

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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:

	December 2010	Our 28th Year		December 2010	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,926	3,045,839	Loads of laundry	30	25,623
Nights of lodging	1,241	206,035	Food packs	2,544	152,435
Articles of clothing	4,463	848,382	Blankets	120	31,298
Showers	989	152,586	Prescriptions	44	6,225
Haircuts	65	12,076	ID Vouchers	8	8,083
Bus passes	96	73,818	HUGS	1,800	794,344

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

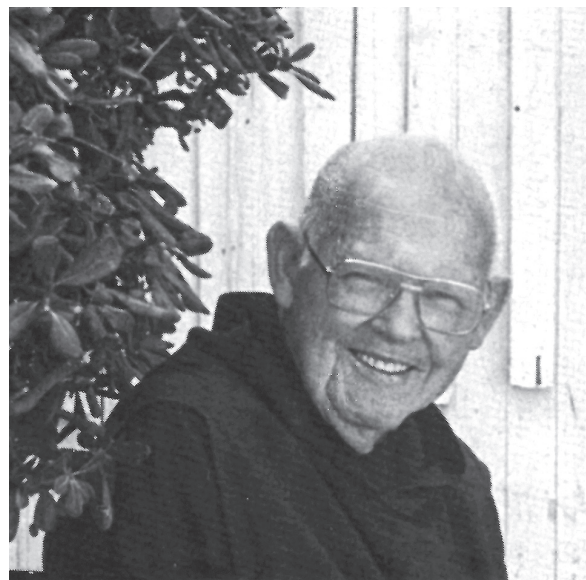
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

February 2011



GUESTS AT WOMEN'S HOUSES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Some Brother Benno supporters focus on our Women's Houses, because they feel a special affinity for women and children who face difficult challenges in their lives. This past Christmas, many of those supporters saw to it that our guests at MAMI and DBRJ felt the love of the season in a way that perhaps they'd never felt before.

Jan Roberts, who manages both Houses, saw to it that each House was decorated and had a Christmas tree. The women who live in the Houses were invited to come to the Center before Christmas to pick out gifts for their children, or for nieces and nephews. Women from HOW (Helping Other Women), members of the Brother Benno Auxiliary, provided dinner, other delectable treats, and gifts for the women and children.

At the time of this writing, two children, ages 7 and 20 months, are living at MAMI with their mother full-time; and one, age 3, comes to be with his mother every other weekend. These mothers wrote the following about what Christmas meant to them this year:

"My Christmas at MAMI was better than I thought it would be. I was going through a lot and didn't have very much money, so I figured that my girls wouldn't have a Christmas. The staff of Brother Benno's, and the volunteers, made my children's Christmas a very special one. They had gifts to open and smiles on their faces and happiness in their hearts. Because of donations (from Brother Benno supporters), my kids had a warm, fun-filled holiday, and that's all I could ask for. Thank you to Brother Benno's staff, volunteers, and to everyone who donated this year. K.R."

"Christmas this year was a huge blessing. My three-year-old son got to experience it all. He had special people to share it with, joy, wonder, excitement, and gifts delivered by Santa Claus. He was thrilled! I could not have asked for a better Christmas, and it was all made possible by the generous works of Brother Benno's. I am so grateful for all they have done to make Christmas 2010 the best it could possibly be. R.R."

Now that the holidays are over, Jan is making it possible for these two mothers to attend an eight-week parenting class put on by Lifeline in Oceanside (nclifeline.org). They can bring their children with them, so babysitting isn't a problem. **Mary Robinson**, Board member who oversees our Women's Houses, said: "We've been trying to have the ladies at MAMI take self-improvement classes to prompt them into action in learning a little more so they can better deal with their situations."

Jan is also testing out a change in length of stay at MAMI so the women have the time they need to get back on their feet.

(DBRJ is our sober-living House. MAMI is for homeless women and women with children. More information is available on our website: brotherbenno.org)

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"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
Helen Keller

SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE LIFE CHANGES POSSIBLE

Brother Benno's started offering scholarships to high school students in 2008, then added college students as well. A total of ten scholarships are awarded every year.

Two women—one just starting her college career, the other ready to transfer from Palomar to Cal State San Marcos—wrote the following letters in response to their receiving a scholarship:

"I am very grateful that you chose me . . . to receive this scholarship. I am going to use the money to pay for my classes and textbooks as I begin college.

"About a year ago, life was very terrible for me. My family was going through a lot of hardships, and it was really difficult for me to deal with. Lately, my life has changed for the better. I feel a lot more successful, now that I know I am strong enough to do whatever it is I want to do. And receiving this scholarship has a lot to do with that. I am attending my first semester at Palomar College and it is going very well. I am taking a full load of classes, which is difficult, but I am making the best of it by staying on track and studying a lot. . . ."

"I want to become a registered nurse, because I want to be able to give back to my community in every way imaginable, and I find nurses to be highly respected parts of their community. Thanks to this scholarship, I am all the more closer to accomplishing my goals. . . . I really appreciate all that you have done for me. K.P."

"Thank you for allowing me to receive this wonderful, generous award. . . . I am honored and proud to be a Brother Benno recipient. . . . I will be attending CSUSM for my BA in Business Administration, am pursuing a career in Business Management in the Medical Technologies field. I am really excited about where my life is headed. . . . I have big dreams, and I know they are obtainable as long as I work hard. . . . This will help fulfill my goals to be a self-supporting member of society and a healthy role model for my daughter.

" . . . I am a single parent and head of my household. I am also a recovering alcoholic of four years. Some of my challenges are with balancing work, counseling, meetings, and raising my

daughter. Receiving help from Brother Benno's gives me strength when faced with all my everyday financial obligations. I am so grateful, and I thank God every day for having programs like this to help me better my life. I pray for the day when I can help people who are in my shoes. R.A."

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EXPERIENCING

by Barbara Ladwig

Random Kindness. A volunteer who arrived at the Center early one cold January morning walked past a woman waiting to see someone in the Case Management office. She was early for her appointment, she said, as she stood shivering, obviously not dressed for the weather. The volunteer gave the woman her warm scarf.

Several hours later, I noted that the volunteer had not gotten her scarf back. "Oh, I don't care about the scarf," she said. "That woman was just so cold . . ."

Open Mike. Carrying on with a tradition started by **Kay Kutler** from Day One, we are looking for volunteers who would like to entertain our guests during their morning meal. Kay sang her heart out every day, much to the delight of everyone within earshot, and then she invited anyone who wanted to, to come up on stage to sing, play an instrument, or entertain in any other way.

If you have a talent you'd like to share (even joke-telling is a talent!), please call **Dennis** (760-681-2616) and let him know you're interested. He said it could be a 15-minute spot, or longer. Breakfast is served from 6:30 to 8:00, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 to 11:30 on Saturdays.

A Mouth-Watering Invitation. Be sure to check out the Flapjack Breakfast being put on by the Auxiliary in March (details on page 4). Anyone who enjoys that first meal of the day, and loves to get it at an unbelievably low price, will want to be part of this special fundraiser.

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Memorials

Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Ann Sauer
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Nordstrom
Myron Eichen
Alice Jordan
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Richard Farhquar
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Catherine L. Quinlan
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Pullman
Joan Boyd
Agnus Boyd
Harold Thompson
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Bob Gleason
Jane Pfau
Ron Alexander
Mary Peterson
Frank Barnet
Frank S. Dolley
Phyllis H. Dierlam

Monty Nares
Margaret Rossini
Dorothy M. Donahue
Mary Teresa Carr
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Elizabeth Holms
Edith Blaiser
Ben Kouns
Bill Lakoff
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Anita H. Donahue
Margaret Stephan
Bill Boster
Louise Foussat
Tom Hayward
Richard Kurtz
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler

Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Naomi Shelton
Laverne Peters
William Flanagan
Mary Ann Mowery
Jason Frater
Bill Carrothers
Helen Lucas
Arthur & Estelle Coutvaier
Floyd & Rose Caldwell
Mary Ann Treister
Leo Reuder
Kathleen Reuder Foley
Don Squirrell
Bob Nysewander
Palmer Houser
Nallie
Maurice Terwiske
Doug Faught
Anna Corriera
Bob, Naia, Rick Provost
Alex Bertha

Margaret Zachan
Edna Showwalter
Clayton Cole
Louise Haywood
Al Basteri
Alex Williman
John Gerz
Sister Martha Vega
Carolyn Halsey
Jerry Schwager

Birthdays

JoAnne Shlemmer

In Honor Of

Joe & Ruth Jurancich
Gene Daley Family
Dalia & Malcolm Rawlins
EDD/NEEEE
Mary Mattino & N. County Career Center
Dolores Schaefer

Needs

Volunteers to sand furniture- any day
Men's clothing, Jackets, Socks

Volunteer to assist in Furniture Warehouse Mondays 9-12
Motel-size hygiene items

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2011		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
Monthly	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Friends from Vista	9 Naval Hospital	10 Oceanside Civitans	11 St. Patrick's	12 TVIA
Serving	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ the King Lutheran	16 Grace Anglican	17 Carlsbad Rotary	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
Team	21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 St. Mark's San Marcos	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Pilgrim Creek	25 Fallbrook Presbyterian	26 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	28 5/11 Marines					

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to brotherbenno.org, click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

“A” IS FOR ANGELS

by Helen Parsons

So many people came together to make Christmas happen at Brother Benno's. The big toy giveaway was on December 22, the traditional Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day.

On the first Saturday in December, a volunteer team arrived from Edison under the guidance of **Debbie Knight**—one of many on our “A” team. They decorated, wrapped hundreds of gifts, sorted toys, bagged rice and beans, and set up an ornament-making station in the Reading Room for our guests' children. Their willingness and kind hearts set the pace for the days ahead.

The following Saturday, Girlfriends Care arrived bright and early, led by **Gini Craig**—a long-time “A” team member. The women shared service and hugs in the dining room, Reading Room, food warehouse, and toy set-up area. Some created place-mats to be used by guests at our Christmas dinner.

Betty Marchesseau set up a boutique in the conference room for Program Members. Each man was assigned a personal shopper to help him select brand-new gifts for his family. Other volunteers wrapped the gifts, which were mailed if necessary. The joy in that room was palpable!

That same day, members of the Brother Benno Auxiliary came to the Center to decorate the Furniture Warehouse, but they willingly sorted toys instead, as that was the need that morning. Many of them returned on December 22 to help distribute the toys. They also donated 250 teen gifts, a project organized by “Angel” **Carol Richards**.

Michelle Hoppe and **Mary Yett** from the Thrift Shop held a toy drive, encouraging customers to donate. They brought in a carload of new toys!

Lori Robinson, a special angel from Genentech (an Oceanside company) collected many toys for us, including a few bikes. Then she helped with the toy distribution, and brought along her sister and daughter as part of that “A” team.

Many Marines also gave us their time by helping to distribute toys. **Herb Robertson** stayed the entire day, passing out stuffed animals. He looked so handsome in his dress uniform, and his presence reminded us that our soldiers are making sure our freedom and safety are secured.

Many churches, other companies, and individuals gave us their time and treasures, including the City of Oceanside. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Not to be forgotten are all the regular staff members and volunteers who make up the core “A” team every day of the year: **Harold, Bear, Sean, Joe, Tom, Suzy, Dennis, Denise, Mary, Liz, Kathy, Virginia, Thomas, Paul, Greg, another Dennis, Pelon, Senator, Darryl, Pat, Diane**, and all the Program Guys. A heartfelt thanks to every one of you!

At the end of the day on December 22, a young, very wet guy came into the warehouse asking for a ride. His car had broken down in front of the Center, and he needed to be driven to a friend's house to borrow a car. As I drove him to Vista, he shared his story with me. He was an ex-Marine and had just lost his civilian job a few weeks earlier. His girlfriend was expecting a baby soon, and his mom and sister were barely making ends meet.

They had all come to the Center earlier that day, and he said they so enjoyed the refreshments, Christmas carols, Santa, gifts, and loving atmosphere that they left with a feeling of hope. “Yeah,” he said. “Today was our Christmas!”

All these Angels accomplished what they set out to do!

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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 Vikki Ramey

Welcome back, Members! We hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and expect the very best for the New Year.

An informal meeting was held on January 15 for new Board members and Committee Chairs. The gathering was to prepare the calendar of events, inform new Chairs of their duties, and do some brainstorming for fundraising ideas.

The first meeting of 2011 was held on January 26. New Board members and Committee Chairs were introduced and a calendar of events was distributed. We will not have a regular meeting in February, due to the Membership Drive Luncheon on Saturday, February 26, at Shad-owridge Country Club in Vista. All members are encouraged to bring neighbors, friends, relatives—anyone who might be interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary. Please contact **Thelma Hendrix** (760-758-2949). Also, the winner of the Alaska cruise trip for two will be announced.

On March 12, we will have a new fundraiser—a Flapjack Breakfast at Applebee's in Oceanside from 8 to 9:30. The meal will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, milk, juice, and coffee. All that for only \$10! We need Auxiliary volunteers for greeters, servers, and bussers. Call **Judy Harris** (760-724-0227) for more information.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, March 23. Hope to see all of you then, and at the Luncheon and Breakfast.

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ALASKA CRUISE PROMISES BEAUTY AND ADVENTURE

Everyone is invited to join the Brother Benno Auxiliary on a seven-night Alaska cruise, June 3 through June 10, 2011. Your package includes accommodations aboard the Royal Caribbean's "Rhapsody of the Seas," all meals, spectacular on-board entertainment, plus the scenic beauty of Alaska! The cruise starts and ends in Seattle, Washington.

Everything in Alaska is bigger, including the adventures. From the awe-inspiring blue ice of a massive glacial field to the expansive grandeur of its wildlife and nature, Alaska is a land of natural wonders. Destinations in Alaska include the Inside Passage, Juneau, Skagway, and Tracy Arm Fjord; as well as Victoria, British Columbia.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines will be donating funds back to "Brother Benno Fundraiser" for every passenger booked.

Please call **Pat Russell** (760-930-9377) for information and to make reservations.

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Information & Online donations

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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____