

Brother Benno's Newsletter



“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

February 2012

COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE IS OVERWHELMING

by Helen Parsons



(Editor's Note: We have not mentioned any people or businesses by name in this article in order to avoid the possibility of missing someone).

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

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EIGHT-YEAR-OLD INITIATES HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

More than a year ago, seven-year-old **Drake Pytlak** of Oceanside saw a homeless man standing in front of a Walmart store, asking for help. He was moved to ask his mom **Rachelle** if they could help, and that concern became the beginning of Drake's determination to help those in need. They went into Walmart and bought all kinds of things they thought the man could use, and his mom said Drake felt very good about it. So good, in fact, that this past Halloween he asked his mother not to buy him any Christmas gifts, but to give that money to the poor instead.

Now Drake is eight and in third grade at Nichols Elementary School in Oceanside. He approached his teacher, **Charlie Bishop**, with his idea about asking all the students in the school to donate money and/or food for the homeless, and Charlie said he was happy to help.

During the month of December, the Nichols kids gave \$425 to the “Gift Up a Gift” campaign, with some of the donations as much as \$40. Another teacher, **Mrs. Bergman**, added \$159 from her Santa Gram fundraiser, for a grand total of \$584. “I think (our school's Christmas food drive) was our biggest food drive yet, which is pretty cool considering the state of the economy,” said Mr. Bishop.

Denise Seymour, Dennis Martinek, Dennis Pinnick, and Luke from Brother Benno's went to Nichols Elementary on December 16, where they were presented with a check. “The kids were delightful,” said Denise, “and the teachers were so wonderful in supporting this idea.”

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

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.



AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

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, fund-raising, and having fun. Our Committee Chairpersons will given 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.

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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).

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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.

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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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

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
 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 & Theoan Freeberg
 Kathryn Grisaff
 Ben Weseloh
 Leo & Kathleen Reuder
 Harold Muir
 Andrea Boersma
 Ima Holm
 Rodalfo Troncoso
 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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
 M/M Joseph Opatkiewicz

PRAYERS FOR
 David & Virginia Shlemmer

IN HONOR OF
 Nicholas & Angel Schiffer
 Tasha & Randy Blaine
 Catherine Hoehtart
 Helene McGill
 Bill Barman
 M/M Gary Lantz
 Linda Lasley
 Alex Botha

Needs

Hygiene Items
 Hoodies

Ponchos
 Tight-knit Gloves

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2012			1 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
Monthly Serving Team Schedule	6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 Naval Hospital	9 Oceanside Civitans	10 St. Patrick's	11 Oak Hill Church
	13 North Coast Methodist	14 Friends from Vista	15 Grace Anglican	16 Carlsbad Rotary	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
	20 CLOSED Presidents' Day	21 Christ the King Lutheran	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Pilgrim Creek	24 Fallbrook Presbyterian	25 Catholic Daughters
	27 Christ Anglican	28 St. Mark's San Marcos	29 Soroptimist International			

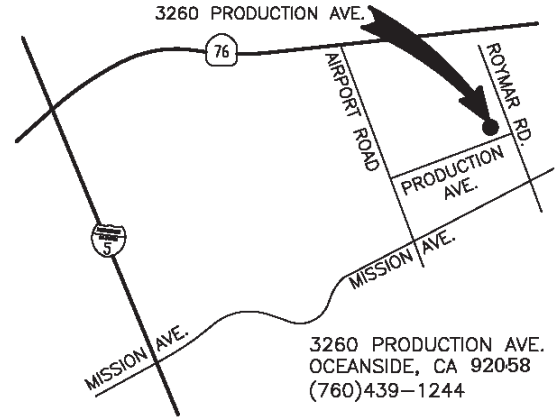
Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

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



Brother Benno's Services:

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

*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

Non-Profit Organization
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Oceanside, California
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