



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

## Interdenominational Volunteers Making a Difference in This World

December 2012

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### HOMELESS WOMAN IS “SAVED” BY CONCERN OF OTHERS

We know at Brother Benno's that the stereotype of a homeless person is no longer valid. He or she may look like your next-door neighbor, or the person you sit next to in church, or the man or woman who waits on you at a store.

“Norine” is one of those untypical homeless people. A 70-year-old widow, she lived in a nice apartment free of charge because she was the manager there for many years. Then the owner hired a management company; and just like that, Norine was without a place to live. She moved in with one of her children, but the spouse didn't want her there. Social Security, her only income, wouldn't stretch to cover rent as well as other expenses, so she started living in her truck with her dog.

She finally ended up at a freeway rest area, where she could park for ten hours at a time. About a dozen other homeless people park there regularly, and they kind of look after each other. After a while, they noticed that Norine wasn't moving her truck to avoid the after-ten-hours ticket; in fact, she was just sitting in the driver's seat most of the time. When they checked to see how she was doing, they could tell she wasn't well. That's when they encouraged her to come to Brother Benno's and get help.

It took Norine a while to get up the nerve to come to the Center. She'd never been in a position to need help before, and she was reluctant to ask, in spite of her need. Her neighbors at the rest area kept encouraging her, and she finally came in.

**Kathy**, the volunteer who talked to her,

was very gentle, sensing the woman's discomfort. She got enough information to realize that Norine needed to see a doctor, and she scheduled an appointment, which was covered by Medicaid. She also encouraged her to come to the Center for breakfast, which Norine has done several times a week. And most importantly, Brother Benno's was able to connect her with Dreams for Change ([dreamsforchange.org](http://dreamsforchange.org)), an organization that helps homeless people in two important ways: one, they work to set up safe parking lots where the homeless can park free; and two, they get people into long-term shelters or affordable housing.

“She looks like a different person now,” Kathy said. The doctor was able to straighten out her medications. She was using a walker or a cane at first, and now she walks unaided. On October 31, Brother Benno's gave her a \$20 voucher for gas—her truck was running on fumes, and her Social Security check wasn't due for a few days.

Kathy summed up her encounter with Norine in this way: “What Norine needed most, I believe, is the community support (the other homeless people at the rest area) and encouragement to get herself out of her depression enough to actually go to the doctor. What was so wonderful to see was the support and concern shown by (them). This seemed to be a true full-circle moment—our donors' charity and love, shared with Guests, who then paid it forward and became concerned about Norine.” She added that donors need to know that their donation—in this case \$20—can make a huge difference in the lives of those we serve.

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Miracle Time?** We need 500 pairs of new men's sturdy socks before December 8. Yikes! Can we pull that off?

**Christmas Prep.** Carlsbad Senior Girl Scout Troop 1011 cleaned and styled 70 donated Barbie dolls to be given out at Christmas time to some lucky little girls. Last year, these Scouts painted the furniture section of our Thrift Shop, served a Saturday meal, and helped pack Brother Benno trucks with the food donated through the Stamp Out Hunger program put on by postal carriers.

According to **Nancy Contrino** who works with the Scout troop, a Bible Study group from Carlsbad Community Church will sort and clean stuffed animals for Christmas giveaway. "I am hoping that I can get this group to help in other ways, too," she said.

**Boo!** Walking into the Center on Halloween was "scary." I wish we could show you a color picture of these seven volunteers who outdid themselves in dressing for the holiday! Just



imagine orange, green, pink, black, blue, and "multi." It seems the crew never fails to do something to brighten the day for Guests and volunteers alike. (In case you're wondering, the gal with the ears and drum was the Energizer Bunny).

**Toys.** Just a reminder that if you plan to donate new toys that sell for around \$10 for our toy giveaway on December 19, it would be helpful if you could bring them to the Center or the Thrift Shop December 12. The Center is open from 8 to noon, Monday through Friday, to accept donations; and a truck will be parked out front on Saturday during the same hours. The Thrift Shop is open

Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Home for Sale.** A donor, in his will, gave his mobile home to the Brother Benno Foundation. This two-bedroom, two-bath home of 1,344 square feet is now for sale. It is a nicely maintained home in a quiet, well-kept, age-55-and-up mobile home park, the Rancho San Luis Rey Mobile Estates, in Oceanside. The park has a club house/rec room, pool, tennis courts, and RV/boat parking.

Anyone interested in more information is asked to contact the realtor, **Laura Bassett**, at 760-583-0851, or [laurabassett@cox.net](mailto:laurabassett@cox.net).

**Creative Generosity.** **Marty**, the Warehouse Manager, has been very impressed with **Roger Wildenstein** at Full On Recycling in Oceanside. Roger not only picks up all our recycled materials on a regular basis, but he goes a step further. He told Marty that some people drop off their stuff just to get rid of it, and they don't want the money. Roger keeps track of how much these items would be worth, and he gives that money to Brother Benno's. That's on top of the money for our own recycled materials. It's another creative and generous way to support Brother Benno's!

**The Language of Music.** **Barbara Dow** is a volunteer, involved with our outreach at Vista Village Senior Living, along with **Heather Pine** and **Luke Corcoran**. Barbara plays guitar and sings every Friday for the residents in the Generation Unit, which is for Alzheimer's patients. At the request of **Debbie Kavanaugh**, Activities Director, she also leads them in simple exercises between songs.

"I'd say about one-fourth of the people respond to me, saying they enjoy my music and even clapping sometimes," she said. She feels that's a pretty good percentage, given the difficulty of drawing out patients with this type of illness. Debbie praised all the Brother Benno volunteers for the invaluable service they provide, most of which would not be available without them.

### SERVANT OF THE POOR FINDS HER NICHE

Carol Muehe (pronounced Mee) became a Brother Benno volunteer even before she left her home in Illinois in December 2011. She was planning to spend a few months in Oceanside, visiting with her children and grandchildren who had left the Midwest earlier. She had just retired from her job in department at Walgreens; and know- want to keep busy while she was here, she searched the Internet for volunteer opportunities in Oceanside.



The information on the Brother Benno site immediately struck a chord with Carol, so she sent an email saying she'd like to volunteer. A few weeks later, she walked into the Center, expecting to have to wait to be given an assignment. But it happened that the Clothing Room was in dire need of help, and she was asked if she'd help out there—starting that day. Of course she would, she said; and that was the beginning of a fast journey from part-time helper to full-time Servant of the Poor.

In spring of 2012, Carol went back to Illinois to take care of some business, then moved permanently to Oceanside. As a Servant of the Poor, she oversees the sorting of items that come into the warehouse, then makes sure the Clothing Room, where the Guests “shop” for items, is well stocked. She also continues to help decorate the dining room, a job she took early on as well. On Wednesday mornings, she greets all the Guests as they come in for breakfast and hands out specially made up bags of candy or over-stocked items like shirts or flip-flops. (Occasionally a manufacturer will donate hundreds of items at one time, and storage space doesn't allow for us to keep them on hold indefinitely).

One of the duties that Carol especially enjoys is helping Program Members select “new” clothes, shoes, and bedding when they graduate from the Program and are ready to go back out on their own. They usually come to Brother Benno's homeless, with just the clothes they're wearing, so a new ward-

robe, modest as it might be, is something to be celebrated.

Two days a week, Carol helps at the Thrift Shop, and once a week she goes to Camp Pendleton with one of the Program Members to hand out food boxes. As if all these duties aren't enough, she is preparing to get her Notary Public license to use for in-house needs.

Other volunteers see Carol as someone who cares deeply about the people who come to Brother Benno's for help. Her quiet and sincere demeanor invites them to open up about their problems, and Carol loves being able to offer real solutions. “It's awesome, being a Servant of the Poor,” she said. “It allows me to be more involved, more connected with everyone here—the Guests, the Program Guys and other Servants of the Poor. I love it!”

In her “spare time,” Carol enjoys roller blading on The Strand or the San Luis Rey trail. She's also taken up knitting, spurred on by other volunteers who have been making gloves and scarves for Guests. “I'm still in the scarf-mode,” she said with a laugh. “I can't knit anything more complicated than that!”

From her first impression on the Internet to a full-time commitment, Carol has become a special blessing to the Brother Benno family.

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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 Vikki Ramey

The following Auxiliary members were installed as board members for 2013: **Vikki Ramey** and **Vera Bayliss**, Co-Presidents; **Linda Garvey**, Vice President; **Bonnie Gjerde**, Secretary; **Joan O'Connell**, Treasurer; **Karen Gallagher**, Adviser; **Thelma Hendrix**, Parliamentarian. Congratulations, Ladies!

The Annual Luncheon on December 1 was another successful event. We hope all who attended had a wonderful time—we couldn't have done this fundraiser without you. A big "Thanks" to those who put on this event: **Mary Vernaci** and **Vera Bayliss**, Luncheon Coordinators; **Judy Harris**, "Name Game"; **Maureen Tutino**, Opportunity Baskets tickets; **Sharon Tasker** and **Barbara Lebsock**, Opportunity Baskets; **Elizabeth Van Hunnick**, Door Prize donations; **Edith Jones** and **Karen Gallagher**, Silent Auction; **Mary Vernaci**, Centerpieces; **Vera Bayliss**, Luncheon Tickets; **Laurel Beale**, Celtic Harpist; **Alicia Sullivan**, Speaker; **Claire Carter**, Angel Page; **Pamela Langness**, Program/Tickets; and the many others who donated and sponsored this event. Special thanks to **Debra Ayala** and her staff at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa for their patience, understanding, and assistance with whatever we needed.

The Auxiliary held a drawing for a quilt in November, and the lucky winner was **Barbara Mullen**. We made \$489 on ticket sales for this quilt, and the money will be used for the Women's Houses.

**Alicia Sullivan** has been working on publishing an Auxiliary Cookbook/Humor Book.

With members' recipes and humor, the book is ready to go to print and will be available at the January 2013 meeting.

We hope the holidays will bring everyone happiness being with family and friends, and we pray for those less fortunate in our communities, that they will find happiness and peace in the near future. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

#### SAVE THE DATES:

- January 23 – First General Meeting of 2013 (note: there are 5 Wednesdays in January)
- March 2 – Membership Drive Luncheon (note: new date, details in next newsletter)
- March 16 – Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast Fund-raiser

### CHRISTMAS AT THE THRIFT SHOP

by Michelle Hoppe

A Christmas Boutique was opened at the Thrift Shop in early November and has been going strong ever since. A special group of elves worked tirelessly for weeks sorting, cleaning, and pricing decorations, collectibles, cards, ornaments, Nativ-ity sets, stockings, books, dishes, and more.

Three beautifully decorated trees and lighted garlands, along with Christmas music, make the holiday shopping experience special. Prices are very affordable and are included in the 20 percent off sale on Thursdays. Shop us first! Not only will you get a great deal, you will also help a good cause.

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**Information & Online donations**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorials**

Brother Benno  
 Pope John Paul II  
 Mother Teresa  
 Kay Kutler  
 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 Barnet  
 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 & Terry Riley  
 Bill Buckner  
 Mary Shankle  
 Walter Ulloa  
 Fred Williamson  
 Carole Kutler  
 Will Skinner  
 Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB  
 Fr. Luke Dougherty  
 Naomi Shelton  
 Rosemary Tucker  
 Ben E. Lewis  
 Roland Bond  
 Anna Correia  
 Geraldine Howard  
 Helene McGill  
 Andrea Boersma  
 Ben Osgrove  
 Alan Port  
 Martin Lilly, Jr.  
 Jeanne Nickel

John & P.J. Daheim  
 William & Vennita Flanagan  
 Mike Stendahl  
 Alice Condren  
 Sr. Martha Vega  
 Cherie's husband  
 Si Urban  
 Stanley LaMonte  
 Gilbert Brown  
 Dancy & Zeferino Nares  
 Norma Craig  
 Janice Harmon

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

James Shlemmer

**Needs**

Men's socks, gloves and underpants  
 Diapers (All sizes, especially 4 & 5)

Warm clothes like jackets, jeans & sweatshirts  
 Rain gear, ponchos

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 2012</b>						<b>1</b> St. Thomas More
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>3</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>4</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>5</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>6</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>7</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>8</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>10</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>11</b> Friends from Vista	<b>12</b> Naval Hospital	<b>13</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>14</b> St. Patrick's	<b>15</b> San Raphael
<b>Team</b>	<b>17</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>20</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>21</b> Grace Anglican	<b>22</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>23</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>24</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>26</b> Christ Anglican	<b>27</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>28</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>29</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>30</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>29</b> Shiloh Church of God In Christ

**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.

**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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:

	October 2012	Our 29th Year		October 2012	Our 29th Year
Meals	14,038	3,327,174	Loads of laundry	34	26,238
Nights of lodging	1,155	231,430	Food packs	2,622	208,002
Articles of clothing	5,525	949,371	Blankets	159	33,608
Showers	1,018	172,638	Prescriptions	9	7,090
Haircuts	116	14,608	ID Vouchers	15	8,338
Bus passes	105	75,998	HUGS	1,800	837,544

*Our services are the same for everyone  
without regard to race, religion, 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!!



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