



By Benno  
1984  
R.H.

# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

December 2014

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## A TRIBUTE TO VAN

by Frank Doherty

We experienced a very beautiful Veteran's Day at Brother Benno's, marked by a large crowd of Guests and lots of patriotic music. In Oceanside we walk among heroes, with Camp Pendleton being so close. Many of our regular Guests are ex-Marines who have pulled one or more tours in Iraq or Afghanistan.

One of the highlights of the day was a tribute to the veterans of Oceanside, with a particular focus on a Vietnam vet named **William Van Hoose**, even though he was not able to be there due to car problems.



William, who goes by the nickname of **Van**, is very low-key and shy. You would never know he was the recipient of the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, one with the distinction of valor for bravery beyond the call of duty in Vietnam. He was also awarded three Purple Hearts. His medals, honorable discharge certificate, and

picture were on display in our chapel during the morning breakfast time on Veteran's Day.

Van served in Vietnam from 1971 to 1973 as an Army Ranger, engaged in reconnaissance patrols. He earned his Silver Star for defending the air base where he resided, holding back a wave of North Vietnamese soldiers with a heavy machine gun, even though he was critically wounded when a bayonet was plunged into his right arm. Despite the wound, he managed to repel the North Vietnamese soldiers who were about to overtake the area.

Van's Bronze Star medal with honor was earned for rescuing three marines who were wounded and close to dying.

What is especially heart-warming about Van is his interest in meeting current vets from Iraq and Afghanistan. He makes a habit of being on hand when these vets return to Camp Pendleton, to thank them for their service. Because he himself experienced how the vets returning from Vietnam were often ill-treated, he wants to make sure our current vets are recognized and honored for their service.

Van is currently suffering from a terminal health problem, and this will probably be his last Veteran's Day. Because he lives in his van, Brother Benno's is paying for its repair.

What an honor it was to pay tribute to him, and to all the other vets who visit Brother Benno's. Everyone in the Center dining room that morning gave him a round of applause at the end of the tribute.

Our love and prayers are with you, Van.

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Once again I experienced Brother Benno's in a way that makes me grateful to be part of this ministry. I arrived at the Center at 6:20 the morning of Veterans Day, expecting to meet with a Viet Nam vet who's been a regular Guest for quite some time. Unfortunately he wasn't able to come in that day; but as usual, other encounters made my early-morning rising well worthwhile.

Two things especially touched me. One was the number of children who came with their parents before going to school. They looked happy, were well behaved, and seemed very much at ease. And the adults showed a sense of camaraderie—Program Guys, Guests, staff, and volunteers. The line outside was orderly with quiet conversation; and once everyone was inside the dining room, that feeling of togetherness was even more evident. I know from past experience that there are occasional outbursts of shouting and unruly behavior by a Guest with mental problems, but the conduct of the vast majority of those who come to the Center contradicts the perceived notion that the homeless are somehow “less” than the rest of us.

**Dennis Pinnick** introduced me to **John**, who's from Ventura, and who was spending a week at the Center—just to volunteer. He had planned to become a Servant of the Poor several years ago, but complications with his job made it impossible for him to leave at that time. He said his desire to be of service at Brother Benno's continues to be important to him, and this week will fulfill that desire until he can make a longer commitment.

Next I chatted with **Eileen Noguerras**, MSN, RN, BC, who heads the nursing programs at Kaplan College in San Diego and Cal State San Marcos, specializing in mental health nursing. She had brought six seniors from Kaplan for an “immersion” in the lives of the poor and homeless. When they arrived at the Center, she told them to get in line with the Guests and eat with them, or circulate around the room serving coffee. “I actually want them to feel uncomfortable,” she said. “That's the only way they'll develop empathy for (that segment of the population).”

When the meal was finished, the students headed to the Thrift Shop warehouse to sort and la-

bel items, then on to the Thrift Shop itself, “where I'll let them shop,” Eileen said. And finally, after lunch, they'd have a post-conference, where they would discuss their experiences. It was a full day of what is called a Clinical Rotation, and Eileen feels it's one of the most important parts of the students' training. She added that many of her students express a desire to return to Brother Benno's to volunteer on their own.

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### Dear Readers,

Some supporters of Brother Benno's have asked why we were not in the San Diego Union-Tribune's “Making a Difference,” a recent insert that listed many of San Diego County's charities. This insert was an advertising supplement in which charities paid to have their organization listed. Our Board discussed the pros and cons of advertising and decided we would rather spend the money (up to \$1,500) on food for our Guests.

We try to be good stewards of all the donations we receive and don't find much value in self-promotion.

**Dennis Martinek, Ph.D.**

Board President Pro Tem/Volunteer

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### PAYPAL GIVING FUND

by Michelle Hoppe

December 2, 2014, is a global day dedicated to giving back. eBay and PayPal will be launching campaigns to help PayPal Giving Fund non-profits make the most out of this generous season. Beginning on #Giving Tuesday, PayPal will add 1% to all donations made to our organization through our PayPal Non-Profit page, **Brother Benno Foundation** at [paypalgivingfund.org](http://paypalgivingfund.org). The Give Cheer campaign runs from December 1 through 31. So, for every donation made through PayPal to Brother Benno's, PayPal will add 1%!

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### VOLUNTEERS THANKED FOR YEAR OF SERVICE

More than 80 Brother Benno volunteers enjoyed an Appreciation Picnic at Buddy Todd Park in Oceanside on Sunday, October 26. The weatherman gave us a perfect "summer" day—sunshine and mild breeze. This was a first-of-a-kind event, replacing the usual annual luncheon held at the Center; and it was apparently a huge success.

**Denise Seymour** and **Suzy Martinek** put the whole thing together, with the help of a lot of other volunteers. Denise listed the following jobs that were generously filled by willing helpers: baking 450 cookies, taste-testing said cookies, arriving at the Park early to get the best tables, setting up canopies to protect the food from the sun, ordering and picking up food, decorating tables, taking fabulous pictures (way too many to share with our readers), and just in general—running around, transporting supplies, setting up, cleaning up, and returning everything to its rightful place.

The menu was simple and satisfying: fried chicken, sliced turkey or beef on croissants, a large variety of cut-up fruits, several kinds of cheese and crackers, and those fabulous home-baked cookies.

Probably the best thing about the picnic was the chance for volunteers to see old friends and meet new ones. Because we have so many volunteers who come in on different days and work in various parts of the ministry, it's nice to be able to get together once in a while and experience the vastness of the Brother Benno family. And it's a family that always makes room for more!



**Denise Seymour and Suzy Martinek**

#### 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 Vera Bayliss

Our elections took place in November, and our installation will be on January 28, when the new board takes over. Their names will be announced in the January newsletter.

If you have items you would like to donate to the cheese drawing, please keep that in mind and bring them to the next meeting.

A big thank-you to everyone in the Auxiliary who has helped us this year with all our events—all our chairpersons, all of you who brought food and helped with sorting, setting up, and supporting our activities. We couldn't do it without you.

Our Christmas party for the children at the Center will be on December 20. It'll be our last event for the year, and it should be a happy one!

See you all in January.

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every winter as part of the Interfaith Shelter Network North Coastal Program. A few months ago, they started another outreach program, a dinner each Friday called "Meals With a Message." The first dinner was attended by two people; the Friday before the Blessing of the Scarves, approximately 90 people were served.

Brother Benno's is happy to be partnered with such a caring and generous community.

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**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

 [Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)

### WOMEN SPREAD WARMTH THROUGH CHURCH PROJECT

A group of women at First Presbyterian Church in Oceanside has been knitting, crocheting and sewing for others for many years; and our Guests at Brother Benno's have been the beneficiaries for several winters. This year, they donated 136 scarves, 36 hats, 19 hat/scarf sets, one each of a hoodie, wrap, small blanket, and baby blanket.



At the 10:30 service on Sunday, October 12, Pastor **Timothy Beal** officiated at a Blessing of the Scarves, saying he hoped that the love and joy that the members felt in doing this project would be transmitted to those of our Guests who receive them.

The women, calling themselves the "Mission Stitchers," are **Gretta Gilli, Maggy Johnson, Sherie McClarey, Jean McMath, Romaine Patterson, Marian Reed, Pat Rugg, Jeanne Wylie, Ann Wilson, and Evelyn Mercer.**

For 28 years, First Presbyterian has also been hosting homeless families for two weeks

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorials

Brother Benno	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	John Kolostyak
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	John Simpson
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Greg Soto
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	John Warkentien
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Alice Condren
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Pat & Earl Schmidt
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Zeferino & Dancy
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Nares
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Jim Cardinal
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Heffern Family
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Isabell & William
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Rath
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Janice Harmon
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Sarah McPherson
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	Richard Crowe
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	Bernie Weiler
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	<b>Happy Birthday</b>
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	William & Vennita	
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Flanagan	Bev Thornburg
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Virginia Sylwestrzak	

### Needs

Gently used furniture  
 Non-alcoholic mouthwash  
 Baby powder and shampoo  
 Large shampoo and body wash  
 Diapers  
 Hotel-size shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap  
 Women's hygiene items--pads and tampons  
 Men's crew socks  
 Disposable razors  
 CA CRV cans & bottles to recycle

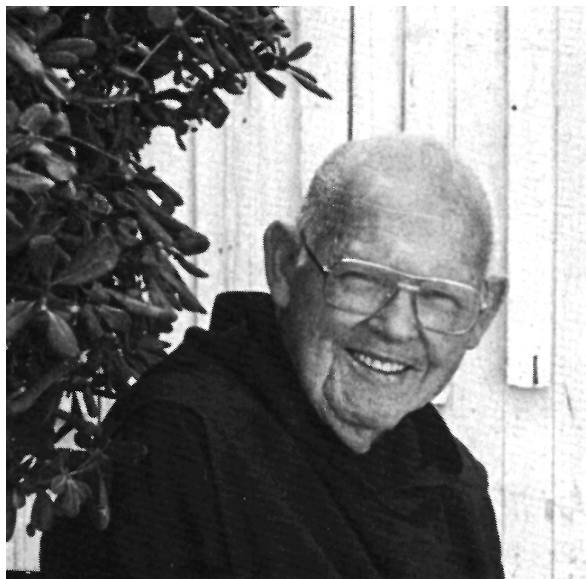
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December</b>	<b>1</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>2</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>3</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>4</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>5</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>6</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2014</b>	<b>8</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>9</b> Hawkes Home	<b>10</b> Stew's Crew	<b>11</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>12</b> St. Patrick's	<b>13</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>15</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>16</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>17</b> Grace Anglican	<b>18</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>19</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>20</b> San Rafael
<b>Serving</b>	<b>22</b> Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	<b>23</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>24</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>25</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>26</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>27</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>29</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>30</b> Welk Resort	<b>31</b> Soroptimist International			
<b>Schedule</b>						

### 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](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 2014	Our 31st Year		October 2014	Our 31st Year
Meals	14,018	3,646,696	Loads of laundry	26	26,885
Nights of lodging	989	255,562	Food packs	2,213	265,107
Articles of clothing	5,497	1,089,197	Blankets	203	37,379
Showers	1,167	198,319	Prescriptions	3	7,246
Haircuts	151	17,786	ID Vouchers	12	8,614
Bus passes	100	78,508	HUGS	1,800	883,894