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 support, 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

Brother Benno’s Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>October 2011</th>
<th>Our 29th Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>12,882</td>
<td>3,170,798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>1,134</td>
<td>218,147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>4,330</td>
<td>891,657</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>161,419</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>13,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>75,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loads of laundry</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>175,938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescriptions</td>
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<td>6,722</td>
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<td>ID Vouchers</td>
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<td>8,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUGS</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>814,144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in San Diego had presented a certificate to Harold earlier in the week that said: “Congratulations on your nomination for the 2011 San Diego County Veterans Allegiance award. Your dedicated support to the veterans is well documented and greatly appreciated by the entire San Diego veterans community.”
Experienceing the Brother Benno Scene

by Barbara Ladwig

Wanna Play? Men, if you enjoy playing pool or poker, you might like to volunteer at Vista Village, an assisted living facility in Vista, which is one of Brother Benno’s beyond-the-Center programs. Heather Pine, who’s been active in this program since last May, is even teaching a cooking class there! To volunteer, please call Denise Seymour (760-439-1244, ext. 107).

Mailing List and Cards. Brother Benno’s acknowledges every monetary gift received, no matter the amount, because we appreciate all donations sent by our supporters. But sometimes we hear from people who would prefer not receiving the thank-you card, and we respect those wishes. If for any reason, you’d prefer not having us mail that thank-you, just let us know with a phone call or note. Your name will still be on the newsletter mailing list.

Another bit of help you can give us is to let us know when your mailing address changes, when someone on the mailing list has died, or if you’d simply like to be taken off the list. Mary Spitz comes in every Wednesday to keep our mailing list current. She’s a detail-oriented volunteer who’s a real gem!

More About Immersion. Individuals and groups continue to take advantage of our Saturday morning Immersion experience. It includes an overview of our services, a short video, a tour of the Center, and a meal with our Guests.

Cardboard Recycling.

“If just people to drop stuff off at the back of the Center,” he told me, “and I’ll put it in the right bins.” He’ll take scrap metal, all cans, plastics, cardboard, and pallets. Hours are the same as for all donations: Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8:15 to 12:30.

* It is the policy of the Brother Benno Foundation to respect the anonymity of our Program Members, present and past, in keeping with one of the basic traditions of the AA Twelve-Step program. Therefore, we use initials or aliases in all newsletter articles, and we refrain from publishing their pictures.

Coincidence or ?

Tom von Betticher was about to leave the Center to buy turkeys for Thanksgiving, when a call came in from Jim and Kathy Caputo, who said they’d be delivering 40 turkeys that morning.

Specific Cold-Weather Needs. Usually our requests for clothing for our Guests are pretty general, like: men’s pants, socks, jackets. But after talking with Karen Mehlick, who oversees our Clothing Room, it might be helpful to spell out some specifics that she has figured out over the years.

For our homeless Guests, Karen suggests the following: Pants—jeans, work pants, and sweat pants. Jackets and sweatshirts—casual and warm, and hoodies are especially popular. Socks—warm, athletic-type. Shoes—athletic. They will go all support and strong soles. Caps—all kinds are appreciated, but those that are tightly knit and close-fitting are the most serviceable. Gloves— with fingers, lightweight, tightly knit.

Karen said, “Everyone is so generous, and we are very grateful for everything,” but she went on to explain why she is so specific with our needs, especially for the homeless. They will walk up to 20 miles a day, she said; therefore also strong continued on page 3....

Brother Benno’s Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
KNITTING PROJECT GROWS

by Jean McMath

In April of 2011, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside had an original goal of knitting maybe 25 scarves by the fall to be donated to Brother Benno’s. However, in early October, church members blessed more than 125 scarves and 45 hats! More of both have come in since then from church members and also from other knitters and crocheters in the area and beyond.

What I love most about this project is the diversity of sources. Not only have the ladies in our Prayer Shawl group made scarves, but some have also come from women in my Bible Study group, as well as from friends who have seen me knitting wherever I go. A large number of the hats came from a lady in the drama group in Oceana where I live, when she saw me knitting one at a meeting one evening. My daughter Valerie, who lives in Thousand Oaks, used to make scarves for the military, but now she sends them to Brother Benno’s, since the military no longer needs them.

Most surprising of all is the number of beautiful scarves and hats contributed by several ladies from the La Jolla Braille Institute, who said they are so pleased to be doing something really worthwhile. I learned that many of the women are “legally blind,” not totally blind, so they could appreciate the photo I sent them of the blessing of the scarves and hats at church.

After the article about this project appeared in the Brother Benno newsletter, at least four local ladies donated yarn or asked about specifications for the scarves. You can still donate yarn, scarves, or hats by dropping them off at the Center clearly marked “For Clothing Room.”

Another interesting “aside” to this knitting project occurred when I was knitting in a doctor’s waiting room. A lady asked me what I was making (amazing what a conversation-starter this project has been!), and I told her. She asked me more about Brother Benno’s, so I gave her a few highlights. It turned out she had three big bags of clothing for little girls in the back of her car that her daughter had given her after cleaning out some closets. She gave the bags to me to bring to Brother Benno’s. You just never know . . . .

Ω

....continued from page 2

shoes and heavy socks are a must. They deal with the wet and cold for months, so warmth and durability are important. Hoodies are great, because they provide warmth on the neck and head. With gloves, they have to be able to zip or button a jacket, or open up a backpack, so thick ski gloves or mittens don’t work very well. However, if that’s what you have to donate, they can be given to our non-homeless guests, who have less stringent needs.

As we finished our conversation, Karen showed me the bins where they keep the socks and gloves. They were almost empty. She pointed to the section of the room where men’s pants are hung, and most of the meager supply were dress pants. Again, some men need them, but the most urgent need is for the casual types.

If you’d like your donations to go specifically to the Clothing Room, please mark the bag accordingly in big, black letters. And as always, thank you so much for your response to the needs of our Guests.

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“...continued from page 2

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“I always wondered why somebody didn’t do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.”

~ Lily Tomlin

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
A big thank-you to all our members and supporters for attending the Auxiliary’s Annual Luncheon on December 3. We can’t do it without you; you always help make it successful. We’ll have more details in the January newsletter.

A reminder to all members who are helping serve refreshments during the Christmas toy give-away on December 22. Don’t forget to be there, and thank you for your time.

2012 Events:
Auxiliary meeting on January 25, 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting.
Membership Drive Luncheon in February.
Applebee’s Flapjack Breakfast Fund-Raiser on March 17.

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...

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