WOW! The Outback Restaurant “Christ-
mas in July” fundraiser on July 15 was a rousing success! We filled the restaurant with happy civilians and Military personnel who enjoyed the food and the wonderful door prizes we had ready for them, as well as the homemade cookies in tiny Christmas boxes that were handed out as their dessert when they left the restaurant.

We were so blessed to have Brother Ben-
no’s founder, Harold Kutler, with us, to say a few uplifting words. I hope you didn’t miss it.

Like last year, the net proceeds from this event will be used for the Center’s Children’s Christmas party and gifts in December. These events take a lot of work from many volunteers, and we cannot do it without your help, which you so graciously give each time you are asked. Auxiliary volunteers are awesome!

Our next event will be the First Annual Bunco Party on Wednesday, August 12, at 1 p.m. at the Oceanside Women’s Club, 1606 Missouri Avenue, in Oceanside. $20 per person. Send your reservations to Carol Sanford, 3890-42 Vista Campana South, Oceanside 92057. Questions? Call me at 760-757-5212. It will be another very fun time, guaranteed! Funny prizes and tasty snacks! Space is limited, and you won’t want to miss this inaugural Auxiliary event.

Then on Friday, September 18, we’ll be at the Sunshine Brooks Theatre for a joint fundrais-
er with the San Luis Rey Rotary and Oceanside Civitan. It’s $30 a person, with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and “Barefoot in the Park” at 7:30. This is something new for us, to move into a larger theatre venue and share the event. Send your reservations to Mary Milew, 805 N. Tremont St., Oceanside 92054, or call her at 760-433-2221.

(Related article on page 4) Continued on page 4...
Making a Difference. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 from the Rock Church in San Marcos came to the Center in June to present us with a supply of children’s books, as well as hygiene items and socks. There were ten girls, three boys, and several parents.

Cynthia Aguirre was the young girl who initiated the collection, which took a month to complete, as a way of giving back to the community and showing that children can make a difference. Anna Sorokina and Adam Dzwigalski are also leaders of the group.

“It was beautiful,” said one of our volunteers, after he met with the students.

Teamwork. In recent years, I’ve noticed how Brother Benno’s has been teaming up with other organizations that help the poor and homeless, which is obviously a win-win situation for everyone. I just met Jazmin Hernandez, a lovely young woman who works for Interfaith Community Services. She spends Tuesday mornings at the Brother Benno Center, meeting with some of our Guests who need services beyond what Brother Benno’s is able to offer. And she told me that her co-worker, Christopher Torres, comes in on Mondays.

One of our Staff members makes an announcement every Monday and Tuesday during the early-morning mealtime, telling our Guests that someone from Interfaith will be available; and he lists the particular services that are available to them.

One of Interfaith’s services is to obtain ID’s for people. “The State is now giving copies of birth certificates free,” Jazmin said. “Before, there was an $8 charge, and Interfaith paid it.”

They also help people find jobs by giving them job leads, helping to prepare resumes, and offering classes in financial literacy so that people can make good choices with their money once they’re working. They also give out bus passes or gas cards at the beginning so the people they help can get to and from the job site. And when funds are available, Interfaith offers rent assistance.

Angels At Work. A single mom with an infant came to the Center recently to get food. She left the baby’s stroller on the sidewalk, and when she came out later, the stroller was gone—presumably stolen.

One of our volunteers went to a local estate sale warehouse, where he found a nearly new stroller. It was unpriced, and the warehouse owner said she’d get back to him with a price. She called the next day and said the stroller was ready to be picked up; it was being given to us as a gift. Turns out that Linda, a manager in the warehouse, bought the stroller so she could donate it to the mom. Our volunteer said, “What an angel! The mom was delighted with the new stroller.”

Every Little Bit Helps. I ran into Robert Hackett, our Purchasing Agent, the other day, and I asked him what the current needs are. Without missing a beat, he said, “Diapers, peanut butter, and coffee. In other words, the same old stuff we always need.” Then with a grin, he added, “If someone wants to donate a pallet of peanut butter, that’d be great!”

A pallet or a jar—it’s all welcome.

From Our Board President: “A special thanks to the employees of Genentech Corporation who made up over 500 super hygiene packs to be given to our homeless Guests. We appreciate the generosity and efforts of all those who participated in this wonderful outreach to those in need.”
It started with a phone call. I could tell there was a very distressed lady on the line—I’ll call her “Lynn”—saying she was relocating to the San Diego area from up north and needed to find out about our services. She explained she wasn’t alone; she’d be bringing her permanently disabled son with her, and she was in desperate need of food and clothing.

Lynn’s voice kept breaking up as she talked, and I could tell she was very nervous. Gently I informed her of our services, and that all she needed to do was get herself and her son to our Center and we’d take care of the rest. The relief in her voice was palpable, and she said over and over how grateful she was for Brother Benno’s being there in her time of extreme need. This touched my heart as I gave her directions slowly, trying to make sure she wouldn’t get lost.

When she arrived, the first thing she asked for was food. After filling out our application form, we gave her a food voucher and directed her to our warehouse, where she received her first box of food, along with other miscellaneous items. Since our Clothing Room was already closed, she said she’d come back the next day.

The people who find their way to Brother Benno’s don’t always tell us what circumstances drove them to seek help, and we don’t ask, as this is not a requirement to receive our services. Since Lynn filled two small plates with food and took them out to her car, we assumed it was easier for her son not to have to come into the Center, or maybe they weren’t comfortable eating with a group of strangers.

The next day, Lynn did return to “shop” in our Clothing Room. She was over-the-top with gratitude, as her son was in need of so many things. Offering her these items of clothing gave her a feeling of being loved and cared for. She just kept saying over and over again how thankful she was for Brother Benno’s, tearing up as she gave us all hugs.

As she left that day, I hugged her again; and what she said next is the reason why all of us do what we do, day after day: “Thank you so much! You saved my life, and I am so grateful. I can’t thank you enough. God bless all of you here, and God bless Brother Benno’s! We will never forget the unbelievable kindness you have shown to both me and my son.”

Both of us were crying. She was giving back the only thing she had to give—her love.

... Then there was the “sewing machine family,” father, mother, two daughters, and a son. Dad . . . lost his job during a recessionary period. They came to Oceanside looking for a fresh start, but all he was able to find were temporary, low-paying jobs.

Each night the family came to the Kitchen for dinner. The children looked forward to getting up on the stage to sing with Kay. Mom mentioned to Kay that if someone ever donated a sewing machine, she’d love to have it so she could make clothes for her family. Wouldn’t you know—someone gave us a sewing machine!

After almost two months, Dad received a job offer in Ventura, and the family moved again to begin life anew. We received (a) letter from them a couple months later: ‘Dear Kay, Just wanted . . . to let you know we are all doing well . . . .’

(From Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen, Chapter 16: The Homeless, pp. 113-114.)

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
SAILORS SAY THANK YOU

Our Auxiliary often treats military personnel at some of their fundraising luncheons, such as they did in July at the Outback Steakhouse. Vicki Miller is both a member of the Auxiliary and an employee at Camp Pendleton, so she’s the contact person for any connection between the two.

Vicki’s title at Pendleton is Executive Assistant to the Command Chaplain and Command Volunteer Programs Manager (“Quite a mouthful,” said Auxiliary Co-President Carol Sanford!) Carol added, “She is my contact when I deliver the knitted caps and blankies (for newborns) and padded crutch covers for the Wounded Warriors, and she’s also our contact for military volunteers to work for us, or to enjoy a free meal with us. ...”

After the Outback event, Vicki sent the following note to the Auxiliary: “Thanks to BBA for hosting our Naval Hospital Sailors at today’s fundraising event. I have had several of them email me with their thank-you for the nice luncheon. RP2 Joseph Wright was one of the winners of the “Name Game”; he got $215. He’s a Chaplain’s Assistant in Pastoral Care Services at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (works with me), a really squared-away guy and a newlywed. He was absolutely thrilled to be one of the winners!”

This sharing between two organizations is another example of how Brother Benno’s reaches out beyond its own walls to connect with others.

Ω

...continued from page 4

And now we are adjusting our “planning caps” to gear up for our Annual Luncheon-Fashion Show on Saturday, November 7, at the Carlsbad Sheraton once again. We are looking for models of all sizes, men and women, and maybe even a well-behaved four-legged critter to steal hearts. The models will be wearing some of the fabulous clothing we have for sale at our very own Brother Benno Thrift Shop. We are looking for more committee chairs and/or volunteers for many smaller-but-important tasks. Contact any Auxiliary member and we’ll find a place for you to help. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds go to support the Brother Benno Men’s and Women’s Recovery Programs.

There’s always an open invitation to the readers of this newsletter to come to an Auxiliary meeting at the Center on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Ω

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...

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Memorials

Ron Alexander
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Mary Teresa 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 & Venita Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Tom Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben E. Lewis
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Monty Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Pope John Paul II
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pfau
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Mary Pullman
Catherine L. Quinlan
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Margaret Rossini
Ann Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Mother Teresa
Harold Thompson
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Jane Hoyt
Gilbert Brown
Bob DiCarlo
Judy Chow
Bill & Patsy Poole
Rose & Floyd
Caldwell
Bill Lane
Alfred Vasquez
Clarence Bastolomeo
Sarah McPherson
Ann & Thomas
Witherow
Zeferino & Dancy
Naes
Bill Foran
Rita Archibald
Andrew & Jane
Yandura
Mary & Joseph
Opatkiewicz
Hartley Lowe, Jr.
David Leue
Philip Larsen
Charles King

Happy Birthday!
Brian Kurtz
Natalie & Megan

In Honor Of
Steven Ross

Needs

Gently used furniture
Motel-sized hygiene items
Peanut butter
Diapers
Reading glasses
Feminine hygiene items
Books for young children

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Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside  760-967-2742  Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to Noon
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
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 Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop
(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)
Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture
Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>Our 31st Year</th>
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