



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

August 2015

BROTHER BENNO AUXILIARY BURSTS WITH EVENTS AND ENTHUSIASM by Carol Sanford

WOW! The Outback Restaurant "Christmas 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 Benno'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 fundraiser 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....

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

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."

OVERFLOWING WITH GRATITUDE
by Julie Petrie

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.

Ω

From the Book

... 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.)

Ω

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

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 **[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)**

 **[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)**

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 _____

Memorials

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

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

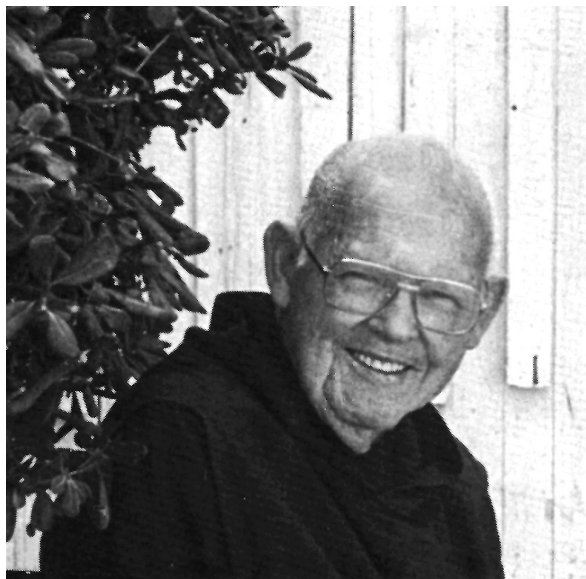
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2015 Monthly Serving Team Schedule						1 St. Thomas More
	3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 San Rafael
	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Hawkes Home	12 Sisters in Sobriety	13 Oceanside Civitanis	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
	17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 Christ the King Lutheran	19 Grace Anglican	20 Carlsbad Rotary	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Catholic Daughters
	24 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran 31 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	25 St. Mark's San Marcos	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Pilgrim Creek	28 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	29 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

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.

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



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

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's Services:

	June 2015	Our 31st Year		June 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	13,432	3,752,891	Loads of laundry	23	27,079
Nights of lodging	1,033	263,688	Food packs	1,840	281,071
Articles of clothing	5,703	1,128,808	Blankets	134	38,727
Showers	1,159	206,647	Prescriptions	1	7,265
Haircuts	166	18,830	ID Vouchers	11	8,728
Bus passes	99	79,377	HUGS	1,800	899,644