



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

December 2021



WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS FOR MANY SPECIAL GUESTS

By Barbara Ladwig

Christmas will be celebrated at Brother Benno's this year as it was in 2020 with modifications, thanks to COVID. The main event is always the Children's Christmas Party to be held on Sunday, December 19. Instead of doing it at the Center, it will be a drive-through at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop in Oceanside.

Helen Parsons, Board member, who coordinates the party, said there'll be music, Santa, many elves, scenery of a small snowy town, gift tables, cookie booth, and possibly the Grinch. “Oh, and did I mention snow?” she added.

This event is by invitation only, and parents have been asked to fill out a form, which includes the sex and ages of their children so that appropriate gifts can be given.

The other traditional celebration is a Christmas Shopping Party and Brunch on December 5 for the men and women in our Recovery Program. Because they are separated from their families for at least six months while they live in one of our Recovery Houses, we offer them the opportunity to “shop” for their loved ones at the Thrift Shop. Volunteers are on hand to help make choices if they wish, and all gifts are wrapped with festive paper, bows, and tags. Christmas cards are also available. And it's all free!

“How blessed we are to be able to do this for our Recovery Members and their families,” Helen said. “This is what the true spirit of Christmas is all about.”

Ω

HUB CENTER WILL ALLOW BROTHER BENNO'S TO PARTNER WITH OTHER AGENCIES

By Joe McDevitt

The long-term needs of our Guests include shelter, mental health and physical health issues, drug addiction, support benefits, and various other concerns. While Brother Benno's is blessed with volunteers and staff who help navigate these types of social services, we sometimes need additional help from outside agencies. To that end, we recently completed plans to open dedicated offices at the Brother Benno Center to form a “Hub Center” that will provide space for team members from other North County non-profit organizations and government agencies to work with the people we serve.

This Hub Center will provide private offices, phone service, and access to online government and non-profit service providers through the use of our computers and software systems. In this way, we will be bringing these services to our Guests, instead of sending them out to other locations—a challenge that is often insurmountable to those in need.

We are particularly pleased with the recent announcement of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors' initiative to deploy teams of social workers, licensed clinicians, and other specialists to the North County region to provide needed services to homeless persons. The County's Homeless Outreach Team consists of a social worker, street case manager, and outreach human services specialists, whose efforts—combined with those of Brother Benno's Outreach Team—can interact directly to give aid to the homeless.

The Brother Benno Foundation was recently awarded a grant from the Art Pratt Foundation to assist us in refurbishing the offices for the Hub Center. We will report the progress of this endeavor in future newsletter articles.

Ω

AMAZON MAKES IT EASY TO DONATE

Have you checked our Amazon Wish List lately? To help clothe and keep our Guests safe and healthy, you can visit the Brother Benno Amazon Wish List and purchase any items you'd like to donate. Once purchased, they'll be shipped directly to the Brother Benno Center and be distributed by **Carol Muehe** in our Clothing Room.

The list is updated as new needs arise, but we can always count on the following needs: men's and women's undergarments, first-aid ointment and band-aids, toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks (especially women's knee socks), jersey gloves, foot and hand warmers, and mylar emergency blankets.

Please access our Wish List here: <https://amzn.to/3kfHXWn> And thank you!

Ω

KINDNESS FROM OTHERS BRIGHTEN THANKSGIVING

By Kathleen Diehlmann

We would like to thank the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Oceanside. On Saturday, November 20, volunteers came to the Brother Benno Center to distribute a turkey meal giveaway to our Guests. Approximately 115 food boxes were distributed to families so they could prepare a Thanksgiving meal at home.

In addition, Robbins International distributed five generously stocked Thanksgiving baskets on Sunday, November 21, to five families selected by our caseworker and Board Member **Mary Holguin**. These families received generous donations of food, clothing, and other goodies for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank you to our generous donors and supporters for helping support our Guests this Thanksgiving.

Ω

A HOT BREAKFAST RETURNS IN NOVEMBER

By Kathleen Diehlmann

On November 1, the Center reopened for indoor and outdoor breakfast service. The reopening has been a success, and the vast majority of our serving teams have returned to help us serve food to our community.

Our Guests were truly grateful to be able to sit down and enjoy a warm meal and a cup of coffee. We also received a very nice donation of tables and chairs from Lowes of Oceanside for those who preferred to eat outside. In addition, we purchased heat lamps to make eating outside a little more comfortable. The staff also removed some of the tables from inside the dining room so that there was more space and less crowding. It was a wonderful way to begin the month of November.

Ω





The Brother Benno Foundation

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

December 2021

Dear Brother Benno Supporters,

We wanted to share our JOY with you this holiday season. You might be wondering if this is the appropriate emotion to feel when our guests face so many challenges throughout the year. Seeing a rainbow during the rain-storm is a part of the Brother Benno Foundation ethos. So let us share with you the top 10 things that brought us JOY in 2021:

10. *The Center received **a fresh coat of paint** in June that improved its appearance and showed how much we care for not just our guests, but also the local businesses and our neighborhood.*
9. ***Our drug and alcohol program** continued to help those who seek sobriety and provided the Brother Benno Center with an outstanding group of men and women who helped keep the Center running during the pandemic.*
8. *Our partnerships with Feeding San Diego, San Diego Food Bank, various local grocery stores as well as the donations of many Brother Benno supporters kept our guests, the working poor and senior citizens **fed** throughout the year.*
7. *Over 420 households, consisting of more than 1000 household members, received **rental and utility assistance**. We helped families at risk of becoming homeless, particularly those financially impacted by the pandemic.*
6. *Our community **outreach team** is active, in unison with North County Homeless Outreach Teams, in determining **paths forward** for the unsheltered to receive transitional housing, medical and mental health care and substance abuse recovery aid.*
5. *A generous donation helped the Brother Benno Foundation acquire a **new database system** that helps the Brother Benno Foundation comply with the City of Oceanside's conditional use permit requirements and which will help us better tell our story.*
4. ***The Thrift Shop** has had customers return in droves! The donations given to the Thrift Shop has led to a very successful year for all who work there. The profits from the Thrift Shop help support the Foundation's mission.*
3. *A **vaccination clinic** was held in April at the Center to distribute COVID vaccines to our guests and volunteers.*
2. *Our partnership with Humanity Showers has helped us provide **safe showers outdoors** to those we serve.*
1. *On November 1st, **we reopened** our dining room to indoor and outdoor dining for our guests! There was hot coffee, warm food and a place to sit and relax. Kay Kutler's recorded voice reminded all that this is exactly where we belong. We welcomed back our serving team volunteers and loved seeing all their smiling eyes (and masks).*

With gratitude and JOY,

Kathleen Diehlmann President, Board of Directors

P.S. The children's annual Christmas party will be held as a drive-through at the Thrift Shop in December- and we hear that Santa is on his way.

SEVERAL VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ARE STILL OPEN

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Brother Benno's, we have openings for part-time jobs that offer flexible hours. If you'd like to volunteer, or want more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator **Renee Stepp** (760-231-1613) or volunteersatbb@gmail.com.

DRIVERS – Pick up donated items and deliver them to our facilities in Oceanside Monday through Saturday.

FRONT-ENTRANCE SUPPORT – Assist with the intake of information from Guests who come for support.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER OR CONSULTANT

HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR/ADMINISTRATOR

ACCOUNTING – Experience in QuickBooks, accounts payable, cash receipts, Desktop and MS Excel helpful.

CHRISTMAS HELPERS – Participate in the preparation for Christmas events for families with children. Enjoy being on hand to see the smiles and joy of the little ones.

RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE – Work with low-income women and men to provide support. Ability to converse in Spanish is helpful.

We conduct a tour of our Center the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. The address is 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside. Thank you for considering working with our staff and other volunteers to carry out our mission of seeing that no one in our area goes hungry, no one goes without shelter or clothing, and most importantly that no one goes without someone to care for him or her.

Ω

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.

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) _____ Ω _____

The Brother Benno Foundation
PO Box 308
Oceanside CA 92049

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 | Chance Hales | Alan Port | Francis Wojelezak |
| Dixie & Lou Bales | Tom & Louise | Mary Pullman | Joseph & Evelyn |
| Frank Barnett | Hayward | Catherine L. Quinlan | Mazzella |
| Brother Benno | Elizabeth Holms | Dora Ramirez | Bill & Mary |
| Edith Blaiser | John Jarvie | Dick & Terry Riley | McCarthy |
| Andrea Boersma | Dorothy and Walter | Margaret Rossini | Barbara LaMothe |
| Roland Bond | Jellig | Ann Sauer | Bill & Bernadette |
| Bill Boster | Alice Jordan | Nick Sauer | Baer |
| Agnus & Joan Boyd | Ben Kouns | Mary Shankle | Suzanne Gordon |
| Bill Buckner | Richard Kurtz | Naomi Shelton | Deacon Bob Troy |
| Deacon Art & Mary Carr | Carole Kutler | Bernice, Samuel & | Barbara Olish |
| Anna Correia | Harold & Kay Kutler | Milton Silver | Mary Ellen Gorman |
| Don & Dorothea Daybell | Bill & Louise Lakoff | Will Skinner | Ron Beckman |
| Phyllis H. Dierlam | Ben & Ozelle Lewis | Ann Grier Smith | Molly Wilbur |
| Frank S. Dolley | Helen Lucas | Alva & Frances | Toni Keane |
| Anita H. Donahue | Bill & Joan Maloney | Snider | Dorothy Barnell |
| Dorothy M. Donahue | Helene McGill | Squirrell Family | Robert Buchach |
| Fr. Luke Dougherty | Monty, Natalie, & | Mike Stendahl | Carreen Golden |
| Roseanne Dreibelbis | Michael Nares | Margaret Stephan | Mary Ann & Dave |
| Fr. Abbot Claude | Zeferino & Dancy | Virginia Sylwestrzak | Mowery |
| Ehringer, OSB | Nares | Harold Thompson | Timothy Diem |
| Myron Eichen | Mary Nordstrom | Carol & Herb | Elizabeth Parrish |
| Richard Farhquar | Nysewander Family | Thornberg | Ruth Martinez |
| William & Vennita | Bud & Blanche Ogle | Rosemary Tucker | |
| Flanagan | Ben Osgrove | Walter Ulloa | Happy Birthday |
| Louise Foussat | Kathryn D. Pent | June Williams | Robert McCoy |
| Joe & Ida Friend | Mary Peterson | Fred Williamson | |
| Mary Gerrity | Jane Pfau | Alva & Frances | |
| Bob Gleason | Ruth Hazel Pierson | Snider | |

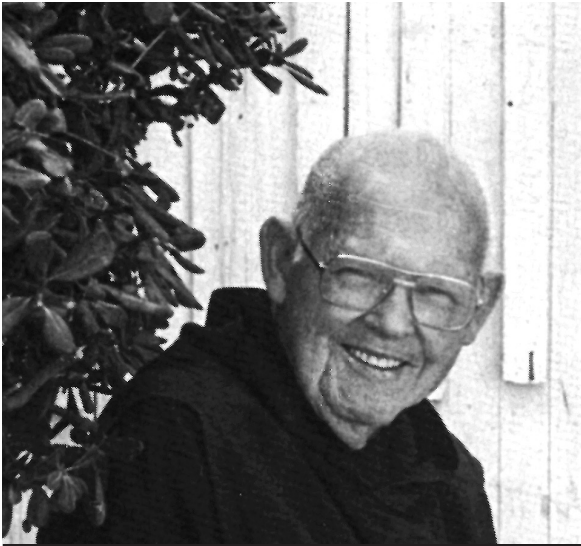
Needs

Gently used furniture Blankets Adult Unisex Diapers Baseball caps

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| December 2021 | | | 1 Brother Benno Auxiliary | 2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis | 3 San Luis Rey Mission | 4 St. Thomas Moore |
| Monthly | 6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1 | 7 St. John The Evangelist | 8 Rotary Clubs of Carlsbad | 9 Open | 10 St. Patrick's | 11 La Costa Valley Volunteers |
| Serving | 13 North Coast Methodist | 14 Riverview Church | 15 Brother Benno Auxiliary | 16 Open | 17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2 | 18 Girlfriend's Care |
| Team | 20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista | 21 Christ the King Church | 22 San Luis Rey Methodist | 23 Open | 24 Open | 25 Christmas Dinner |
| Schedule | 27 Servers R Us | 28 Rotary Club of Vista | 29 Soroptimist International | 30 Brother Bennos Thrift Shop | 31 King of Kings | |

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

Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon

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 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 2021 | Our 38th Year | | October 2021 | Our 38th Year |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Meals | 6,964 | 4,658,644 | Loads of laundry | 0 | 28,628 |
| Nights of lodging | 1,03 | 332,996 | Food packs | 699 | 363,483 |
| Articles of clothing | 2,884 | 1,458,401 | Blankets | 134 | 50,052 |
| Showers | 234 | 271,789 | Tarps | 52 | 6,588 |
| Haircuts | 107 | 23,145 | ID Vouchers | 20 | 10,275 |
| Bus passes | 90 | 86,745 | HUGS | 0 | 1,011,244 |