



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.

TURTLE PILLOWS IN STORAGE, WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

by Barbara Ladwig

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.)

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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

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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Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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 (co-ordinated 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.

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Information & Online donations: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	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Tom Keane
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Dora Ramirez	Bill Carruthers
Frank Barnet	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Fr. Joe Mullen
Brother Benno	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Robert Buchach
Edith Blaiser	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Frank Beeson
Andrea Boersma	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Carl Streicher
Roland Bond	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Floyd Atkinson
Bill Boster	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Barbara LaMothe
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Harold & Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Carolyn Ross
Bill Buckner	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Ann Grier Smith	Molly Wilbur
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Alva & Frances Snider	Steve Kocheran
Anna Correia	Helen Lucas	Squirrell Family	Clay Baze
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl	Agatha Johnson
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helene McGill	Margaret Stephan	Mike Stendahl
Frank S. Dolley	Michael & Monty Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Joe Carver
Anita H. Donahue	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Harold Thompson	Donald Deffenbaugh
Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb Thornberg	John, Helen, & Matt Hagan
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	George McCartney
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	Happy Birthday
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	James Baker, Jr.
Myron Eichen	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson	Happy Anniversary
Richard Farhquar	Mary Peterson	Marie Atkinson	James & Jennifer Baker, Jr.
William & Vennita Flanagan	Jane Pfau	Alva & Fran Snider	
Louise Foussat	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Peggy Miville	
Joe & Ida Friend	Alan Port	Bob & Pat Fawls	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman		

Needs

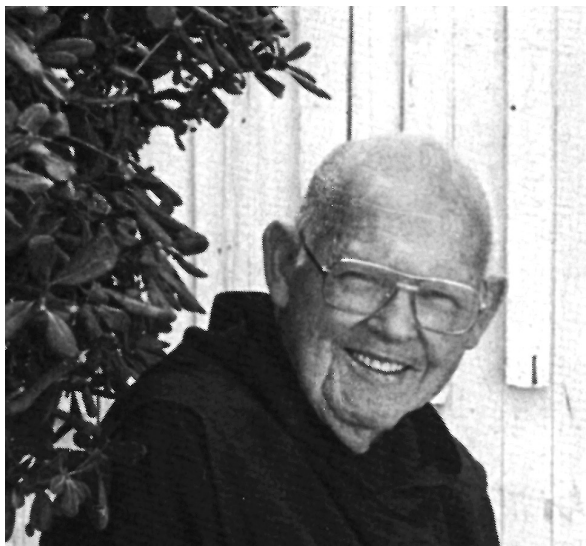
Gently used furniture

Blankets

August 2019 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitanis	9 St. Patrick's	10 San Rafael
	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Fairwinds	15 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	24 Catholic Daughters
	26 St. Thomas More RCIA	27 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Brother Benno's Thrif Shop	30 King of Kings Lutheran	31 Shiloh Church of God in Christ

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

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 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



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:

	June 2019	Our 35th Year		June 2019	Our 35th Year
Meals	12,379	4,381,756	Loads of laundry	39	28,417
Nights of lodging	851	308,412	Food packs	767	345,931
Articles of clothing	3,870	1,383,498	Blankets	108	46,944
Showers	1,021	262,477	Tarps	74	5,049
Haircuts	27	22,816	ID Vouchers	31	9,585
Bus passes	102	84,783	HUGS	2,250	993,694