



By Benno
1984
A.M.

Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

December 2016



AN AMAZING GROUP WILL SERVE OUR GUESTS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Girlfriends Care—along with their counterparts, Guys, Teens, and Kidz—will be on hand at the Brother Benno Center on Saturday, December 10, in what they call their Annual Holiday Volunteer Blitz. We thought it would interest our readers to know exactly what a huge “blitz” this will be!

Their list of volunteer opportunities for their members looks like this:

- 10 food servers
- 2 serving assistants to help carry trays and assist with beverages
- 2 greeters
- 4 gift givers to hand out small gifts at the door
- 2 Books Love Kids to listen to and read to children and hand out books
- 7 gift-bag compilers who also write cards of encouragement for women in our transitional housing
- 2 photographers to take candid shots (avoiding face shots of Guests to protect privacy)
- 20 placemats and lunch bags decorators (great job for kids and teens)
- 10 Christmas stocking fillers (200 stockings!)

Then on Wednesday, December 14, another group of their members will be part of Santa's Closet at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop, a time for our Program Guys and Gals to get gifts for their family members. Again, they will provide:

- 10 personal shoppers to help with selections
- 10 gift wrappers
- 2 holiday card assistants

When gifts and cards need to be mailed, Girlfriends prepare them—and pay for—shipping.

If this year is anything like previous years, all these volunteers will bring not only their service, but also a real spirit of love and caring.

If you'd like to know more about all these Caring individuals, visit their website at GirlfriendsCare.org

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First Thursday Serving Team Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis



Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Smiles. Every day, small groups come to the Center to perform simple tasks like decorating lunch bags or wrapping forks and knives in napkins for our daily meal. Outgoing Auxiliary President **Carol Sanford** reported that a Guest told her he keeps the lunch bags we give out after the morning meal because the cheerful drawings and messages make him smile. She responded that he should see the smiles on the faces of the children and adults who decorate those bags. Another win-win.

That's Early! Speaking of lunches, a small group of volunteers comes in every morning around 4:30, six days a week, to make sandwiches and add fruit, chips, and cookies to the bags. Guests who are registered at Brother Benno's can request a lunch bag as they go through the meal line.

Busy Hands. Last month in the Auxiliary News, we inadvertently left out the name of one of the knitters who has volunteered to make blankets and caps for newborns and crutch covers for Wounded Warriors at Camp Pendleton. Her name is **Carole Witcher**, and she lives in Carlsbad. Another of the knitters, **Greta Kertz**, brought in ten large bags of items that she either made or purchased—blankets, caps, and onesies. Along with **Sue Cooper, Carol McClelland, and Judy Doose**, these women are helping to take care of a lot of babies and veterans!

Like Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. The Clothing Room at the Center is woefully bare in the men's area. With winter weather waiting in the wings, we are hoping to see donations of jeans, hoodies, sweatshirts, coats, warm socks, and comfortable walking shoes. We can also use small blankets suitable for those who must sleep outdoors. Maybe this is a good time to make room in our closets for all those new clothes we'll be getting for Christmas!

Another Way to Give. Sprouts Markets are in the middle of a Grab'N Give program that

will benefit Brother Benno's. They have pre-filled bags of groceries that customers can "buy" at a discounted price, and these bags will then be given to us to give to our Guests. Participating stores in our area are in Carlsbad on El Camino Real and Hwy. 78, and in Oceanside on College Blvd. At Hwy. 76. The drive will end on December 31.

Another Success. I often have a chance to talk to a Staff member or volunteer who is a recovering alcoholic or drug user. Some have graduated from the Brother Benno Recovery Program, while others participated in other programs. In any case, many of them have inspiring stories to tell.

"Roger" said he began drinking when he was 13 and didn't stop until he reached 52. He was homeless and in very poor health when he woke up one morning and said out loud, 'God, I can't do this anymore!' "I didn't kneel down like I was praying," he said. "I just cried out."

He'd been to Brother Benno's many times for meals and other services, but that morning he walked into the Center with a whole new attitude. He sat down with two of the men who are part of our Recovery Program; they sent him to McAlister Institute for detox; and he came back ready to do whatever it took to stay sober.

"God took away my craving for drink," he said. "I haven't had any desire to go back to my old ways." He said other guys tell him that they have a real hard time traveling, going to other cities, but Roger hasn't had that experience himself. "I'm just fine wherever I am," he said.

Like many of our other Program graduates, Roger gives back by sharing his skills at the Center; and he's also a mentor to the men and women who are currently in the Program.

He carries a picture in his wallet of himself when he was homeless. "Can you believe I'm that same guy?" he said, after telling his story. I look at the picture and then back at Roger. "Wow" is all I can say.

FACEBOOK CONNECTS YOU TO BROTHER BENNO'S

If you use Facebook to stay connected with your family and friends, you might also like to see what's happening at Brother Benno's. Thanks to a new volunteer, we've been able to keep our Facebook page more up to date with new posts several times a week. These posts include upcoming meetings and events, pictures of many of our volunteers, Center needs, and other interesting and timely tidbits of information.

Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/brotherbennos

If you are already a Facebook user, just visit and "like" our page. Once you've "liked" us, our updates should appear in your personal Facebook "Newsfeed." You've probably heard the phrase "Sharing is caring." Sharing Brother Benno's Facebook posts with your friends and family will help us get the Brother Benno story out to more people in our community. It also helps others to know about our services so we can reach more individuals and families in need.

When you visit our Facebook page, be sure to check our reviews. This is where some of our Facebook fans have shared their personal stories about how Brother Benno's has helped them. One reviewer wrote:

"I would like to take a minute and say that Brother Benno's saved my life. The support they offer is not just for the poor and homeless, but for the broken and scared as well. The people who work there on a daily basis—Dennis, Darryl, Jan, Bear, Pelon, and countless others who have been through those doors—are amazing; and it's people like them who keep the Center afloat that I want to thank. I have nothing but love and gratitude from the bottom of my heart for BROTHER BENNO'S."

We've received 24 five-star reviews! We'd love to have you add your review or personal story as well.

The Brother Benno Thrift Shop also has its own Facebook page where they announce specials and sale days, and they often have pictures of the beautiful furniture and other great items for sale. www.facebook.com/Bro-Bennos-Thrift-Shop-138464652914814/ Make sure you "like" their page as well.

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BEAUTY IS CREATED BY WILLING HANDS

by Barbara Ladwig

When anything around the Center needs fixing or beautifying, it's good to have a volunteer like **John Jarvie** more than happy to take care of it. John is 90, and he hasn't seemed to slow down since the day he turned 70.

John's latest project had the expert help of **Ron Lamb**; together they created the inviting planter boxes and landscaping in front of the Furniture Warehouse next door to the Center. And the *creme de la creme* was added by artist **Carrie Merrieffield**: a larger-than-life mural of our beloved Brother Benno.

I watched John and Ron working for weeks, sometimes redoing something because it wasn't exactly the way they wanted it. Once the plants were in, I thought the project was finished, only to learn that there was a mural in the planning stages.

I talked to Carrie on the phone after her artwork was finished, and I learned that she is a professional artist, used to being paid for her work. But in this case she told me, "I love to help, and I was thrilled when Gwen asked me to do it." (**Gwen Acheson** oversees the Warehouse and is a friend of Carrie's).

Before this project was conceived, the area in question was dark and drab; and it was often a repository for trash. Now it is bright, clean, and inviting.



Carrie Merrieffield

With the help of its many volunteers, Brother Benno's is able to show our Guests that we want them to feel welcome and to know that we care enough about them to bring beauty and cheerfulness into their lives. The door is open to anyone who wants to contribute their talents in this way.

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Karen Gallagher & Nita Rodriguez

With the pending hustle and bustle of the holidays, which include our December 3 Luncheon Fundraiser and the Center's Christmas Party on December 19, the last meeting of the year for the Brother Benno Auxiliary was held on November 16. It was an opportunity to review our 2016 accomplishments and install our Auxiliary Executive Board for the coming year.

Mary Milew and Maureen Hartin led a moving candle-lighting installation ceremony that was appreciated by all. In addition, **Carol Sanford** was presented with a commemorative plaque, recognizing her for her 2015 and 2016 leadership as President.

The 2017 Executive Board is comprised of Co-Presidents **Karen Gallagher and Nita Rodriguez**, Vice President **Edith Jones**, Secretary **Joyce Cerimele**, Treasurer **Joan O'Connell**, Parliamentarian **Thelma Hendricks**, and Advisor **Carol Sanford**.



Front row: Edith Jones, Carol Sanford, Joyce Cerimele, Thelma Hendrix
Back row: Nita Rodriguez, Karen Gallagher, Joan O'Connell

Carol Sanford presented the year-end report and extended her heartfelt thanks to all members for their participation in, and support of, Auxiliary activities that provide service to Brother Benno's. These activities included fundraising events, service activities, and outreach events.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the mini-speakers who took time out of their very busy days to speak with us and give our members a "peek behind the curtain" of Brother Benno's services and operations.

On behalf of the 150 men and women of the Brother Benno's Auxiliary, we wish all of you a loving and caring holiday season and a Happy New Year!

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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>

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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

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

Ron Alexander	Louise Foussat	Alan Port	Molly & Johnny
Dixie & Lou Bales	Joe & Ida Friend	Mary Pullman	Frank Forthoffer
Frank Barnet	Mary Gerrity	Catherine L. Quinlan	Mildred Provost
Brother Benno	Bob Gleason	Dora Ramirez	Rose & Floyd Caldwell
Edith Blaiser	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Bob Strawbridge
Andrea Boersma	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Yilmas Yetis
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Marie Atkinson
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Donald Deffenbaugh
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Bruna Acosta
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Margaret Gregoire
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Rita Archibald
Mary Teresa Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Mike Stendahl	Richard Schulte
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Margaret Stephan	Joann & Earl Morefield
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Rev. Brad Dusak
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mother Teresa	Agatha Johnson
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Harold Thompson	Diana McDonough
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty Nares	Rosemary Tucker	Mary Ann & David Mowery
Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Walter Ulloa	Grandpas: Jose & Max
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Bud & Blanche Ogle	June Williams	Grandmas: Felicidad & Felicidad
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ben Osgrove	Fred Williamson	Joe Koehn
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Pope John Paul II	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Sonny
Myron Eichen	Kathryn D. Pent	Nysewander Family	Roberta Johnson
Richard Farhquar	Mary Peterson	Squirrel Family	
William & Vennita Flanagan	Jane Pfau	Dick Ellis	
	Ruth Hazel Pierson		

Needs

Diapers Reading glasses Men's jeans Hoodies Coats
Sweatshirts Warm socks Walking shoes Gently used furniture

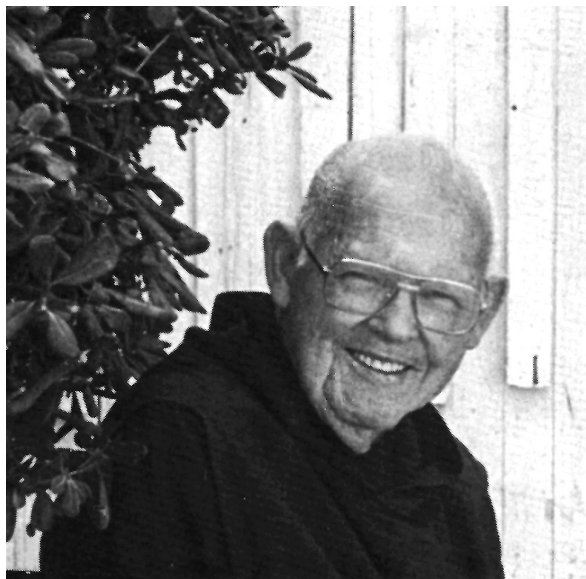
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
2016						
Monthly	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitanis	9 St. Patrick's	10 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Team Wyndham	14 1st MLG FCPOA	15 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17
Team	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	24 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	26 Christ Church	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Brother Benno Thrift Shop	30 King of Kings Lutheran	31 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 for free pickup.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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 Oceanside, California
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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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, 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 2016	Our 33rd Year		October 2016	Our 33rd Year
Meals	13,178	3,965,093	Loads of laundry	25	27,488
Nights of lodging	879	279,685	Food packs	1,551	307,019
Articles of clothing	5,408	1,218,430	Blankets	196	41,050
Showers	1,118	225,475	Tarps	113	1,622
Haircuts	147	20,867	ID Vouchers	12	8,890
Bus passes	112	81,321	HUGS	2,250	930,694