correia Family	David Harrison
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Jim Rost	Harold Marker
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Bernie Weiler	
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Sister Marie Kodais	<b>WEDDING CON-</b>
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Floyd & Rose	<b>GRATULATIONS</b>
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Caldwell	Patricia & Wes
Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	Clarence Schlehuder	Wickstrom

## Needs

"Newer" computer (1G Ram or more)  
 Men's casual shoes  
 Socks, socks, socks  
 Gently used furniture  
 USB floppy disk reader  
 Men's clothing, especially jeans  
 Motel-size toiletries  
 Aluminum cans for recycling

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August</b>	<b>1</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>2</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>3</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>4</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>5</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>6</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2011</b>	<b>8</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>9</b> Friends from Vista	<b>10</b> Naval Hospital	<b>11</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>12</b> St. Patrick's	<b>13</b> Shiloh Church of God In Christ
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>15</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>16</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>17</b> Grace Anglican	<b>18</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>19</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>20</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>24</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>25</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>26</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>27</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>						
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>29</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>30</b> Grace Chapel of the Coast	<b>31</b> Soroptimist International			

## 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.

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## 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!

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## 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)

### 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>

## 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**

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_