I am writing thank-you notes, a few each day, for the heartfelt response we had for our toy needs. To think that we started with “0” and were able to provide a really nice gift for over 2,100 children! We gave each child a stuffed animal plus a few stocking stuffers as well.

On December 21, cars and trucks continuously came by with donations. As we received each load, we were just plain excited! Even after hours, when we were in the dining room figuring out the final plan, a lady knocked on the door and presented us with 100 $10 gift certificates from Target. They were perfect for our teen boys. And Brother Benno’s Auxiliary made over 200 cosmetic-filled totes for our teen girls.

The Thrift Shop collected toys and money for toys from hundreds of caring people. They “stuffed the truck” with approximately 300 toys. Many local groups came by with vehicles filled to capacity with really nice toys. One of our own staff members collected toys plus $200 in cash at his gym. We went on a fun shopping spree with that money, and with many other generously given dollars.

We watched the papers incessantly for good deals and coupons. At one shop, we filled two carts three times, because they gave us coupons we could use on future purchases ($20 off on every $30 we spent!). My five-year-old neighbor boy came up to give me two brand-new

continued on page 4....
Wow! Close to Christmas, we had almost no toys for the more than two thousand children we expected for our Christmas toy giveaway. We put the word out everywhere we could think of, including area newspapers. And then the magic began. Turn to page 1 for the wonderful conclusion . . . .

For Techies. We are offering a new service to newsletter readers—the ability to receive the newsletter as an email instead of a paper copy. This option will by no means end the way we’ve always done it; it is simply a way to accommodate those readers who prefer online access rather than a paper copy.

If you’d like to make this change, send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com, state that you’re making the change, and include your full name.

We already have PayPal in place for donors who prefer that method of making a donation. Since email receivers won’t have the handy enclosed envelope, they will be able to donate through PayPal if they wish.

Restitution. A woman came to the Center to make a monetary donation. She said that when she was younger, she found a way to steal money from the restaurant where she worked. Many years later she went through the 12-Step Program, which urges participants to make amends to anyone whom they harmed in the past. She wasn’t able to return the money to the restaurant because it had gone out of business, so she chose to give the money—$500—to Brother Benno’s instead.

Sweet Generosity. The children who become involved with helping at Brother Benno’s continue to amaze me. A check for $52, received from a couple in December, had this notation at the bottom: Isabella’s allowance.

Honoring Friends and Loved Ones. When a supporter makes a donation to Brother Benno’s in memory of someone, or in honor of a birthday or anniversary, we list the names one time in the newsletter. Please tell us with each donation whom you wish to remember or honor by writing clearly on the check or in a separate note (we also provide a form in each newsletter that can be included with the check). Your help will be truly appreciated!

Thanks to those readers who sent in address changes, and to donors who let us know they don’t need a thank-you card. If you’d like to update us in either of these ways, just drop a note in the mail or call and leave a message for me, Barbara Ladwig.

Another Wow. If you enjoy eating breakfast out, and you like to help a worthy cause at the same time, plan to attend the Auxiliary’s Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee’s on March 17. Imagine, you get a full breakfast for only $10! See page 3 for details.

A Parable. I heard a beautiful story from a new volunteer who said she heard it while on retreat . . . .

Several people were walking along, each carrying a heavy cross. One man noticed that Jesus was walking behind him, so he turned around and asked if it would be alright if he cut off part of the cross to lighten the load. Jesus said Yes; but as the man continued walking, he still felt the burden was too heavy, and again he asked for Jesus’s permission to cut off another piece. He did the same thing a third time, and then a fourth; and finally the cross was easy to carry.

Eventually the man reached the edge of a cliff, and he found himself looking down into a deep chasm. Turning again to Jesus, he asked, “How am I supposed to get across to the other side?” Jesus said, “Look,” and the man saw that the other cross-bearers had laid their crosses over the chasm and were walking on them to the far side. The man’s cross was much too short by this time, so his only option was to walk down the steep wall of the cliff and then climb back up on the other side.

Amen.
Brother Benno’s Auxiliary

Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Applebee’s Restaurant
2146 Vista Way, Oceanside (Jefferson/Hwy 78)

Breakfast will be served 8am to 9:30am

$10.00

You will be served scrambled eggs, 2 pancakes, 2 pieces of bacon, 2 pieces of sausage, along with juice, milk and coffee.

for tickets:
Edith Jones – 760-529-0875
Judy Harris – 760-724-0227

make checks out to Brother Benno’s Auxiliary

We hope you will be able to join us. Please call if you have any questions.
Our Membership Drive Luncheon will be held on February 25 at 11:30 at Shadowridge Country Club in Vista. We are looking for new members who are interested in volunteering, fundraising, and having fun. Our Committee Chairpersons will give a brief speech about their events; and after lunch they will be available to answer questions. For more information about this Luncheon, please call Barbara Barreras (760-639-0012).

Our Flapjack fundraiser at Applebees in Oceanside on March 17 is back by popular demand. See info on page 3, and plan to attend!

At our meeting on March 28, we will discuss fundraising events, the Annual Luncheon on December 1, NALC Food Drive, and Mother’s Day/Father’s Day gift bags.

THE IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Immersion means to be profoundly involved and have first-hand experience of a situation as it affects you and others around you. In the immersion experience at Brother Benno’s, you will become one with those who suffer from poverty as you wait in line with them for a meal, eat at our tables in the dining room, become involved in conversations, and observe what is going on around you and between you. You will quickly come to realize that you have much more in common than you may think.

If you have questions or would like to participate in this immersion experience on a Saturday morning, please contact Dennis (760-439-1244, ext. 116, or dennispinnick@yahoo.com).

...continued from page 1

toys for kids who wouldn’t be able to get any. He said he knew that meant there would be two fewer toys for him under his tree, but he didn’t mind.

There were toys and checks, and even layettes for babies, from many Brother Benno volunteers; refreshments from some of our kitchen staff; beautiful songs by a guitarist who sang to the children; and many volunteers to help sort, decorate, and bag the toys. The Program Guys helped in so many ways, and the Servants of the Poor were fantastic helping with everything.

It was one “God Wink” after another! We even have a few toys left over that we’ve packed away for next year.

Ω

Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

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

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_____________________

Ω
### Memorials

- Brother Benno
- Pope John Paul II
- Mother Teresa
- Ann Sauer
- Joe & Ida Friend
- Mary Nordstrom
- Myron Eichen
- Alice Jordan
- Roseanne Dreibelbis
- Richard Farquhar
- 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
- Rosemary Tucker
- Ben E. Lewis
- Roland Bond
- Anna Correia
- Geraldine Howard
- Marshall Button
- Michael Stendahl
- N. Bastari
- Robert, Naia, & Rick Provost
- Jo Bevis
- Herbert “Steve” Sieber
- Gene Daley Family
- Helen & Walter Shlemmer
- Lloyd & Theon Freeberg
- Kathryn Grisaff
- Ben Weseloh
- Leo & Kathleen Reeder
- Harold Muir
- Andrea Boersma
- Ima Holm
- Rodalfo Troncose
- Squirrel Family
- Nysewander Family
- Claude Phillips
- Naomi Dixon
- Mark Wolder
- Doren Curtiss
- Leo Snowiss
- Gerevieve Proffitt
- Gilbert Brown
- Stanley LaMonte
- William Flanagan
- Ski Terwiske
- Wendy Steen
- George Howland
- Mike Johnson
- Alice Condren
- John McCauley

### Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hygiene Items</th>
<th>Ponchos</th>
<th>Tight-knit Gloves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serving</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schedule</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Brother Benno’s Furniture Sales</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(next to Center) 760-967-2742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brother Benno’s Services:</th>
<th>December 2011</th>
<th>Our 28th Year</th>
<th>December 2011</th>
<th>Our 28th Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>13,433</td>
<td>3,197,349</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>1,238</td>
<td>220,530</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>182,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>4,449</td>
<td>899,962</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>32,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>163,005</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>6,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>13,576</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>75,226</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>817,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loads of laundry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID Vouchers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUGS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

www.brotherbenno.org