USED FURNITURE IS GODSEND TO MANY OF OUR GUESTS

Many of our Guests and Program graduates find themselves in dire need of furniture; and thanks to our many donors, we usually have exactly what they are looking for.

Gwen Acheson, who is currently in charge of the furniture warehouse next to the Center, said that almost every day she is able to provide people with a bed, a kitchen table and chairs, or a couch.

“Recently we had someone whose furniture was destroyed in a fire,” she said, “and that same week a couple came in and said their apartment had been infested with bedbugs and they were told to throw everything out.”

When our homeless Guests are helped to get off the streets and into an apartment, they have no resources that would enable them to furnish the place. And the same applies to some of our Program graduates. They, too, may have no funds available when they move out of a Program House. In both cases, the men and women are looking for, or starting, a new job; and until they can build up a reserve, they need our help. An-

other group of those in need are women and their children who have fled from an abusive husband and father, bringing almost nothing with them. They, too, benefit from our stock of used furniture.

Gwen said she is good at discerning people’s motives. “I can tell if they’re telling me the truth, or trying to put one over on me,” she said. She also shared that many of those we help dissolve into tears when they realize how much we’re doing for them.

Brother Benno’s doesn’t “advertise” our Center furniture warehouse, so it’s almost always word-of-mouth that brings people in. We also get referrals from the H.O.T. Team (Homeless Outreach Team), part of the Oceanside Police Department. This Team specializes in dealing with the homeless in a non-threatening, supportive way.

Gwen offered one final thought about what we are able to do for people. She reminded us that Brother Benno himself was often seen driving around town in his dilapidated pickup truck, collecting–then giving away–used furniture to any and all whom he found in need. “We’re just doing what he did,” she said.

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COMMUNITY GENEROSITY MAKES HUGE IMPACT

Dennis Martinek, President of the Brother Benno Foundation Board, has some good news to report:

The Brother Benno Foundation is one of 19 charities that received a grant from the Community Healthcare Alliance Committee (CHAC) and Tri-City Hospital District. Our grant of $7,500 is for emergency food and shelter assistance that will help us provide food, clothing, continued on page 3 ....
Stories Abound. It’s always amazing to me how many people still remember being helped by Brother Benno’s many years ago, and that the memory of that aid has stayed with them. Linda Varian, a long-time volunteer at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop, met someone recently who has a great story to tell.

Linda is a Senior Volunteer with the Oceanside Police Department, and she needed her uniform shoes repaired. She went to Ruby’s Shoes and Boot Repair and mentioned to the owner, Nadine (Ruby) Mincin, that she volunteers at Brother Benno’s. Ruby told her that 26 years ago, she was trying to start her repair business but wasn’t able to get a loan. For three months, as she struggled to get the business off the ground, she came to Brother Benno’s to eat. That, she says, made all the difference in the world.

And Another One. Every Wednesday morning, Dorothy Richardson and I spend a couple hours at the Center addressing thank-you cards to our donors. Many other women have been part of our crew over the years, and it’s always been a fun time for all as we chat and get to know each other. We often have drop-in “company” as well—staff members and other volunteers who are used to seeing us in the Conference Room and come in to take a quick break with us.

One morning as Dorothy and I were leaving, we ran into a man in the parking lot. He and his wife were hoping to find a used washing machine to buy.

“I knew Brother Benno,” he said. “He used to drive through our neighborhood, and he’d stop and give our boys, who were 7 and 8, a loaf of bread. That’s what he did. Gave away bread.”

The man said he’s never forgotten Brother Benno, and he knows that whenever he needs something, Brother Benno’s is the place to come.

(Brother Benno died in 1992 at the age of 82, but his spirit is felt throughout the Brother Benno family. You can learn much more about this kind monk in Harold Kutler’s book, Soup Soup Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen.)

Crafty Volunteer. We have a new volunteer who’s using her enjoyment of paper crafting to make seasonal decorations for the Dining Room. Teresa Keith said she recently retired and finally has time to get involved. She sometimes gets help from her husband Bob, and she said, “I always get help hanging banners from an enthusiastic Program Member.”

Teresa also volunteers in the Clothing Room two mornings a week, and any other time she’s needed.

Lou Bales, husband of Dixie Bales, died on July 9 at age 93, less than five months after Dixie’s death in February. Although Dixie was the powerhouse at Brother Benno’s, Lou was often at her side at many of our events, large and small. Harold Kutler especially remembers Lou for his impersonation of Elvis. It didn’t take much to get him up in front of a group, wearing Elvis clothing and wig, and singing Elvis songs. “Everyone really got a kick out of him,” Harold said. “He had a great smile, a real sense of humor, always upbeat.”

We offer our condolences to Lou’s family.

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“No one is an island, entire of itself; everyone is a piece of the continent.”

~ John Donne (paraphrased)

Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu
SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE TO OTHERS

Three groups of volunteers come to the Brother Benno Center on Thursday mornings, bringing their unique needs and gifts. They are adults with disabilities, and the tasks they perform help us—and themselves—as well.

The three groups are Easter Seals, Employment and Community Options (ECO), and Life of Liberty. The goals of all three are to give their clients job experience, a feeling of worth, and a chance to interact with the community.

Jess Fine of Easter Seals said they send out three or four young men and one staff member to different non-profits every day. They take public transportation—bus or Sprinter—between locations, giving them another opportunity to practice independence. At our Center, their typical task is to wrap utensils into napkins for the daily meal provided to our Guests.

Alex Ritz, a staff member at ECO for more than four years, said the men he works with—ages 22, 26, and 47—have a great spirit and positive attitude. “They surprise you with how they can overcome their difficulties,” he said. Their job at the Center is to decorate lunch bags and make banners that hang in the dining room. It turns out that Mark, the 22-year-old, is quite an artist. Carol Muehe, one of our volunteers, happened to notice one day that he had drawn a picture of Brother Benno, copied from a picture on the wall. “It was a perfect likeness,” she said.

Arriah Howard, a support staff member at Life of Liberty, said they currently have 50 men and women in their program, ranging in age from 20 to 70. At their office, he teaches English and Science; and he also accompanies groups of four to various non-profits.

“It helps the clients to learn to communicate with others, and to adapt to the general population,” he said. “It’s a great experience for them, and they like to do it.”

Ω

living conditions of the homeless frequently result in mental illness, and that services provided by Brother Benno’s improve these conditions.

Also, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of several donors, Brother Benno’s kitchen now has two shiny, new major appliances—a tilting skillet (braising pan) and a tilting steam kettle. The new kettle can boil 60 gallons of water in ten minutes! Now, that will make A LOT of pasta for our Saturday Spaghetti Lunches!

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WOMEN’S RECOVERY PROGRAM ADDS NEW HOUSE

Brother Benno’s just opened its third Women’s House, this one serving as a transitional house for women who have completed our Recovery Program but aren’t quite ready to be on their own. They can stay up to six months if needed.

The Women’s Recovery Program began in August 2014, patterned after the long and successful Men’s Program. Each House can accommodate seven women.

The original two Houses for women in the Program are MAMI (Martha Ann Mary and Ida) and DBRJ (Dorothy Barbara Rosemary and Joan). The new House is BDV (Blanche Dixie and Virginia). Almost all of these women who have been honored by the House names were or are currently active as Brother Benno volunteers.

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
Another successful “Christmas in July” fundraiser at the Outback was held, which will ensure funds for gifts to all registered families at the Center’s Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17! This is when Auxiliary members hand out goodies to a lot of smiling faces, all in the season-al spirit of giving.

Thank you, Eileen Ciganko, for co-chair-ing this event, and thank you to everyone involved for being there or helping in so many ways, including those who donated money for the many meals enjoyed by those in uniform who frequently help at the Center and the Thrift Shop. It was truly a joyous mid-year occasion to give thanks while eating!

Since this has become an annual event for us, credit must go to Janice Koehler, Proprietor of the Oceanside Outback, who provides the facility, and to all her wait staff who work for tips only for our event! We could not accomplish all this “good” without you! Thank you once again!

If you have never been to the Prince of Peace Abbey, this is your chance. We will meet there–650 Benet Hill Road in Oceanside–on Tuesday, August 30, for 11 a.m. Mass (optional), noon lunch in the monks’ dining room, a guided tour of the Abbey by retired Abbot Charles, who will tell us about Brother Benno, and time to browse in the gift shop.

Mail your check for $15 per person to Joan O’Connell, 2841 Andover Avenue, Carlsbad 92010, to reserve your space. We are limited to 40 people in the dining room. Bring your summertime visitors to see this Oceanside jewel on the hill!

Members who have not picked up their 2016 directories at our meetings, please call Carol (760-757-5212) to see about getting one.

Board members have been very busy with a project to update all of our bylaws, and we will have more information for you about this very soon.

VP Nita Rodriguez (760-994-0355) has formed a tech group so we can improve our levels of communication with members in new ways. New member Belinda Smith is now our teaching “techie.” Thank you, Belinda!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 24 (4th Wednesday), and our mini-speaker will be Helen Parsons, who will tell us about her bi-coastal life and her long-term involvement as a Brother Benno Foundation Board Member, as well as the Thrift Shop management/operations. Be here at 1 p.m. for social time with snacks, and 1:30 for the meeting. Guests are always welcome. Hope to see you here!

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Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie Bales
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 Farquar
William & Vennita
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
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Michael & Monty
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Pope John Paul II
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pfau
Ruth Hazel Pierson

Alan Port
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
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Nysewander Family
Squirrell Family
Rose & Floyd
Caldwell
Clay
Bernie Weiler
Alice & Clyde
Carlson
Mary & Joseph
Opaliewicz
Fred Hilton
Jim Smith
Caroline Dusak
Rosalinda O’Brien
Larry & Joan Lieux
Catherine & Joe
Martina
Freddie & Florence
Turk
Ruth Kahn

In Honor Of
Deacon William
Zondler II

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY
Richard & Mary
Hochleutner

Needs
Gently used furniture
Diapers
Men’s jeans
Reading glasses
Men’s belts
Sturdy walking shoes for men and women

August 2016
Brother Benno’s Newsletter

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
August
2016

1
St. Elizabeth
Seton #1

2
St. John The
Evangelist

3
Brother Benno’s
Auxiliary

4
Oceanside Pacific
Kiwanis

5
San Luis Rey
Mission

6
St. Thomas More

8
North Coast
Methodist

9
Team Wyndham

10
1st MLG FCPOA

11
Oceanside
Civitans

12
St. Patrick’s

13
Riverview
Church

15
Sunrise Kiwanis
of Vista

16
Christ the King
Lutheran

17
Grace Anglican

18
Carlsbad Rotary

19
St. Elizabeth
Seton #2

20
Girlfriend’s Care

22
Christ Church

23
St. Mark’s San
Marcos

24
San Luis Rey
Methodist

25
Pilgrim Creek

26
Sonrise Christian
Fellowship

27
Catholic
Daughters

29
Oceanside Pacific
Kiwanis

30
Welk Resort

31
Soroptimist
International

Furniture Sales at the Center
3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
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

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<tr>
<th>Brother Benno’s Services:</th>
<th>June 2016</th>
<th>Our 32nd Year</th>
<th>June 2016</th>
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