Brother Benno’s Newsletter
“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference
August 2019

WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF HOMELESSNESS

By Frank Doherty

Brother Benno’s continues doing its part to help manage the problems of chronic homelessness in our community. Recognizing that many people have legitimate concerns regarding the impacts of homelessness, this article is directed at channeling the focus from fear to the tangible actions that are being taken to address these problems. We at Brother Benno’s continue to improve how we approach this difficult challenge.

Brother Benno’s serves a broad cross-section of the poor and homeless. Our chronically homeless (those without permanent housing for one year or more) represents an estimated 15-20 percent of the population we serve. Eighty percent are the working poor, which includes children. We serve a hot meal at the Center to an average of 165 people per day, six days a week; and we provide about 750 food boxes a month to families, the elderly, and those with disabilities to insure that they are not suffering from hunger.

Since much of the food we give out comes from the San Diego Food Bank, we cannot deny food to anyone, except in cases where the Oceanside Police have identified the people they believe are capable of creating serious problems in the community.

We cannot broad-brush our poor and homeless population with the same restrictions or solutions. We try to focus on people living on the margins who are in great need of guidance—for example, mothers with children who are living in their car. We also estimate that 20-30 percent of the homeless men and women we see have mental health issues that we cannot resolve, but we believe they have the right to be fed.

The issues and problems of homelessness can often be best addressed by the involvement of our Staff (including assessments from the leaders of our drug and alcohol recovery program), outside social workers, Oceanside Police Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), and family members.

The Brother Benno Recovery Program, which is based on AA, can accept up to 50 men and women who are given room and board for 26 weeks without cost to them. In exchange, they are required to work at the Brother Benno Center, our Recovery Houses, and/or the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

The vast majority of the people we serve are just people in need, with very few places to turn. Without Brother Benno’s, the Food Bank, the HOT Team, and other charities, there would be many more desperate people struggling to survive.

We estimate that Brother Benno’s takes approximately 200 people off the street each year as a result of our Recovery Program and our emergency services assistance program that helps with rent and utility bills on a one-time basis. Our donors and our Auxiliary, with their fundraising efforts, make it possible for us to do what we do.

So much of what we hear about the homeless generates fear; and while we need to be aware of the potential problems they may cause, working together seems to hold the best hope for the future. We at Brother Benno’s have helped a tremendous number of people regain their dignity and find a pathway to a successful life. If you would like to see first-hand what goes on at our Center, you are invited to take our tour on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m.

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A chance meeting in a local store between a Brother Benno volunteer and a generous seamstress is the basis for the kind of story that makes us believe there are no coincidences in life. Judy McCaffrey often buys items she knows we need at Brother Benno’s and donates them. Sometimes she buys baby diapers; and because she’s beyond the age of someone who normally buys them, a woman next to her struck up a conversation, probably thinking Judy was buying them for a grandchild. Judy explained that she buys them for Brother Benno’s, and the woman said, Oh, I know about Brother Benno’s!

One thing led to another, and by the time they both left the store, Judy learned she had been talking with Josie Castro, a woman who loves to sew–her current project being pillows in the shape of turtles. She said she had a whole closetful of turtles, and did Judy think Brother Benno’s would like to give them to the children who come to the Center.

Over two months or so, Judy and her husband John* have made several trips to Josie’s house to pick up a load of turtles. They’re being stored in the “Christmas Room” at the Center and will be given to the children at our annual Christmas Party.

I’ve had the pleasure of speaking with Josie on the phone, and she mentioned that her husband Paul helps with the creation of these cuddly pillows. “We work together in the garage–we and our dogs. It’s a joint project.”

Each pillow is one-of-kind and very colorful, but unfortunately, our black-and-white pictures don’t do them justice, so just imagine that the one on the left is various shades of blue, and the one on the right is yellow in the middle and green around the edges.

We never know how or when our next “angel” will show up to add to the giving spirit that is synonymous with Brother Benno’s. Harold and Kay Kutler started out with one goal in mind–to be of service to the poor and homeless–and now, 35 years later, those who follow them are still doing the same.

* (Judy and John McCaffrey are on a serving team, and John also gets the newsletter set up on the computer and sends it to the printer, the web site and email.)
GRATEFUL MAN GIVES KUDOS TO BROTHER BENNO’S

Rudolph Ferguson wants people to know that Brother Benno’s has “incredible resources” and has helped him get back on his feet. He listed things like the hot meal every morning, fresh clean clothing, showers, blankets, and a place where he can get his mail. He’s also been referred to other agencies where he can get help not available at Brother Benno’s.

“I’m a nomad, living in my car,” he said, then explained that he’s been living on the streets for half of his 56 years. He had a dysfunctional family—alcoholic mother, no father, moving from state to state all his growing-up years—circumstances that required him to become resourceful in order to survive.

When Rudolph arrived in Oceanside several months ago, he approached other homeless people and asked where he could get some help. “We take care of each other,” he said, “and as long as you approach someone with good intentions, they’re more than willing to tell you where help is available. “Everyone said, ‘Brother Benno’s!’”

He’s willing to work and has often had good jobs, but physical problems make it difficult for him to do the type of work he’s qualified for. He was recently employed at a golf course as a maintenance man, but he was injured on the job. Workman’s Comp provided him with some physical therapy; but in order to really correct the problem, he’d need a $2,500 shot once a week.

At the time of this interview with Rudolph, he was unsure of what lies ahead for him. But until he finds answers to problems that would be considered monumental for many people, he’s grateful that the kindness of Brother Benno’s is available to him.

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HELP WANTED IN ACCOUNTING & GRANT WRITING

Brother Benno’s needs a new volunteer to join our accounting team for 5-10 hours per week. We are looking for someone with a strong accounting background with experience using QuickBooks desktop and Excel software. If you are interested, please call Dan Boone or Todd Emerson at 760-231-1689.

We also need volunteer Grant Writers and a Grant Data Base Administrator. These positions are part-time and may be performed at the Brother Benno Center or from home. Please call Frank Doherty at 760-804-1948.

Christmas in August?

Many supporters sent $25 Walmart gift cards to the Brother Benno Auxiliary during their Christmas in July appeal for the children at our Christmas Party, and we thank you! But in case you didn’t get around to it, it’s not too late to send them to Brother Benno’s Auxiliary, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. You can also drop them off at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop, 3955 Mission Avenue, Oceanside. They’ll also welcome checks, if you prefer that Auxiliary members do the shopping.

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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 Nita Rodriguez

JOIN US ON THE LINKS
Friday, September 27 to support the work of BROTHER BENNO’S!

The Auxiliary is busy behind the scenes preparing for our BROTHER BENNO GOLF TOURNAMENT at the Memorial Golf Course at Camp Pendleton*.

Registration includes lunch, golf, VIP bag drop-off and cart. Now thru September 1 $150/golfer - September 2 thru Sept 6, $175/golfer. Don’t golf? Consider sponsoring a military member’s play.

The Auxiliary will also be holding a Silent Auction at the tournament. Several contests and other special activities are scheduled as well. You can read more about the Tournament (and register online, too) at https://www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2019

Be a Golf Tournament Sponsor! A variety of Sponsorship Opportunities are still available for businesses, organizations and individuals. For more information, contact Nita Rodriguez via email at auxiliary@brotherbenno.org.

Our Auxiliary is all about serving and supporting the mission of Brother Benno’s and raising funds for the Brother Benno Foundation. At a recent meeting, we highlighted the many service activities in which Auxiliary members participate. These include serving breakfast to guests on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (our Breakfast Club coordinated by Thelma Hendrix and Kumiko Sycks), assisting at the Thrift Store 2 - 3 times each month (our Thrift Store Work Parties coordinated by Frank Cerimele), preparing Layettes for the working poor and homeless (coordinated by Mary Jamison), boxing food collected by the Postal Workers (coordinated by Eileen Cignako) and collecting gift cards/donations for the Children’s Christmas Party (coordinated by Marilyn Callender). As of July, Auxiliary members have donated 1340 hours of volunteer time in service, support, and fundraising. We know we’re going to beat the goal we set for ourselves this year and best of all, we are having fun!

The next Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, in the Brother Benno Center Dining Room - 1:00 pm for snacks, 1:30 pm meeting. All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

Attending a meeting is a great way to hear about all our activities and connect with a wonderful community of caring people. Can’t attend a meeting but want to be a member? Call Sara Bussiere (760) 560-6089 for more information.

*THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST-MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, AND MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES DO NOT SUPPORT OR ENDORSE THIS GOLF FUNDRAISING EVENT.

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online: 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___________________________________ Donation $______________
Address_________________________________ Number of copies__________
City, State, Zip Code________________________
## Memorials

- Ron Alexander
- Dixie & Lou Bales
- Frank Barnet
- Brother Benno
- Edith Blaiser
- Andrea Boersma
- Roland Bond
- Bill Boster
- Agnus & Joan Boyd
- Bill Buckner
- Deacon Art & Mary 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 & Vennita
- Flanagan
- Louise Foussat
- Joe & Ida Friend
- Mary Gerrity

- Bob Gleason
- Chance Hales
- Tom Hayward
- Elizabeth Holms
- Alice Jordan
- Ben Kouns
- Richard Kurtz
- Carole Kutler
- Harold & Kay Kutler
- Bill & Louise Lakoff
- Ben E. Lewis
- Helen Lucas
- Bill & Joan Maloney
- Helene McGill
- Michael & Monty
- Nares
- Zeferino & Dancy
- Mary Nordstrom
- Nysewander Family
- Bud & Blanche Ogle
- Ben Osgrove
- 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
- Ann Grier Smith
- Alva & Frances
- Snider
- Squirrel Family
- Mike Stendahl
- Margaret Stephan
- Virginia Sylwestrzak
- Harold Thompson
- Carol & Herb
- Thornberg
- Rosemary Tucker
- Walter Ulloa
- June Williams
- Fred Williamson
- Marie Atkinson
- Alva & Fran Snider
- Peggy Miville
- Bob & Pat Fawls
- Tom Keane
- Bill Carruthers
- Fr. Joe Mullen
- Robert Buchach
- Frank Beeson
- Carl Streicher
- Floyd Atkinson
- Barbara LaMothe
- Carolyn Ross
- Molly Wilbur
- Steve Kocheran
- Clay Baze
- Agatha Johnson
- Mike Stendahl
- Joe Carver
- Donald Deffenbaugh
- John, Helen, & Matt Hagan
- George McCartney

### Happy Birthday

James Baker, Jr.

### Happy Anniversary

James & Jennifer Baker, Jr.

## Needs

- Gently used furniture
- Blankets

## Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 2019</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary</td>
<td>8 Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>9 St. Patrick's</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Riverview Church</td>
<td>14 Fairwinds</td>
<td>15 Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>21 Brother Benno's Auxiliary</td>
<td>22 Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>23 Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>St. Thomas More RCIA</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Vista Hi-Noon Rotary</td>
<td>28 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>29 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop</td>
<td>30 King of Kings Lutheran</td>
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<td>31 Shiloh Church of God in Christ</td>
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Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop
( Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Tue-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up

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:

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