



# The Brother Benno Foundation

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

December 2019

Dear Supporters of Brother Benno's,

Greetings to you in this wonderful season of giving and receiving!

To begin with, we would like to thank you sincerely for your generosity to Brother Benno's. It is obvious and clear that we would not be able to accomplish our Mission without you. It might be useful for you to know what our Mission Statement is.

To carry on the ministry of Brother Benno, living out Matthew 25:31-45 with love and compassion.

To feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to shelter the homeless, to clothe the naked, to comfort the sick, and support people in recovering from their addictions!

We place our Foundation into God's hands and rely on His Divine Providence to provide the people and the wherewithal to accomplish our mission.

So it is that Harold and Kay Kutler were given the divine inspiration and motivation to begin this monumental task in conjunction with Brother Benno to make that Gospel passage a living and credible guideline for life.

Having lived with Brother Benno for 30 years, I know first-hand his love for the poor, the homeless, and the handicapped. The anniversary of his passing is on October 29, and an excerpt from his obit reads: "As a result of his dream and Harold and Kay's ability to make that dream come true, we have the reality. And we know that their faith made all the difference in establishing the ministry against overwhelming odds."

With winter upon us, we will have an increasing demand for our services. This includes food, tarps, rental and utility assistance, and emergency housing. It is not just the homeless that we will help, but many whose wages in outdoor jobs will have short checks or no checks at all.

We are pleased to announce that we have once again earned a Four-Star Charity rating by Charity Navigator. To get further information on this, please visit our website and the Charity Navigator website.

All of us at Brother Benno's wish you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Rev. Charles Wright, O.S.B.  
President

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# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

December 2019



## MOTORCYCLE CLUBS HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

Brother Benno's has been fortunate the past three years to receive a copious number of donations from The Posse, a motorcycle club made up entirely of AA men and women who blend their love of motorcycles with their desire to help the less fortunate. This year they gave us 5,000 pairs of socks, and 150 each of blankets, belts, and knit caps.

**Jim Shlemmer**, one of our Program mentors, said that they sometimes hold an AA meeting right at the Center when club members visit; and our current Program members attend as well. “We had 70 people one time, meeting in our warehouse,” he said, “and the sharing was very powerful. It's people getting together to do God's work by being of service.”



Kia of Cerritos partnered with the club by donating the money to purchase these items at the Garment District in Los Angeles. Another motorcycle club, Bikers Against Child Abuse, is also involved with this outreach.

Clubs members come to the Brother Benno Center on a Saturday to distribute the items, and they come away with no doubt that this is where they want to help. Besides their donations, members have shared a meal with our Guests, showing concern and encouraging them in their struggles.

The Brother Benno Recovery Program puts two “winners” together: a strict adherence to Alcoholics Anonymous and a strong focus on service to others. The service aspect seems to be unique among the many recovery programs available, and it continues to prove that giving men and women who are struggling with their addictions the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life makes permanent change more likely.

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Special Need.** From time to time, Brother Benno's lets donors know that we're in need of a particular item; and that if they want to, they can specify that need when making their donations. Such is the case now, when we are hoping to buy a 12-passenger van for our Phase 1 Program Men.

These men need transportation to and from the Center every day in order to carry out the services they perform as part of their recovery. They are also transported to and from AA meetings every day.

If you wish to help with this purchase, please include a note that it's for the **Recovery Van**.

**For Christmas.** There's still time to donate \$25 gift cards from Walmart for our annual Children's Christmas Party. As we've mentioned before, the gift cards are given to our registered families instead of toys so that the parents can buy the items their children need or want. Some donors buy the cards, others donate the money so our volunteers can purchase cards—either way works for us.

The cards or donation cash or checks can be dropped off at the Center or at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop or mailed to **Helen Parsons, Brother Benno Center, 3260 Production Ave., Oceanside, CA 92058**. It's important to label the donation in **BIG BLACK OR RED LETTERS: FOR HELEN, CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

And as always, Many Thanks!

**Giving and Receiving.** A volunteer posted the following on our Facebook page: "After volunteering at Brother Benno's today, I started thinking about how much I believe in the work we do there. During this time of year, some of us wish to express gratitude while some of us struggle to feel grateful. I have found that service is a way to answer both the need to express gratitude and also to feel more gratitude. If you are able, volunteering at Brother Benno's here in Oceanside is an experience like no other. Come and see what we're all about." \*

**They Keep On Giving.** The Tony Robbins Foundation has been a Brother Benno benefactor over the years, usually with sizable grants. Last year—and again this year—they also provided a complete Thanksgiving dinner for six of our most needy families. **Mary Holguin**, who heads our Casework office, said she chooses large families, those where the father has lost his job, and those with other financial difficulties. A representative of the Foundation delivered all the food needed for the big feast directly to their home, as well as a toy for each child in the family.

**Yes, a Million!** If you're a person who likes statistics, you'll love seeing the Brother Benno Services on the back page this month: we just went over 1,000,000 HUGS. That "service" was started by **Kay Kutler** at the very first meal served to the homeless in October of 1983, and other volunteers carried on when Kay was no longer able to do it. It's one of the not-so-secret benefits of being part of Brother Benno's.

*\* (Tours of the Brother Benno Center are given on the first Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. No need to sign up—just come!)*

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"A hug is like a boomerang--you get it back right away."

~Bil Keane

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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, 760-941-1876 or [smartinek@miracosta.edu](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)



### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele and Nita Rodriguez

## November Meeting Celebrates another great year, installs new Auxiliary Board Members, and presents year end donation to the Brother Benno Foundation Board.

Joyce Cerimele and Nita Rodriguez, 2019 Co-Presidents, presented the Auxiliary's year-end report and extended their thanks to all members for their participation in, and support of, Auxiliary activities that provide service, support, and financial assistance to the Brother Benno Foundation. These activities include their fundraising events (annual Flapjack Breakfast, Luau, and Golf Tournament), service activities (Breakfast Serving Teams, Thrift Shop Work Parties, Layettes for Military and working poor families) and support for Center events (Postal Workers Food Drive, Children's Christmas Party).

**Karen Gallagher**, Auxiliary Board Advisor, received a plaque honoring her 20 years of service to the Auxiliary. Throughout her many years of service, Karen has served as Auxiliary President/Co-President, and Board Advisor and has chaired numerous committees. She stated, "I became involved with the Brother Benno Auxiliary because I wanted to fundraise for the Women's Shelter; then transitioned to fundraising for the homeless and working poor."



**2020 Auxiliary Board: Joyce Cerimele, Doris Nyman, Renee Stepp, Janetha Bailey-Long, Nita Rodriguez.**



**Father Charles Wright, Foundation Board President, accepts Gift Cards for the Center's Children's Christmas Party from Marilyn Callender.**



**Father Charles Wright, Foundation Board President, accepts donation check from Joyce Cerimele, (right) and Nita Rodriguez, (left)**



**Karen Gallagher receives award**

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Joyce Cerimele and Nita Rodriguez presented to Father Charles Wright a check that included the funds coming from the following fundraising events: Applebees Flapjack Breakfast, Luau, Paint & Sip, and the Golf Tournament.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020**

**January is membership month!** New memberships and membership renewals are due. Auxiliary Dues are \$25/year or \$300 Lifetime Membership. New members can request a membership application by sending an email to auxiliary@brotherbenno.org or connecting with an Auxiliary member.

**February-** The Auxiliary Membership Brunch for new and renewing members will be held in early February at the Shadowridge Golf Club in Vista. More info coming in the next newsletter, so watch this space!

**For 2020,** Auxiliary meetings will continue to be held at the Center at 1:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month. Come check us out! Auxiliary meetings are open to all. Social time starts at 1 p.m. with light refreshments.

**On behalf of the 130 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](http://brotherbenno.org)**

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**



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

**FROM THE BOOK**

“There’s a story that says in order to make it through life we need a backbone, a wishbone, and a funnybone. Brother Benno volunteers have given us the backbone to make it through the tough times, the wishbone that keeps us from settling for less than the best, and the funnybone to keep us off the funny farm.”

*(Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen, by Harold Kutler, page 39)*

**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>**

**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.

**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	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Gilbert & Donna
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	Brown
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Dora Ramirez	Jane Cheadle
Brother Benno	Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Marie & Floyd
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Atkinson
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Mary Ann & David
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Mowery
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Christopher
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Bohannon
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Robert Buchach
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Joel Heiser
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Alva & Frances
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	Snider
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Clayton Beckman
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Squirrel Family	Frank Beeson
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	Correia Family
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	Russell Family
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Jane Schubert
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Harold Thompson	James Johnson
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	Carreen Golden
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	Molly Wilbur
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Dorothy Barnell
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Manuel Mancillas
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	George Ring
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	Calvin & Marge
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Bill Severy	Gregoire
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Stacy Dietz	
Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Matt Hagan	

### Needs

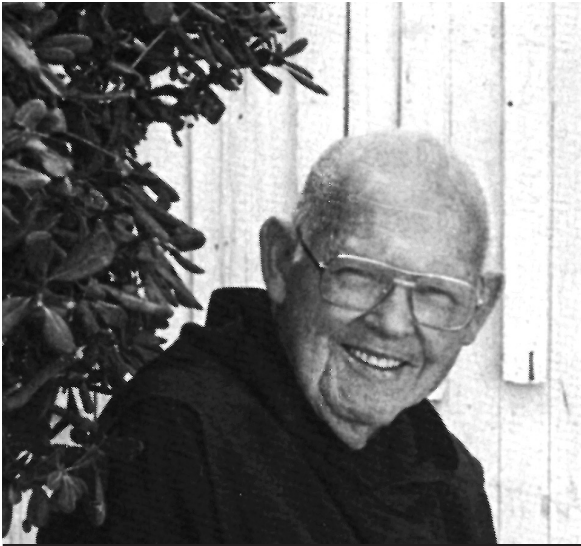
Gently used furniture                      Blankets                      Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing)  
 Baby diapers sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December</b>	<b>2</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>3</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>4</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>5</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>6</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>7</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2019</b>	<b>9</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>10</b> Riverview Church	<b>11</b> Fairwinds	<b>12</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>13</b> St. Patrick's	<b>14</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>16</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>17</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>18</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>19</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>20</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>21</b> Nativity Men's Group
<b>Serving</b>	<b>23</b> St. Thomas More RCIA	<b>24</b> Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>27</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>28</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>30</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>31</b> Welk Resort				
<b>Schedule</b>						



**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 2019	Our 36th Year		December 2019	Our 36th Year
Meals	13,302	4,432,035	Loads of laundry	28	28,493
Nights of lodging	928	312,050	Food packs	777	349,067
Articles of clothing	4,118	1,400,020	Blankets	219	47,554
Showers	1,142	267,126	Tarps	145	5,485
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	43	9,739
Bus passes	168	85,326	HUGS	1,800	1,001,344