

# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

August 2016



## 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,

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**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 Soap 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](mailto: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.”

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showers, and other services to those in need. The grant was awarded in recognition of the fact that

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.

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**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 Carol Sanford

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 seasonal spirit of giving.

Thank you, **Eileen Ciganko**, for co-chairing 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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**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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	Louise Foussat	Alan Port	Caldwell
Dixie Bales	Joe & Ida Friend	Mary Pullman	Clay
Frank Barnet	Mary Gerrity	Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernie Weiler
Brother Benno	Bob Gleason	Dora Ramirez	Alice & Clyde
Edith Blaiser	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Carlson
Andrea Boersma	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Mary & Joseph
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Opatiewicz
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Fred Hilton
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Jim Smith
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Caroline Dusak
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Rosalinda O'Brien
Mary Teresa Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Mike Stendahl	Larry & Joan Lieux
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Margaret Stephan	Catherine & Joe
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Martina
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mother Teresa	Freddie & Florence
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Harold Thompson	Turk
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty Nares	Rosemary Tucker	Ruth Kahn
Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Walter Ulloa	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Bud & Blanche Ogle	June Williams	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ben Osgrove	Fred Williamson	Deacon William
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Pope John Paul II	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Zondler II
Myron Eichen	Kathryn D. Pent	Nysewander Family	<b>HAPPY</b>
Richard Farhquar	Mary Peterson	Squirrell Family	<b>ANNIVERSARY</b>
William & Vennita Flanagan	Jane Pfau	Rose & Floyd	Richard & Mary
	Ruth Hazel Pierson		Hochleutner

### Needs

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

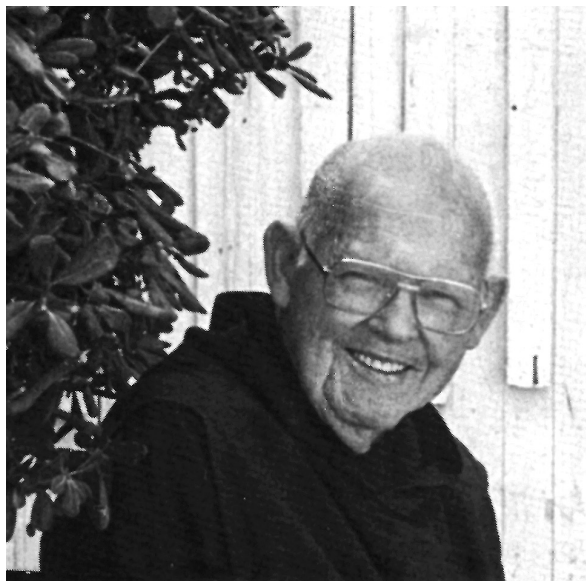
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August</b>	<b>1</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>2</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>3</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>4</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>5</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>6</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2016</b>	<b>8</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>9</b> Team Wyndham	<b>10</b> 1st MLG FCPOA	<b>11</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>12</b> St. Patrick's	<b>13</b> Riverview Church
<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> Christ Church	<b>23</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>24</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>25</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>26</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>27</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>29</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>30</b> Welk Resort	<b>31</b> Soroptimist International			
<b>Schedule</b>						

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



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	June 2016	Our 32nd Year		June 2016	Our 32nd Year
Meals	13,045	3,913,269	Loads of laundry	27	27,386
Nights of lodging	884	276,094	Food packs	1,466	301,012
Articles of clothing	5,730	1,196,395	Blankets	107	40,422
Showers	1,184	220,804	Tarps	74	1,302
Haircuts	113	20,323	ID Vouchers	5	8,847
Bus passes	122	80,871	HUGS	1,800	922,594