

Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

December 2013



VOLUNTEER FINDS GUESTS COURAGEOUS

Bill Harper retired from two different careers before he found his way to Brother Benno's. For almost four years he's been a case manager, working with Guests needing assistance in paying their rent, utilities, or prescriptions.

At the suggestion of a friend, Bill had taken a Saturday tour of the Brother Benno Center, which is a prerequisite to

volunteering. He liked what he saw, so he decided to volunteer; but he wasn't given a specific job until he'd spent several months working in just about every area. He talked to **Harold Kutler** several times about what he was experiencing, and finally Harold asked him to talk to one of the case managers who'd be leaving soon.

Bill's second career had been as a social worker for eight years, helping the poor and disadvantaged, so he was sure he'd be comfortable doing similar work for Brother Benno's. And he's been doing it ever since.

"I've always had a special interest in the needs of the homeless," he said. "I like (being involved) here. I like being able to prevent someone from becoming homeless by giving them rental assistance. This work energizes me, takes me beyond myself, gives me a perspective on people who have virtually nothing but still are able to smile and pray and hope. They are terrifically courageous."



'TIS THE BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Thanksgiving decorations have come down to make room for the glorious celebration of Christmas at the Brother Benno Center. Maybe we're a little biased, but really—nobody does Christmas like Brother Benno's!

On December 8, the Program Members get to "shop" for their loved ones at a boutique set up at the Center. They can choose brand-new gifts for wives, children, or other special family members. And after they've made their selections, there'll be volunteers on hand to wrap the gifts for them.

Thrift Shop volunteers will have a party on the 15th; and on December 18, parents will come to the Center to pick up the new toys for their children—toys donated by our many kind friends. If you thought about donating a toy but didn't get around to it, please call Denise (760-439-1244, ext. 107) to see if there's still time to do so. We ask that they be unwrapped and in the \$20 range. Cash and/or gift cards are also welcome.

And finally, on December 25, our Guests will be served a scrumptious Christmas dinner.

Everyone at Brother Benno's appreciates and thanks all of you for your continuing support. Please say an extra Christmas prayer for all our Guests, and for all those who come to share the precious gift of self in service to others.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Recognition! The City of Oceanside presented a Proclamation to the Brother Benno Foundation on November 6 in honor of our 30th Anniversary. Shown in the picture are Mayor **Jim Wood**, **Harold Kutler**, Board Member **Daniel Boone** and his wife **Alma**.



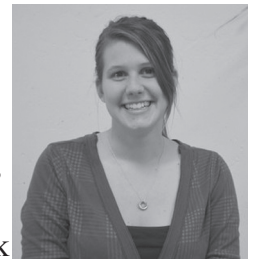
Great Shopping! We missed the news that the Brother Benno Thrift Shop was setting up a Christmas tree lot on November 22. It seems the staff continues to come up with new ways to make money for the benefit of the Foundation. Even though it's too late to buy a tree, remember that the shop is full of Christmas items—decorations, wrapping, wreaths, cards, stockings, and stuffed animals—and they also have tons of gently used items that would make wonderful gifts.

Kids Read. St. Patrick School in Carlsbad held a summer Read-A-Thon, with the proceeds earmarked for Brother Benno's. Volunteer and retired teacher **Linda Donahue** is shown with **Aileen Uetz** and **Joaquin Oades**, who each received a certificate of excellence for their participation. Many thanks to all the students who participated!



Faithful Donor. We never tire of saying Thank You to **Frank Grana**, who for twelve years has donated new children's underwear every Christmas. Even though he has help in gathering these much needed items, it's Frank himself who makes the effort every year. By the way, his step-daughter, **Michelle Hoppe**, is the Manager of our Thrift Shop!

Youthful Enthusiasm. Eighteen-year-old **Kayleen Bjorklund** is doing an internship at Brother Benno's for her Human Development class at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). She's usually at the Center from 6:30 to 10 every Monday, where she serves in the food line, walks around the dining room dispensing coffee or candy, or helps pack food boxes. And no matter what her task is, she loves to interact with the Guests.



She sees Brother Benno's as "home" to those we serve. "It's a place where they can be comfortable, be themselves, be accepted," she said. "There's a sense of community where everyone feels welcome."

After she completes the 15-20 hours of service required for her class, Kayleen said she plans to continue to volunteer. "I'll just keep coming!" she said.

Love Through Art. Volunteer **Joretta Worden** has painted many colorful signs and drawings for our Center. Here, she and **Carol Muehe** hold the sign that now graces the space above the Clothing Room, where Carol spends a good deal of her time. All of Joretta's artwork is upbeat and whimsical—the stuff that smiles are made of.



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Three Guests whom Bill has worked with stand out in his mind. The first was a woman named "Jill." She had been married to a successful man and belonged to the country club in La Jolla. When her husband's business failed, he made a startling decision—he closed out all their bank accounts, let their house go into foreclosure, and left a note for Jill saying that he was leaving her. She'd never paid any attention to their finances, so she had no idea that things had gotten so bad. With no warning, she was now homeless.

First Bill signed her up to receive services, such as food boxes. Then he strongly encouraged her to find a job. In spite of her former life style, he asked if she'd be willing to apply for a job at a McDonald's where he'd seen a Help Wanted sign. She said any kind of work was acceptable to her; she was in no position to be choosy.

Jill got the job, and Bill would sometimes go through the drive-in line just to say Hello and ask how she was doing. She always seemed upbeat, so he assumed her life was on an upswing. One day she wasn't there, and he never heard from her again; but he's hopeful that she continues to do well.

"Margie" was a very angry woman—her body language, and the way she yelled at her three children, spoke volumes. When Bill told her he could help with rent in order to avoid eviction, she screamed at him: "All you people do is talk, talk, talk! Nobody ever DOES anything!" At the same time, she was constantly yelling at the children, and they were yelling back. At one point, she turned her purse upside down, spilling the contents on the floor. "See? I don't have anything! Do you even see any coins there?"

Margie got up as if to leave, but Bill said that all her yelling wasn't going to get them anywhere. He asked Margie to step into an adjoining office, and he closed the door on his own office with the children inside. "Let them yell all they want," he said. "You and I need to talk."

Once Margie calmed down, she told Bill that she had a college education and had had a good job, but she'd been laid off. Besides assistance with

her rent, he saw to it that she got food boxes, bus passes, and access to the clothing room. And in spite of her previous behavior, she showed sincere gratitude for all the help she was getting.

One day Bill was walking through a Target store when he heard a woman behind him calling, "Mr. Bill, Mr. Bill!" He turned around and was pulled into a hug by none other than Margie. She told him she had a job, and he could see by her demeanor and the way she talked to him that she was a changed person.

"I got tears in my eyes," Bill said.

Once, Bill's passion for music helped him connect with a homeless man who was a regular at the Center. The man had been a classical pianist, but a series of complicated events led him into homelessness. Although Bill was never able to do anything to change the man's circumstances, he felt that their frequent conversations about music brought the man some pleasure and relief.

Bill Harper came to Brother Benno's in order to serve people in need. He graciously shares his skills and talents, and his reward is a feeling of purpose and satisfaction—the proverbial win-win situation.

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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 numbers are in for our Annual Luncheon—we raised \$22,089!! We couldn't have done it without all those of you who attended or who made donations of any kind. Many, many thanks!

Auxiliary members will be serving refreshments again this year when parents come to the Center on December 18 to pick up toys for their children. Please call **Denise** (760-439-1244, ext. 107) for scheduled times.

If you've ever heard the song, "Time to Say Goodbye," sung by **Andrea Bocelli** and **Sarah Brightman**, it's a classic. It is time for me to say Goodbye, too. After four years as Co-President of the Auxiliary, it's time to take a back seat and wait for the new Board to come in. I ask that you give the new Board members the attention and assistance they'll need. It has truly been a pleasure working with all of you. We've done a lot for the Auxiliary's goal, to continue maintaining the women's houses for those in need of rehabilitation and to rebuild their lives. Thank you for all your support, patience, and understanding. Even though it was challenging at times, something good was always the resolution. I wish all of you a healthy, loving Merry Christmas and most definitely a Happy New Year!

January 22, 2014 – Meeting

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furniture, shoes, food, time, or anything else, please know that we appreciate you and cannot survive without your generosity. Yours are the gifts that keep on giving. You are the ones who enable us to give the "flowers" (necessities) to all in need.

ALL ROSES, NO RASPBERRIES!

By Helen Parsons

All those who come to Brother Benno's to serve are indeed "servants of the poor." Needing to pay bills and buy necessities does not change the willingness to give! You deserve a rose for every act of kindness you have shown to our guests.

For our Auxiliary members: a mixed bouquet of roses, each representing your support, love, unselfish giving, commitment, and caring of so many who are in need. You are so appreciated!

To our Accountants: A field of roses for your faithful efforts to help Brother Benno's continue to serve the poor within the laws we are honor-bound to obey. Thank you!

For our Operations Managers and Staff: A long-stemmed perfect red rose to honor your perseverance and willingness to go forward as Brother Benno would have wanted us to.

For the Brother Benno Board of Directors: Daily deliveries of roses for your faithfulness to our mission.

To each volunteer who glues us all together by your support—roses every day of your lives! Serving meals, writing thank-you cards, putting together the newsletter, greeting guests, doing social work, sorting donations, reading to our children, operating our computers, driving our trucks, packing food boxes, cleaning the Center, hugging Guests—these are all blessings to our neediest.

To our past and present volunteers who are facing health issues: May memories of all you've done through the years to build our firm foundation and bring joy to our poor now warm your hearts like spring bouquets!

And last but not least, to our donors: Whether your donations are clothing, money, toys,

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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	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	James Johnson
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Nysewander Family
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Squirrell Family
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Alice Condren
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Dorothy Barnell
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Bill Pry
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Lois Seeger
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Marilyn Kracalik
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Bill Pollock
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Mike Stendahl
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Jeanne Nickel
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Robert McMath
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	William & Vennita
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Flanagan
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Floyd Caldwell	
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Gilbert Brown	
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Paul Collins	

Happy Birthday

Dr. Richard Shlemmer

Needs

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|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Gently used furniture | Diapers | Shaving cream | Disposable razors |
| Mouthwash | Toothbrushes | Small and large toothpaste | |
| Large boxes of Kleenex | New socks | Men's and Women's deodorant | |

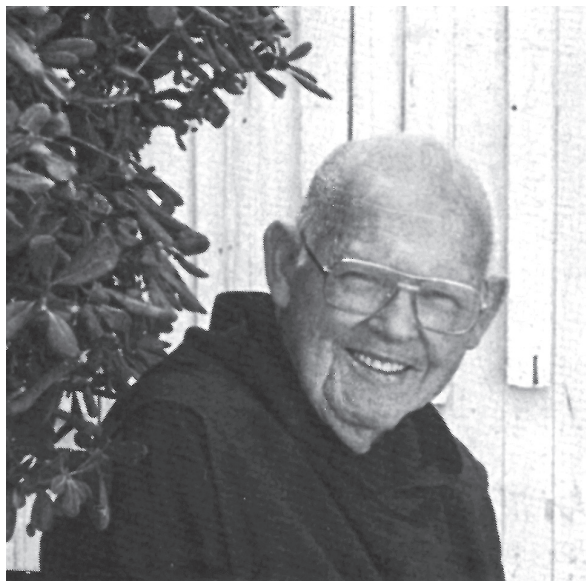
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2013	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
Monthly	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Hawkes Home	11 TBA	12 Oceanside Civitans	13 St. Patrick's	14 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Grace Anglican	19 Carlsbad Rotary	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Men of Nativity
Team	23 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	24 St. Mark's San Marcos	25 Christmas "Volunteers"	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	28 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Welk Resort				

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- 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, 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



Brother Benno's Services:

	October 2013	Our 30th Year		October 2013	Our 30th Year
Meals	14,236	3,487,985	Loads of laundry	29	26,555
Nights of lodging	1,021	243,966	Food packs	2,726	236,413
Articles of clothing	6,530	1,025,907	Blankets	138	35,486
Showers	1,160	185,298	Prescriptions	16	7,182
Haircuts	113	16,155	ID Vouchers	14	8,478
Bus passes	95	77,419	HUGS	1,800	860,494