



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

December 2017



EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BROTHER BENNO THRIFT SHOP

Most people who are familiar with the Brother Benno Thrift Shop probably think the only benefit is the money it provides for the overall operation of the Brother Benno Foundation—the Center and all its services, and our successful addiction recovery program for men and women. While that goal is important, the Shop means so much more to the community as a whole.

The customer base is primarily families who are struggling to make ends meet. They can find good-quality clothing, housewares, furniture, electronics, toys, books, linens, and more. The last Saturday of every month, most of the merchandise is 50 percent off, and shoppers stream in all day long.

Beyond the Shop. In addition to sales, the Shop has answered calls from other charities to donate items, especially furniture and housewares. Recently, Catholic Charities asked for help for three refugee families who arrived in our country with nothing; and our staff and volunteers worked hard to fill their most immediate needs of furniture and clothing. (Catholic Charities handles 30 to 40 new immigrant families per month.)

Whenever the Shop and Center have an excess of donations, items are re-donated to other homeless outreach groups, as well as an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico.

The Shop recently donated books to a non-profit group called "Education Begins in the Home," and also to the Friends of the Library in Oceanside. Holiday paper goods were given to

the Oceanside Senior Centers, and a large nativity scene was donated to St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Oceanside.

Michelle Hoppe, Thrift Shop Manager, reports that a long-time volunteer sends children's clothing and toys to the Philippines, using her own money to pay for shipping. "We believe sharing our bounty with others in need brings more blessings our way," Michelle said.

The Volunteers. The Shop has a small core of paid staff, plus more than forty volunteers who find the joy of being part of a team dedicated to serving others. This crew sorts donations, assists shoppers, sells furniture, hangs clothing, keeps shelves neat, and helps the staff with a variety of other jobs.

The Thrift Shop believes in educating the community regarding the plight of the neediest among us in North County by inviting college students, businesses, church groups, and the military to take a tour of the Brother Benno Center and Thrift Shop. Many who take these tours end up coming back to volunteer—sometimes individually and other times as a group.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at the Thrift Shop, please call **Denise Seymour**, our Volunteer Coordinator (760-439-1244, ext. 104).

At Christmastime, the Shop invites all our Program Members to come in and "shop" for
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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

New Windows. Our Recovery Program staff is happy to report that we now have new windows in our women's sober-living House of Blanche, Dixie, and Virginia. The entire cost of the windows was donated, as well as a good portion of the installation, provided by Re-Nu Windows.

The old windows were "really old," making them difficult to open and close. Plus, a bonus with this job was the removal of a large, dead pine tree in the yard, which had been a safety concern.

We need volunteer truck drivers, mostly to pick up daily donations from area stores. Brother Benno's provides the trucks, gas, and insurance. No special driver's license is required, but drivers need to be able to lift heavy boxes. A driver is always accompanied by at least one helper, sometimes two.

Donations are picked up Monday through Saturday mornings, and a driver can choose how many days he wishes to volunteer. If you're interested, or would like more information, please call Richard (760-445-9905).

A New Idea? A donor came up with a creative way to give. She used her credit card points to purchase 24 \$25 gift cards to Target, which we can use to buy specific items needed by our Program Members or Guests. I suspect that some of us let our points go to waste; here's a way to make them matter to someone less fortunate.

Ouch! A volunteer noticed that one of our Guests was wearing shoes that were so beat up that the soles flopped as she walked. She showed him where a tack had become lodged in one sole, and a sore was developing in that spot. He found two pairs of shoes in the Clothing Room that he thought she might like—running shoes and what he called "Cinderella shoes." Both pairs fit, and she's now one happy walker!

Connections. One of our staff members brought her mother to Tri-City Hospital for an extended stay. When an employee came out to the car with a wheelchair, they were surprised that they knew each other; the employee is a graduate of our Recovery Program! "It was so nice to be helped by someone my mother and I knew," she said.

John Jarvie and Ron Lamb continue to spruce up our Kitchen area. Their latest contribution is a new sink and cabinet behind the food-serving line where workers can wash their hands. Another sink in that area is used only for cleaning vegetables.

For the Babies! We are continually in need of Pampers at the Center, as so many of our Guests have children, particularly the single moms who are living in their car. We never have nearly enough to go around. Pictured below is **Sydney Leff**, who is the lead for a group at the **East Escondido Rotary Club** who have decided to donate 12 to 15 boxes of Pampers on a monthly basis to Brother Benno's for the next year.



It is with much gratitude that we thank Sydney and the East Escondido Rotary Club for their generosity!

Attention Shoppers! The Brother Benno Thrift Shop is open on Sundays during December from 12:30 to 4:30! We have tons of Christmas items, as well as the usual great deals on clothing, furniture, and everything else your heart could desire! (See location on back)

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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

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

(This is a new feature in our newsletter where we will share stories told to us by our Guests.)

From a grandmother ~~

“My family and I are not homeless. I am on disability, and my daughter works hard as a caregiver. We are the working poor. There is never enough money to go around, no matter how hard we all try. Just putting food on the table and clothing us is next to impossible after rent and utilities.

“We have been coming to Brother Benno’s for many years. (The) food boxes have saved us many times. We have been able to pick up school clothes for my grandchildren, work clothes for my daughter, and comfy clothing for me—all thanks to Brother Benno’s.

“The kindness, care, food, and friendly faces at Brother Benno’s are a blessing to me and my family. The cat food and cat litter are so helpful for our cat family members. And I have a small bird, too, and thanks to the produce center in the back, my bird gets yummy things to eat that I can’t afford, like raspberries, kale, snow peas, sprouts, apples, and corn—and he doesn’t care if it is not perfect. I have a nice little fresh herb garden going, with basil, marjoram, mint, tarragon, and chives.

“I just wanted to tell you guys at Brother Benno’s how much we all appreciate your help and support. You make the quality of our lives much better. The staff is always friendly, and nobody ever makes me feel like a beggar. So in these very difficult times we are all facing, I had to let you know your efforts and hard work and smiles, well, they really do make a difference. Thank you all.”

From a woman ~~

“I would like to take a minute and say that Brother Benno’s saved my life. The support they offer, not just for the poor and homeless, but the broken and scared as well. The people that work there on a daily basis, Dennis, Darryl, Jan, Bear, Pelon, and countless others, are amazing; and it’s people like them that 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.”

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gifts for their families. Girlfriends Care is also involved with this project by helping the men and women find suitable gifts, then wrapping them—and shipping them if necessary—all at no cost to the “shoppers.”

Donations. Our biggest need at the Shop right now is for good, clean, reusable furniture. If you’d like to arrange for a pick-up, call 760-967-7507. For all other donations, we ask that you bring them to the Thrift Shop Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The address is 3955 Mission Avenue, Oceanside (east of Albertson’s).

New donation signs have been posted, directing donors to the intake site near the rear of the building. Please do not leave donations outside when the drop-off site is closed. We’ve learned that many of those items are stolen.

As always, Brother Benno’s thanks all our volunteers and donors for their involvement with our outreach. We truly cannot do it without you!

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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 Nita Rodriguez

A moving candle-lighting installation ceremony ushered in the 2018 Auxiliary Board at the Auxiliary's November meeting, led by **Penny Sallee, Isobel Haring, and Frank Cerimele.**



Joan O'Connell, Treasurer; Nita Rodriguez, President; Joyce Cerimele, Secretary; and Thelma Hendrix, Parliamentarian. (Not pictured: Anne Speraw, Vice President; and Karen Gallagher, Advisor

Nita presented the year-end report and extended her heartfelt thanks to all members for their participation in, and support of, the Auxiliary activities that provide service, support, and financial assistance to the Brother Benno Foundation. These activities included fundraising events, working in the food-serving line twice a month, and support events like the Annual Postal Workers' Food Drive and the Center's Children's Christmas Party. One special outreach was our donation of 215 \$25-gift-cards for the Christmas Party.



Dennis Martinek, Foundation Board President, accepts a box of gift cards from Nita Rodriguez

Looking forward, Auxiliary Membership renewals are due by January 15 for members who want their contact information included in the Auxiliary directory. Our Membership Brunch will be held on Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. to noon, at Shadowridge Country Club.

On behalf of the 140 men and women of the Brother Benno Auxiliary, we wish all of you a loving and caring holiday season!

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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	Mary Peterson	Patricia Rooney
Dixie & Lou Bales	Joe & Ida Friend	Jane Pfau	Molly & Johnny
Frank Barnet	Mary Gerrity	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Samuelson
Brother Benno	Bob Gleason	Alan Port	Mary Jackson
Edith Blaiser	Tom Hayward	Mary Pullman	Bill Daley
Andrea Boersma	Elizabeth Holms	Catherine L. Quinlan	Peggy Miville
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Dora Ramirez	Rose Horner
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Dick & Terry Riley	Robert Snyder
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Margaret Rossini	Barbara LaMothe
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Ann Sauer	Jack Gillen
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Kay Kutler	Mary Shankle	Bruno Acosta
Anna Correia	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Rusty Rawding
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben E. Lewis	Bernice, Samuel &	Robert Buchach
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helen Lucas	Milton Silver	Roseanna Madrid
Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Will Skinner	Margaret Gregoire
Anita H. Donahue	Helene McGill	Ann Grier Smith	Dorothy Barnell
Dorothy M. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Squirrel Family	Bob Strawbridge
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nares	Mike Stendahl	Toni Keane
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	Elodia Hernandez
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Fr. Jerry Dusak
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Kathleen Burnell
Myron Eichen	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	James Mulvihill
Richard Farhquar	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	Pat Schmidt
William & Vennita	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	Donald Deffenbaugh
Flanagan	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson	Joel Heiser

Needs

Gently used furniture Diapers Blankets Shoes
 Belts Coats Jeans Jackets
 Sleeping bags NEW Men's and women's underwear

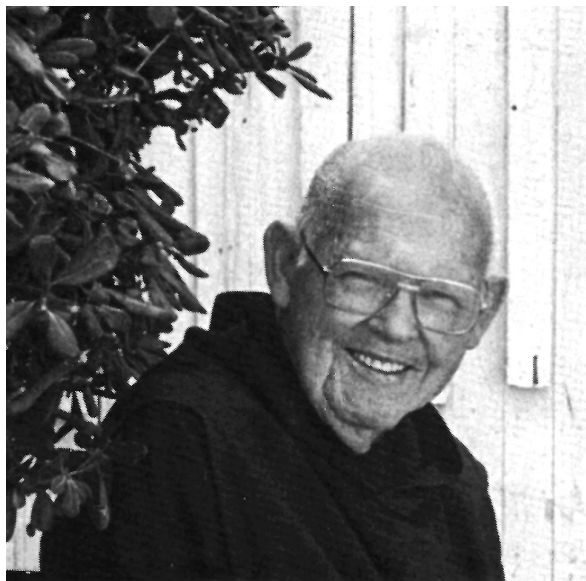
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2017 Monthly Serving Team Schedule					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Girlfriend's Care
	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 1st MLG FCPOA	14 Oceanside Civitans	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Church of the Nativity
	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	21 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	22 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	23 Catholic Daughters
	25 Christmas	26 St. Mark's San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Pilgrim Creek	29 King of Kings Lutheran	30 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
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 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 2017	Our 34th Year		October 2017	Our 34th Year
Meals	13,186	4,123,747	Loads of laundry	26	27,832
Nights of lodging	871	290,064	Food packs	1,346	323,929
Articles of clothing	5,086	1,286,709	Blankets	129	43,191
Showers	1,181	239,845	Tarps	82	2,785
Haircuts	72	22,055	ID Vouchers	14	9,040
Bus passes	85	82,680	HUGS	1,800	954,544