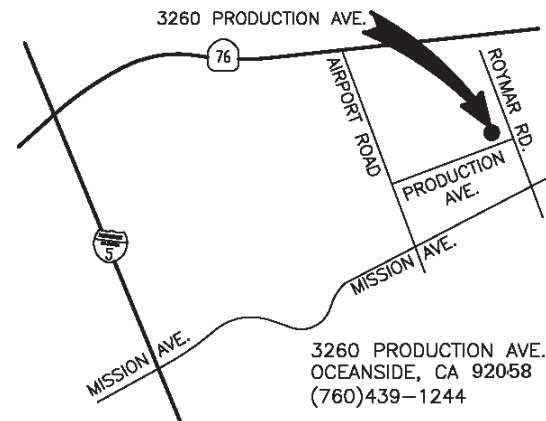


**Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation**

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, case-worker referrals, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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)



3260 PRODUCTION AVE.  
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058  
(760)439-1244

**Brother Benno's Services:**

	October 2010	Our 28th Year		October 2010	Our 28th Year
Meals	11,818	3,020,610	Loads of laundry	65	25,565
Nights of lodging	1,050	203,620	Food packs	2,321	147,126
Articles of clothing	4,080	839,185	Blankets	141	31,009
Showers	847	150,780	Prescriptions	37	6,146
Haircuts	186	11,861	ID Vouchers	5	8,070
Bus passes	104	73,599	HUGS	2,250	790,744

*Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.*

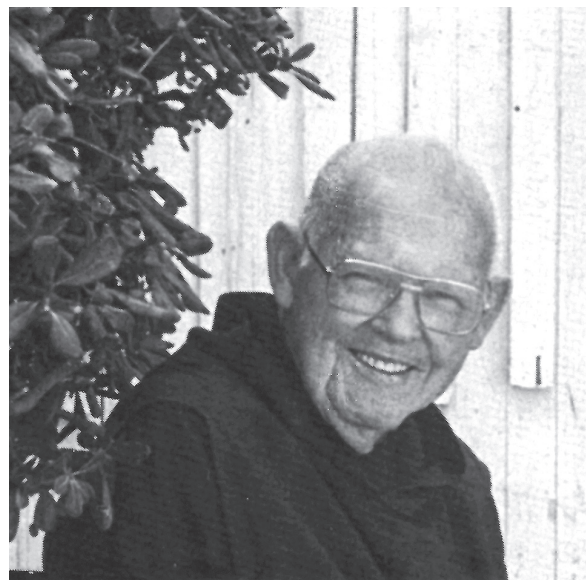
**The Thrift Shop**

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

December 2010



## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERWAY

We've celebrated Thanksgiving with our traditional feast for our guests, and Christmas activities are already in full swing. On December 4, a group from Edison International will make their annual trek to the Center to decorate the dining room, do crafts with the children, and assemble hygiene packs and beans and rice. Besides doing the work involved with these projects, they will also donate all the necessary items.

On December 8, there'll be a special luncheon for the Program Guys, with Subway Subs and homemade hot fudge for sundaes and banana splits.

Then on December 11, the Guys will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their loved ones. (They shop, but they don't have to pay). All the items are donated and are appropriate for the women and children in their lives. "We gather gifts and set up a pretty 'store' in the Conference Room," said **Helen Parsons**, who oversees the project. Girlfriends Care will provide a personal shopper for each man, and they'll also do the wrapping and set up an area where the guys can write out Christmas cards. "I'll mail the packages wherever they want," Helen added. "It is just a great joy for me to be able to bring this together for the guys!"

Genentech in Oceanside is collecting toys for teenage boys this year and will be delivering them to the Center before the 22nd, when we will be having our big toy giveaway.

**If you'd like to help with the following pre-Christmas activities, please call 760-439-1244, ext. 107 asap:**

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## OUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

The list of needs at Brother Benno's might sound rather repetitive to regular newsletter readers, but they're a reality that our guests seem to face every day. If you're thinking about giving something a little extra during the Christmas season, we'd like to suggest the following items, more or less in the order of greatest need:

**Rain ponchos (good prices at 99-cent and Dollar stores)**

**Men's underwear, socks, shoes**

**Jackets**

**Gloves and knit caps**

**Sleeping bags**

**Hygiene items**

**Reading glasses**

**New toys & other children's gifts, unwrapped**

No donation is too small. One pair of socks or underwear can be a godsend to a guest who has none. And how comforting is a knit cap on a cold and rainy day!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

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## IT'S A SHOPPING BONANZA!

Brother Benno's Furniture Warehouse, which also stocks beautiful gift items from a large estate donation, is bursting with excellent values. Stop in Monday through Saturday, 9 to noon. You'll be amazed at the selection and will surely find more than a few perfect Christmas gifts. The warehouse is right next-door to the Center on Production Avenue in Oceanside. As an extra bonus, you'll know that the profits are turned right back into services for the poor and homeless.

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Caring In a Big Way.** Girlfriends Care has been a big supporter of Brother Benno's for years. Many of the things they do are for the women and children in our shelters. Recently I saw an array of pretty gift bags in **Mary Robinson's** office, each filled with "girl things" like lotions, scarves, books, journals, nail polish, and one of their signature items: a hand-made prayer pillowcase in lovely colors. And for children, small stuffed animals, books, and a pillowcase. These bags are placed on the bed for each new resident at MAMI (the House of Martha Ann Mary and Ida) and DBRJ (the House of Dorothy Barbara Rosemary and Joan). It's a silent but powerful message: We Care About You.

At the October meeting of Girlfriends Care, a boutique was set up for the members to buy gently used clothing and accessories. The proceeds of \$405 will pay for things like school books, work necessities, haircuts, bus vouchers, undies, etc. to help the women once again become self-sufficient.

**Lifted Up.** On a busy Tuesday morning at the Center, I sat down with three women who were waiting to check in at the Intake office, and I asked them why they came to Brother Benno's. One woman said, in a matter-of-fact way: "They feed me when I'm broke." Another said she was a volunteer here in the late 70's, but now she was in need of help. "They treat you like *people*," she said. "They lift you up, they don't beat you down." Explaining her dark glasses and long cane, she told me she lost her vision in 2004. "But I'm OK," she said. "I learned Braille, so I can still read my Bible. And I'm going to teach my grand-kids Braille, too. I can do that."

**A Teen's Outreach.** The *North County Times* alerted me to the fact that a Boy Scout, **Daniel Wille**, completed the requirements to earn his Eagle Award by building a fence at one of Brother Benno's Houses this past summer. **Thomas Hague**, a Servant of the Poor who lived at the House, said that Daniel organized the project and oversaw help from other boys in his troop. "He

worked very hard for three weekends," Thomas said, "and he not only replaced parts of the rotted fence, but also a damaged gate. Plus, he provided all the materials and tools and carted away the debris."

**Extra-Special Gifts.** Lighthouse Christian Church in Oceanside donated one hundred hand-knitted stocking caps. What a boon for our guests as winter settles in! And **Dr. Michael Willes**, an orthodontist in Carlsbad, gave us about 100 pounds of "buy-back" Halloween candy and a good supply of toothbrushes. "We 'buy' the candy from kids," said his wife **Heidi**, "and then donate it to Brother Benno's." She said they pay the kids about a dollar a pound, and they match that amount to each child's school as well. They've done this for twelve years in a row. Sounds like a win-win-win all around.

**With Gratitude.** I know I speak for everyone at Brother Benno's when I wish all our friends and supporters a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas. Remember, you make what we do possible by your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. **Merry Christmas!**

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**Monday, morning, December 20: sort and setup toys for distribution.**  
**Wednesday December 22, 8-11 or 12-3: hand out toys to families.**

The final celebration, always a special day at Brother Benno's, will be the big dinner on Christmas Day for the poor and homeless, who are our focus 365 days a year. Everything we do, and every decision we make, keep their needs in mind: how can we address their immediate situation, and how can we provide long-term solutions that will change their lives.

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## Memorials

Brother Benno  
 Pope John Paul II  
 Mother Teresa  
 Ann Sauer  
 Joe & Ida Friend  
 Mary Nordstrom  
 Myron Eichen  
 Alice Jordan  
 Roseanne Dreibelbis  
 Richard Farhquar  
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr  
 Don & Dorothea Daybell  
 Catherine L. Quinlan  
 Kathryn D. Pent  
 Mary Pullman  
 Joan Boyd  
 Agnus Boyd  
 Harold Thompson  
 Bud & Blanche Ogle  
 Bob Gleason  
 Jane Pfau

Ron Alexander  
 Mary Peterson  
 Frank Barnett  
 Frank S. Dolley  
 Phyllis H. Dierlam  
 Monty Nares  
 Margaret Rossini  
 Dorothy M. Donahue  
 Mary Teresa Carr  
 Ruth Hazel Pierson  
 Elizabeth Holms  
 Edith Blaiser  
 Ben Kouns  
 Bill Lakoff  
 Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver  
 Anita H. Donahue  
 Margaret Stephan  
 Bill Boster  
 Louise Foussat  
 Tom Hayward

Richard Kurtz  
 Helen Lucas  
 Bill & Joan Maloney  
 Dora Ramirez  
 Dick Riley  
 Bill Buckner  
 Mary Shankle  
 Walter Ulloa  
 Fred Williamson  
 Carole Kutler  
 Will Skinner  
 Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB  
 Fr. Luke Dougherty  
 Naomi Shelton  
 Florence Wakefield  
 John Malinowski  
 John Simpson  
 Ann Witherow  
 Frank Stasio  
 Stanley LaMonte

Josephine & Charles Campbell  
 Robert McCoy  
 Zeferino & Dancy Nares  
 Margaret Zachan Flo  
 Ken Holmes  
 Ben Lewis  
 Molly Beth  
 Dot Daybell  
 Doug Blanchard

## Birthdays

Leo Mangrobang  
 Chase Ali Gilbert Ryan

## Prayers For

Mark

## Needs

Aluminum cans for recycling  
 Diapers sizes 5 and 3

Canned corn, green beans, pinto beans  
 (See page 1 for more immediate needs)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 2010</b>			<b>1</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
<b>Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>	<b>6</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>5</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>7</b> Naval Hospital	<b>8</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>9</b> St. Patrick's	<b>10</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Friends from Vista	<b>15</b> Grace Anglican	<b>16</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Anthony Robbins Group
	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>24</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS
	<b>27</b> 5/11 Marines	<b>28</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>29</b> Soroptomists International	<b>30</b> Grace Anglican	<b>31</b> King of Kings Lutheran	

## Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**  
 To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org), click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.  
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

## SCHOOL TOUR MAKES HUGE IMPRESSION

Children sometimes say the most profound things. **Teresa Roberts'** seventh grade class at St. John the Evangelist School in Encinitas produced some gems in their thank-you letters to Brother Benno's after their field trip to the Center in September.

Board members **Helen Parsons** and **Mary Robinson** each took a group of the students on a tour of the facility, then organized them into work groups to sort books for the Reading Room and pack rice and beans. The following are excerpts from the children's letters, which were addressed to either Mary or Helen:

*"I can't believe that one person can help so many people! It really made me understand that anyone can make a difference. . . . It was truly an honor to meet Mr. Kutler. It was like being in the presence of a Saint!" P.*

*"I thought it (the tour) was a very fun, educational, and religious experience. . . now I feel the urgent need to go and help somebody out, or at least give away some of my toys. . . . I have everything I need and more. I have a shelf full, a closet full, a bookshelf full, a desk full. . . . So I have officially decided to try to stop whining about wanting more. Everything you said, and everything I saw, all had a really big impact on me." K.C.*

*"It made me appreciate the life I have and how blessed I am." E.M.*

*"I felt like when I was there that everyone felt loved and cared for. When it is Christmas, we (her family) always donate money to the poor. I now truly understand what a big difference it makes in these people's lives." M.B.*

*"You've taught me to be grateful and mindful for everything I have; and believe it or not, I am even appreciating my education more." P.H.*

*"I now would like to help out more and donate some of my things. (The tour) has helped me to not take things for granted. It has also helped me to treat my things better, because I am lucky to have them." A.S.*

*"I learned that I can be happy even if I am*

*down. Even though all those people were poor, they still had a smile of their faces." D.B.*

*"Now I know homeless shelters aren't just about feeding the poor. They have to do with becoming a family with everyone because we all are in God's family. We are all brothers and sisters. This has really interested me to do more community service for the poor." K.G.*

*"I was very impressed by the amazing story and past of the facility. I was so happy to know that you did it for no pay." N.S.*

*"I think it is really cool of you guys to help out so many people for free and volunteer your own time." R.M.*

*"While I was bagging beans, it made me feel good that I helped families get fed. It reminds me of how I need to be less greedy with my clothes and donate them to your guests." K.B.*

*"Thank you so much for giving me a tour of the place and giving me a chance to help others." M.S.*

*"I am so glad we have organizations like this where we can help out others. This field trip has gotten me excited to help out and volunteer at different places to help out people less fortunate than me." H.B.*

*"Packaging food for people was my favorite part, knowing that I just helped feed a hungry family." K.F.*

*"I thought it was incredible when you said that soon you would be serving your three millionth meal!" C.B.*

*"I thought you were a great tour guide! The love and commitment were amazing!" B.M.*

*"I can't believe you are 98% voluntary work. That is so cool that people want to come in and work for free." C.*

*"The scene of everybody working together was great. . . I think it is awesome, and what you and the (other) volunteers are doing for people is a miracle. . . . I definitely want to help donate food and other things you need, and I think it*

**continued on page 4...**

# AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

At the November meeting, members helped **Caroline Richards** assemble teen baskets for the Christmas gathering on December 22. After finishing the baskets, they were treated to a light lunch prepared by the Auxiliary Board. During the meeting, installation of offices for 2011 was led by **Dixie Bales**, past President; and **Vikki Ramey** gave the President's annual report.

"Thank you" is not enough for all the members and non-members who helped this year with all of our activities. It shows that people can and do make a difference, no matter the economic status. We hope that everyone who comes through the Brother Benno Center and Houses will find the hugs and love needed by all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

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....continued from page 3

would be great if we started a fundraiser here at St. John." J.M.

"Wow! You guys are awesome! Giving so much of yourselves to the homeless is amazing. Those people must be soooo grateful God put them in your loving hands. I must admit I was a little scared at first, but now I want to help out. Knowing that you are willing to help makes me know that God is with all those homeless people. When I'm older, I want to make a difference in the world like you." C.S.

"I would love to help out again. Maybe when I am in high school, I can spend community hours there. . . . My mom and I will soon be visiting with all the books we are done with." M.I.

Mary Robinson invites any school or other youth group to take a tour of the Center. "(The responses from the St. John's students) prove how important it is to expose kids to outreach," she said. She noted that students can't volunteer without adult supervision, but instead, they can hold drives to collect things like socks, food, or new toys. **Please call Mary (760-439-1244, ext. 106) for more information.**

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## Information & Online donations

**brotherbenno.org**

### 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>

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_