



The Brother Benno Foundation

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

www.brotherbenno.org

December 2015

Dear Brother Benno Supporters,

Without your generous support for the past 34 years, Brother Benno's would not have been able to carry out its Mission to feed the hungry, provide clothing, and offer many of life's basic needs to uplift the dignity of those we serve.

Throughout the year, there is always a great demand for our services. We have found over time that during the holidays and the winter months, we have many more guests to serve and requests to fulfill.

In preparation for the predicted El Niño weather conditions, we are anticipating an increase for all of our services. This would include food, tarps, ponchos, rental and utility assistance, and emergency housing. It is not just the homeless that will have to endure the downpours, but many people that make their wages in outdoor jobs will be having short checks, or no checks.

If you can assist us in providing "Soup, Soap, Hugs, and Hope" for those in need by monetary donations, requested items, or your time, it would be greatly appreciated. You can feel confident that your donation will be used wisely with love and compassion.

We are now listed as a 4 Star Charity on Charity Navigator. We hope that you will visit our web site and the Charity Navigator web site for more information.

All of us at Brother Benno's wish you a wonderful holiday season and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Harold Kutler

3260 Production Avenue • Oceanside, CA 92058 • (760) 439-1244 • Fax (760) 439-1271





Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

December 2015



LUNCHEON IS AGAIN A HUGE SUCCESS

The Brother Benno Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon has become a community affair, with help from people in many different walks of life. Probably the most well-known Oceanside citizens in attendance were Mayor **Jim Wood** and Council Members **Jack Feller** and **Jerry Kern**. Jerry's wife **Blake** and their two grandchildren, **Cooper** and **Kaliegh**, were models in the Fashion Show, which Auxiliary President **Carol Sanford** said was a "huge and noisy success!"



Mayor Jim Wood



Carol Muehe and Adam Croft



Blake Kern with Cooper and Kaliegh

One solemn interlude during the event was when two Recovery Program graduates, a man and a woman, gave their "miracle" testi-

monials, telling how their lives were completely turned around because of the help they received at Brother Benno's. They are both now on staff.

As always, one of the big events at the Luncheon was the opportunity for guests to go home with fabulous prizes from the many drawings and a silent auction. These items had been donated by individuals, businesses, museums, and theaters, with something to tempt everyone's tastes.

The table centerpieces are always given away at the end of the festivities by way of a drawing at each table. This year, the centerpiece was a weathered "windowbox" filled with autumn leaves, miniature pumpkins, and a spray of fresh flowers donated by the **Flower Parrot**, an Oceanside company that sells their flower bouquets exclusively at Home Depot stores. The boxes—42 of them—were made by volunteer **Bob Ladwig**, and they were filled by Carol Sanford and Thrift Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe**.

New at this year's Luncheon was an information table, which displayed copies of **Harold Kutler's** book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, that were available for a donation in any amount. Also, a slide show of Brother Benno photos was shown on a flat screen in the foyer of the hotel. According to several Auxiliary members, both the books and the slide show were well received.

If you missed this year's Luncheon, it's not too early to jot down a note to yourself in your 2016 calendar for the Luncheon next November!

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Turkeys and hams. Some of our supporters like to help out with our Christmas feast. If you are in that group, we would appreciate frozen turkeys and spiral hams. Please deliver them to the Center on or before Monday, December 14. And thank you for your generosity!

Always Helpful. Marines from Camp Pendleton continue to be a big help to Brother Benno's in many ways. Recently, 15 Marines from the Religious Ministry Team, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, sorted Christmas items for the Thrift Shop. To give them the energy they needed for the job, our Center's "Chef Pelon" brought them his famous mac-and-cheese for lunch.

At the Auxiliary Luncheon, another group acted as escorts for the Fashion Show models, lending an arm whenever needed.

Kids Get Crafty. Our Children's Reading Room isn't limited to reading. About a month ago, volunteer **Althea Darensbourg** set up a clown hat craft for our young Saturday Guests. Here are pictures of Althea and of one of those happy little guys with his mom.



Angel Perez and Mom Araceli Reyes

Althea said, "Although I fully embrace reading and education, I also value the benefits of artistic endeavors and imaginative play. . . . I will be hosting another small craft event to celebrate Thanksgiving—miniature turkeys made from pine cones!"

As we often say at Brother Benno's, we're open to whatever talents you'd like to share with others.

A Prayer. A woman sent a note with her donation of \$400, saying that she had received a bookmark from a friend, and it had a prayer on it for mealtimes. "It thanks God for the food," she said, "but it also asks God to help us to provide for those who do not have any."

Her note went on to say that she'd also received a gift of money, and she wanted to fulfill the prayer by giving part of the gift to help those in need.

Love. Another note from a supporter said, "Thank you for connecting my wife and me to receive a hospital bed for her, as she returned home for recovery from a cancer operation. Love you guys!"

For Whatever Reason. I've seen a young woman in a wheelchair in the lobby of our Center off and on for a few weeks. Sometimes she's flipping through the children's books that are shelved in that area, and other times she's busy adjusting all the "gear" that she has hung or

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Althea Darensbourg

“GIRLFRIENDS” SHARE WARMTH

Girlfriends Care—along with Guys, Teens, and Kidz Care—has been one of Brother Benno's most faithful volunteer groups. At this time of the year, they are focused on bringing hope and joy—as well as actual goods—to the people we serve.

On November 18, they partnered with Linda's Gifts and other merchants in the Carlsbad Village Faire Center to collect items for various charities. Brother Benno's Guests will receive new socks from this collection. As they said, “The homeless don't have washing machines!”

On Saturday, December 12, all four of the above-mentioned “Care” groups will put on what they call their Annual Holiday Volunteer Blitz. Members will greet our Guests and hug as many as possible as they arrive at the Center, hand out small gifts, serve the food and assist them by carrying trays and giving out beverages at the morning meal, and listen to or read to children and hand out books.

Girlfriends will put together gift bags and write cards of encouragement to be distributed to the women in our Recovery Program. Teens and Kidz will decorate place mats and lunch bags, and they will fill 200 Christmas stockings with pre-sorted gifts.

On December 16, Girlfriends will assist with Santa's Closet at our Thrift Shop—an event that gives our Program Men and Women a chance to “shop” for gifts for their family members. The volunteers will act as personal shoppers, wrap the gifts and prepare them for shipping if necessary, and offer holiday cards for them to send out. All this is free for the Program Members, including postage.

The purpose of everything the Girlfriends, Guys, Teens, and Kidz do is to show people who feel least loved that there are others who do care about them; and they do it with warmth and joy.

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GIVING IN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Frank Doherty

Brother Benno's is blessed to have the opportunity to help so many people during the holiday season. Many families and children will receive gifts and enjoy a holiday meal. In some cases, the gifts the children receive are the only ones they will get.

Food, donated and purchased, make a Christmas meal possible for many families.

Your donations are critical to enable us to do what we do, and we are so grateful. If you have not donated to Brother Benno's in the past, please consider doing so. You can use the envelope included with our newsletter, or go to our website at brotherbenno.org.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays.

(Mailing address: Brother Benno Foundation, 3260 Production Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92058).

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otherwise stashed on her wheelchair.

I stopped one day to ask her name and introduce myself. “Are you waiting for someone?” I asked. She told me the name of a staff member and said she really needed to talk to him. When I finally tracked him down, he told me she's homeless.

“How does she manage homelessness in a wheelchair?” I asked. He said he really didn't know; and in fact, he had a few other unanswered questions about her. He also said that Brother Benno's has occasionally helped her out with a hotel voucher for a couple nights; but all in all, she seems to be quite self-sufficient.

My first thought was: Is she taking advantage of Brother Benno's? But that was quickly followed by remembering something **Harold Kutler** wrote in his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen* (p. 33):

“People often asked us, ‘Do you screen the people who come into your Kitchen to make sure you keep the freeloaders out?’ We looked to Jesus

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Carol Sanford

As the end of my year as the Brother Benno Auxiliary President neared, and it was time to write this article, I came to realize that there was no way I could possibly thank each and every person who helped me to do what was necessary to lead you toward another successful year helping the Brother Benno Foundation that we care so much about. If I tried to make a list, I'd be leaving some of you out, and I don't want to do that. So, just let me say that you know who you are, and my gratitude for your help knows no bounds!

We'll end this year helping the Center and the Thrift Shop in creating a fun and happy Christmas Party on Saturday, December 19, for the Center-registered families. The kiddies will see Santa and get wonderful gifts and treats, which come from the monetary proceeds of our Christmas in July Outback event. I hope you have signed up to help—before, during, or after—as this heart-warming event is sure to trigger the peace and love of the Christmas season for you.

I wish for each of you a blessed and safe holiday season, and I hope to see you back here, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, on Wednesday, January 27, at 1 p.m. for our first general membership meeting of the New Year, ready to get busy planning and executing some fun activities for 2016! See you then!

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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

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

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for our answer. When He fed 5,000 people with the miracle of the loaves and fishes, He didn't tell His disciples to screen the people first. Being ripped off or taken advantage of didn't concern Him. Anyone who appeared to be an opportunist was needy in some way. He had come to heal those who were hurting for whatever reason."

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Mary Holguin and Harold Kutler at Luncheon

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 _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Zeferino & Dancy
Frank Barnet	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Nares
Brother Benno	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Nysewander Family
Edith Blaiser	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Squirrell Family
Andrea Boersma	Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Dot & Ford Seeuns
Roland Bond	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernie Weiler
Bill Boster	Tom Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Gilbert Brown
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Ethel Urban
Bill Buckner	Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Virginia Walz
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Ann Sauer	Hank Armstrong
Mary Teresa Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Agatha Johnson
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Clay Pardee
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Robert Strawbridge
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Sarah McPherson
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	George Means
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Mike Stendahl	Gerald & Virginia
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Margaret Stephan	Blanchard
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Joe Koenn
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty Nares	Mother Teresa	Larry Kidd & Sons
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	John Schwei
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Happy Birthday
Richard Farhquar	Pope John Paul II	Fred Williamson	Steven Ross

Needs

Gently used furniture
Turkeys & Hams

Diapers

Reading glasses

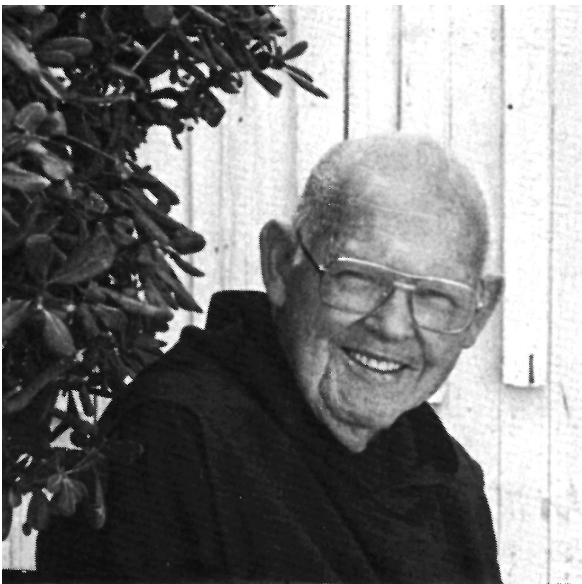
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
2015						
Monthly	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Hawkes Home	9 Riverview Church	10 Oceanside Civitans	11 St. Patrick's	12 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ the King Lutheran	16 Grace Anglican	17 Carlsbad Rotary	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Vietnamese Community St. Francis
Team	21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 St. Mark's San Marcos	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Pilgrim Creek	25 Christmas "Volunteers"	26 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	28 Christ Church	29 Welk Resort	30 Soroptimist International	31 Riverview Church		

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Tues. - 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!!

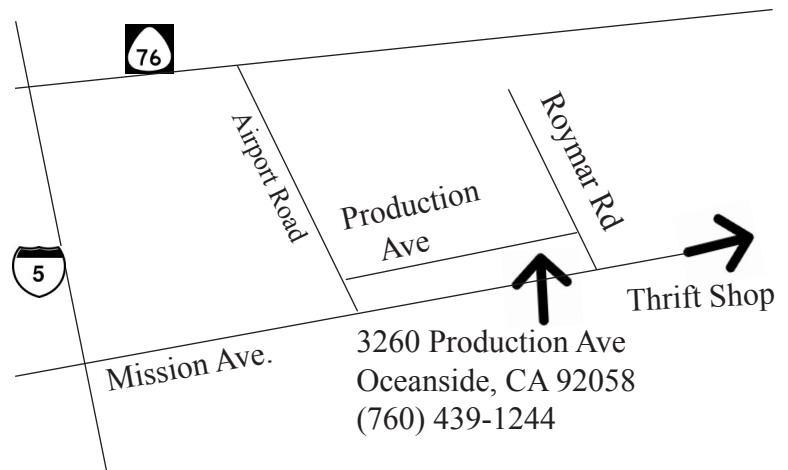
Last Saturday of the month 50% off everything

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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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 2015	Our 32nd Year		October 2015	Our 32nd Year
Meals	13,614	3,806,360	Loads of laundry	25	27,187
Nights of lodging	1,128	268,054	Food packs	1,671	287,991
Articles of clothing	5,712	1,151,449	Blankets	130	39,224
Showers	1,088	211,124	Prescriptions	2	7,270
Haircuts	137	19,340	ID Vouchers	13	8,788
Bus passes	106	79,832	HUGS	2,250	907,744