



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

December 2018



## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

We think of our Center on Production Avenue as being the hub of Brother Benno's outreach, but the seven houses where Recovery Program men and women live are just as important in terms of need. Recently the Life Group, volunteers from North Coast Church, spent a weekend at two of our Women's Houses, taking down old beat-up fences and installing new ones. They even paid the dump fee for two truckloads of used materials. It's help like this that keeps our many areas of outreach humming.



From left to right: Travis Vance, Emily Vance, Elana Bagley, Sharon Byers and John Byers. Not pictured but also on the team: Naila and Barry Chan.

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*\*Harold's wife Kay died in February 2012, but recordings of her songs are often played for our Guests.*

*\*\*The appearance of Santa's Village has changed slightly over the years, but the spirit remains.*

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## HAROLD'S WORDS CONTINUE TO INSPIRE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

In **Harold Kutler's** book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, he continually stressed the importance of treating the people who come to us for help in a loving and respectful way. That starts with calling them Guests instead of clients, and it ends only when they no longer need our services. This excerpt from the book is typical of Harold's thinking:

"Even though the Brother Benno Center is housed in a huge warehouse, the inside looks more like a party place. Color is everywhere. Decorations appropriate to the season or holiday draw you in. . . .

"Everything is clean—the food-serving area, the tables, the floor. People hug and smile and laugh. Music plays—quietly in the background or right up front. . . . Table coverings in the dining room are the extra touch that say, 'You are our Guest.'

"**Kay** sings to the Guests—tender songs like 'May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You' or rousers such as "I'm Just Wild About Harry!"\* . . .

"The grandest party of all is Christmas, which we celebrate—not once, but twice a year—in December and July. The dining room bursts with color and warmth, but now the warehouse has been transformed as well. As adults and children walk into Santa's Village, they are overwhelmed by a wall of 1,500 stuffed animals. \*\* . . . (Their) last stop is our jolly Santa. He gives them candy, but his sweetest gifts are his cheery Ho-Ho-Ho's."

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Thanksgiving Day** at Brother Benno's, we hosted a crowd of 244 happy diners, a little more than last year. With festive table decorations, eager volunteers, and pleasant music, it was a day of making our Guests feel even more special than on ordinary days. **We thank all our kind supporters for their donations that made this day possible.**

**Carol Muehe** reports that we've had a great outpouring of donations of women's and children's underwear. Thanks to everyone who replenished our supply of these often-forgotten items of clothing. She also asks that donations of shoes be limited to the comfy kind, like tennis shoes. Our Guests—men, women, and children—almost never need dress shoes.

**Re-Connection.** We've reported in the past that our special Outreach Team often helps homeless men and women obtain copies of official documents such as birth certificates. A side benefit of this service is that it sometimes re-opens communication between the Guest and his or her family when a Team member has to contact the Guest's parents in order to procure the document.

**Young Artists.** Students from **Roosevelt Middle School** in Oceanside painted pictures of some of our homeless Guests, and they are now hanging in the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. **Helen Parsons** invites everyone to stop in and see them. "These are real human beings with real needs," she said.

The Shop is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 to 5 at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. And while you're there, you might see something to buy that you just can't find anywhere else. AND – be prepared for shockingly low prices!

**A Reflection.** The vision of the homeless man haunted me for months. He was filthy, crumpled on the ground and leaning against the building in the parking lot in front of my car at the Brother Benno Center. Before I could get my car door

open, he said, "Will you help me?"

I cringed, thinking he might be asking me for a ride. "What do you need?" I asked. His answer was lost in a jumble of words, maybe because he had hardly any teeth, or he was under the influence.

"You'll have to go inside," I said, waving my arm in the direction of the main door.

"Naw," he said, and again the rest of his words were unintelligible.

"I'm sorry," I said, as I unlocked my car. Then as an afterthought, I asked him his first name, planning to tell him I'd pray for him; but by that time he'd turned away from me and had slid back down on the ground. I got into my car and drove out of the lot, my heart feeling uneasy.

As a Christian, I'm well aware of Jesus' words: "What you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me." And it follows that when we fail to help others, we fail to serve Jesus.

What should I have done? At least I could have gone back into the Center and asked one of the men on staff to come out and talk to the man. I know they do that all the time, as I often see them outside, ministering to those who aren't able or willing to come in; or who sometimes have been temporarily banned because of bad behavior. But I simply drove away.

Doing the "right thing" is a constant challenge, one that we have to struggle with over and over. I continue to pray that I choose "right" more often than not.

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### CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you'd like to help us with Christmas Dinner, these are the items we need:

Frozen Turkeys

Large cans of turkey/chicken gravy

Large cans of cranberries

Frozen green beans

Good quality plastic knives, forks, spoons

Sturdy medium-size plates for pie

(We use trays for main meal)

**THANKS!**



# The Brother Benno Foundation

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

[www.brotherbenno.org](http://www.brotherbenno.org)

November 13, 2018,

Dear Brother Benno Supporters,

Without your generous support, Brother Benno's would not be able to carry out our Mission of helping to feed the hungry, provide clothing, help individuals transition away from drug and alcohol addiction, and provide many of life's basic needs. Your generous support has helped us uplift the dignity of those we serve for the past 35 years.

Throughout the year, there continues to be a great demand for our services. During the holidays and winter months our requests for guest services climbs even higher.

We are anticipating an increase in demand for all our guest services again this year. These demands include food, tarps, ponchos, rental and utility assistance, as well as emergency housing.

If you can bless us in providing "Soup, Soap, Hugs, and Hope" for those in need by providing monetary support, requested items, or your time, it will be greatly appreciated. Please feel confident that your support will be used wisely with love and compassion for our guests.

We are happy to report that we continue to meet the stringent Charity Navigator's criteria as a 4 Star Charity (their highest rating). We encourage you to 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.  
May God continue to bless you and your family,

Richard Giroux  
President, Board of Directors Brother Benno Foundation

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



### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Nita Rodriguez

A beautiful **Garden Tea Party** for long-time Auxiliary members (15-22 years) was held at the home of **Marilyn Callender** on October 23. Memories of the Auxiliary's beginning were shared by all. Laughter abounded as they talked about **Dixie Bales**, the Auxiliary's founder. There were also many stories about **Harold and Kay Kutler**.



seated left..Joan O'Connell, Charlotte Wilson, Helen Parsons, Vicky Squires, Daniel Boone,Elena Gonzalez, Alma Boone.  
standing left..Joanne Derby, Marilyn Callender, Pearl Velasquez, Karen Gallagher, Judy Harris, Anne Speraw, Colleen O'Harra, Elizabeth Van Hunnick, Mary Milew, Rosie McDaniel, Maureen Hartin

The Auxiliary Board members for 2019 were installed at our November meeting, led by **Isobel Haring**. Congratulations to all!



Front Row L-R Joyce Cerimele, Nita Rodriguez, Sara Bussiere  
Back Row L-R Karen Gallagher, Janetha Bailey-Long, Renee Stepp, John Wohlmuth

At that same meeting, Foundation President **Richard Giroux** reported on the many activities being held at the Center. We presented 247 \$25-gift-cards to him for the Children's Christmas Party to be held on December 15.



Richard Giroux and Nita Rodriguez


Current Auxiliary President **Nita Rodriguez** 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 Foundation. These activities include fundraising events, service activities such as working the food-serving line twice a month, and support events like the Children's Christmas Party. A special outreach this year was Easter baskets for the children.

**Looking forward to 2019:** Membership renewals are due in January. Our Membership Brunch will be held on Saturday, February 9, 10-noon, at the Shadowridge Golf Club in Vista.

**On behalf of the 128 men and women of the Brother Benno Auxiliary, we wish you a loving and caring holiday season!**

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**Brother Benno Foundation**  
**Recovery Program for Men and Women**  
760 439 1244 ext. 101  
Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps  
of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)  
**Follow Brother Bennos online:**  
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

### Memorials

Ron Alexander	Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Jack Grille
Dixie & Lou Bales	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Hogan Family
Frank Barnet	Chance Hales	Dora Ramirez	Inca Scott
Brother Benno	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Robert Buchach
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Russ Peterson
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Mary Kennedy
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Kathleen Burnell
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Marge Gillen
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Jones Family
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Turner Family
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Ann Grier Smith	Molly Wilbur
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Alva & Frances	Dorothy Barnell
Don & Dorothea Day- bell	Helen Lucas	Snider	Dick & Mary Kleopper
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Squirrell Family	Peggy Miville
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Mike Stendahl	Max Fackler
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty Nares	Margaret Stephan	Donald Deffenbaugh
Dorothy M. Donahue	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Rose Horner
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Barbara LaMothe
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb Thornberg	Jane Schubert
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Bob Strawbridge
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Joel Heiser
Richard Farhquar	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	Joan & Nelson Elmore
William & Vennita Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Robert Mason	
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Frank Beeson	
	Alan Port	Bruno Acosta	

### Needs

Gently used furniture  
Bottled water

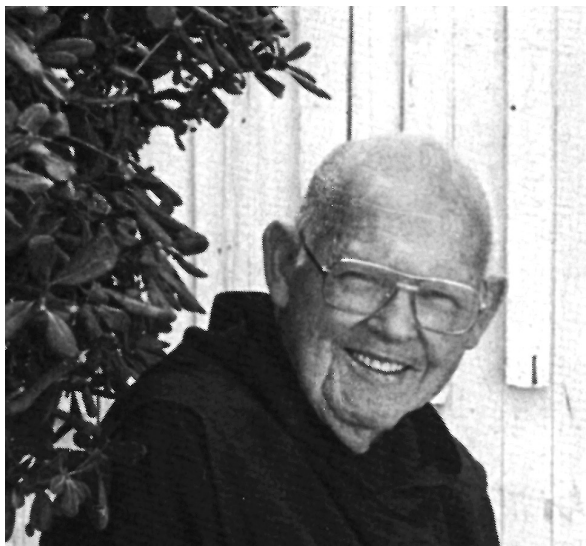
Reading glasses - 1.5 to 4.0  
Camp tents - one to four persons

Sunglasses

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Decem- ber 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>						<b>1</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>3</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>4</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>5</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>6</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>7</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>8</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>10</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>11</b> Riverview Church	<b>12</b> Fairwinds	<b>13</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>14</b> St. Patrick's	<b>15</b> FAV- Female Ath- letic Volunteers
	<b>17</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>18</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>19</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>20</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>21</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>22</b> Catholic Daughters
	24 St. Thomas More RCIA 31 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>25</b> Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	<b>26</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>27</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>28</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>29</b> Shiloh Church of God in Christ

**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-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up**

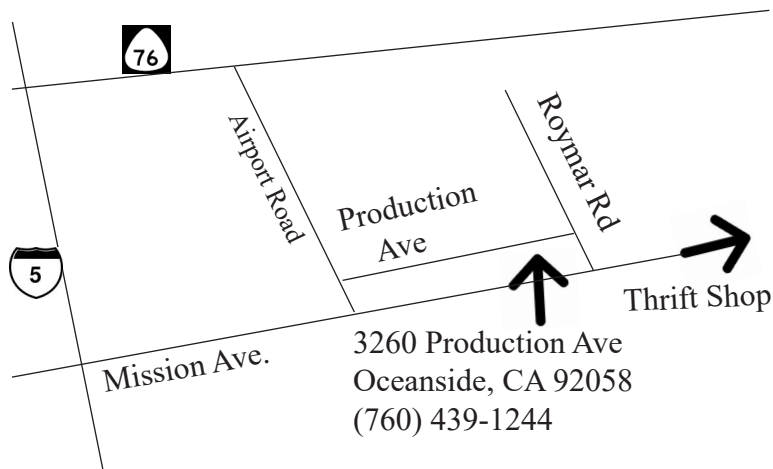
**Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!**

**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, 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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	October 2018	Our 35th Year		October 2018	Our 35th Year
Meals	13,648	4,278,480	Loads of laundry	28	28,172
Nights of lodging	895	301,082	Food packs	1,154	337,562
Articles of clothing	6,451	1,346,023	Blankets	219	45,661
Showers	1,230	254,005	Tarps	147	4,177
Haircuts	44	22,564	ID Vouchers	42	9,279
Bus passes	128	84,038	HUGS	1,800	977,944