



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

February 2014

## A CHORE BECOMES FUN WHEN DONE IN COMMUNITY

Eight women gathered in one of the warehouse spaces on a Wednesday afternoon after Christmas to sort through the mounds of clothing that had been donated over the past month. Behind them stood 19 square bins (4' x 4' x 4') filled with large plastic bags, and in front of them was the long conveyor used for packing the food boxes.

As each bag was emptied onto the conveyor, the women would pick up an item, check its condition, and put it into the appropriate box—men's pants, women's tops, little girls' dresses, boys' shirts, shoes, etc. The boxes were also designated for either the Thrift Shop or the Clothing Room at the Center.

These women—**Rose, Robin, Jackie, Jan, Carol, Liz, Helen, and Angela**—worked with amazing speed, punctuated by good-natured banter. On a table nearby was a crock pot full of corn chowder, a plate of crackers, and a pan of brownies, all compliments of Helen, who "loves to feed everyone," according to one of the women.

This scene is fairly typical at Brother Benno's. Often the items being sorted are non-perishable food items from various drives conducted by our supporters. And several days a week, regular volunteers pack the food boxes that are given out five days a week to needy families, seniors, and handicapped men and women.

Volunteering for these kinds of jobs are on an as-needed basis. So if you'd like to help out but can't commit to a regular schedule, you might want to put your name on a list for these once-in-a-while gatherings. Just call or email **Denise**

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## In Memoriam

**Donna Doherty** passed away on January 19, 2014, after a long illness. She was the wife of **Frank Doherty**, who is one of Brother Benno's Operations Managers. They were married for 38 years and have three grown sons.



Both Frank and Donna have volunteered at Brother Benno's for nine years, but they were involved with helping the poor and homeless most of their married life. When they saw someone in need of support and love, they did whatever they could—from helping a couple start a business, to taking a teenager whose parents were in prison into their home.

A funeral Mass for Donna was held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church on January 30.

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"Charity begins today. Today somebody is suffering, today somebody is in the street, today somebody is hungry. Our work is for today, yesterday has gone, tomorrow has not yet come. Do not wait for tomorrow."

~ Mother Teresa

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Unlikely Evangelists.** Two young “vaga-bonds” came to the Center on a Wednesday morning—dirty, hungry, and tired—after having walked for ten days, from Hollywood to Oceanside. After a shower, clean clothes, and a meal, they were like new, said **Diana Shields** and **Julie Petrie**, who work in our intake office.

I had a chance to sit down with them the following Saturday morning, and we had a rather enlightening conversation. The young men are 24-year-old **O.** from Oklahoma, and 19-year-old **J.** from Jamaica. They met in Hollywood and decided to team up on their journey—walking and hitchhiking—to discover how other people would treat them, and with the hope of finding out what their lives are all about.

Both expressed a deep and unshakeable faith in God's protection, and they had stories to support their belief. They admitted to having used powerful drugs in the past, which led to life-threatening consequences; and apparently they continue to use much gentler substances.

Their future plans are somewhat vague; Yuma is probably their next goal, then Oklahoma, and finally Jamaica, so they can show each other their hometowns.

As we shook hands and parted, they shared their impression of Brother Benno's with a sense of awe in their voices: “*There is just so much kindness and love here!*”

**Reaching Beyond Our Borders.** **Dennis Pinnick** introduced me to **Ray**, a friend of his from way back. Ray is a Native American who's been helping the poor in Guatemala by collecting clothing from every source he can think of. He also shared that he'd been a drug addict for many years, not caring whether he lived or died, and giving no thought to the needs of others. But like so many addicts, he woke up one morning 18 years ago and decided he'd had enough; and now, helping the poor is his main focus in life. Because Brother Benno's has an abundance of donated clothing right now, Dennis was able to give some of it to Ray. It's heartening to me that the generosity of our donors helps those in our own area, but can

sometimes reach the poor far away.

**Time to Shine.** Surprisingly, many people donate silverware and other silver items to our Thrift Shop. The Shop staff wants to present these items to buyers in the best way possible, so a volunteer comes in regularly to polish them. She is currently recovering from surgery, and according to Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe**, “the silver is piling up!” Would anyone like to come in on a temporary basis until our polisher is able to return? Just call Michelle at the Shop (760-967-7505) and let her know you're available.

**Furniture Sales.** **Stew Morrow**, who's been volunteering for about a year and a half in the furniture sales area of our Center on Production Avenue, wants everyone to know that we are once again in the business of selling furniture at the Center. The area was closed during the Christmas holidays, but now it's back on schedule—Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

The furniture on Production Avenue is priced lower than the items at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop on Mission Avenue, making it more affordable for some people. But as you know, if you've been to the Shop, the prices there are also amazingly low, and the quality continues to increase. Also, the Shop sells many other items—clothing, household goods, books, music and DVD's, tools, glassware, silverware, and china—and much more. Check it out!

**Holey Shoes!** I happened to be talking with **Carol Muehe**, who oversees all the donated clothing, when one of the Program Guys walked up to her and asked if she could find him another pair of shoes. We both looked down at his feet, and it was very obvious that the shoes he was wearing had run out of the proverbial nine lives. When I saw Carol later that day, I asked if she'd been able to find the size 13 shoes the young man required. “Yes,” she said, “and now another Program Guy (also size 13) asked me for a pair for him, too!”

## NO SUCH THING AS A HOPELESS CASE

Like so many people who serve at Brother Benno's, **Elana Bagley** is using her own struggle with addiction to help others. In May, 2013, she became the Assistant House Leader at MAMI (Martha Ann Mary and Ida) for homeless women and women with children. Even though not all the women who live there have issues with alcohol and drugs, many of them do; and that's where Elana's experience comes into play.



"Our goal for the ladies who come to MAMI is to provide an environment in which their basic needs are met, so that they can put their energy into becoming self-sufficient by getting a job and saving money," Elana said. "We are a bridge and a support system to that end."

Her duties include intake, orientation, mentoring, case management, drug screening, and shopping for groceries and supplies for the House.

The house is closed after breakfast and reopened in late afternoon, because the women are required to spend the day looking for a job and eventually going to work. "They have to have at least five job contacts every day," Elana said. "We help them with computer skills and putting together their resume before they go out."

Elana said she's always had a heart for the poor and homeless. "My mother took in strays all the years I was growing up," she said. "We often had many extras at the dinner table."

**How It All Started.** Elana, age 54, says she started doing drugs when she was twelve. "Drugs were everywhere in the early 70's," she said. It was friends at school who introduced them to her. For 35 years, she was "a functioning addict," meaning she was always working (though she lost many jobs due to her addiction); but she was able to take care of

herself. Eventually she was a single mom, going from welfare to jobs, because she got no support from her children's father.

In 2007, Elana lived at Serenity House in Escondido for three months, got clean, and never faltered. She said she was "spiritually ready." Then for four years, she lived with her mother, who had several serious medical problems. She passed away in March of 2011. Here is what Elana said about that part of her life:

*"Living with and taking care of my mother was a blessing that I was granted by God, a gift of grace that would not have been possible, had I not been clean and sober. It was also a living of amends that I was able to make to her for all that I put her through while I was in my addiction. I believe it was largely due to her prayers and support that I made it through and now have the opportunity to become the woman that God intended me to be, and that my Mom hoped I would become."*

**Continuing Education.** Elana started taking classes at Palomar College in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies (AODS) in 2010 and received her certificate in May, 2013. As part of her studies, she did an internship at Brother Benno's. **Jan Roberts**, Manager of both MAMI and DBRJ (House of Dorothy Barbara Rosemary and Joan, Brother Benno's sober-living house for women), said that during her internship, Elana assisted her in a total revision of the paperwork for both women's houses.

Elana is continuing her education at Palomar, taking General Ed. classes in order to get an Associate Degree. At the same time, she's mentoring two classes for the AODS program and studying to take the CAADAC exam. (CAADAC stands for California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors).

Some people might feel a sense of hopelessness when they hear about a 47-year-old woman with a 35-year history of alcohol and drug abuse. But Elana Bagley's story tells us that there is no such thing as a hopeless case. And Brother Benno's is blessed to be part of her success story.



### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

The Auxiliary now has a full board. Installed officers are: **Vera Bayliss**, President; **Isobel Haring**, Vice President; **Joan O'Connell**, Treasurer; **Bonnie Gjerde**, Secretary; **Thelma Hendrix**, Parliamentarian; and **Vikki Ramey**, Advisor. Congratulations to all our officers.

Our Membership Drive will be held on Saturday, March 1, at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. Dues are still only \$10. We will need help with food items, so please call Isobel (760-931-0874) if you can help.

Save the date! Applebee's Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser will be held on Saturday, March 22. The price is \$10 for a great breakfast! Be ready to buy your tickets at our February 26 meeting. And remember to sell tickets to family members, neighbors, and friends.

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Vera Bayliss, Isobel Haring, Bonnie Gjerde, Vikki Ramey, Thelma Hendrix. Not pictured Joan O'Connell.

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**Seymour**, Volunteer Coordinator (760-439-1244, ext. 107, or [denise@artistofyourmind.com](mailto:denise@artistofyourmind.com)). Leave your name and phone number and a brief message.

Jobs like these might be seen as unpleasant tasks when done alone, but when done "in community," they turn out to be enjoyable. You could find a whole new way to have fun!

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**Information & Online donations:**  
**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)**

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorials

Brother Benno  
 Pope John Paul II  
 Mother Teresa  
 Kay Kutler  
 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  
 Helene McGill  
 Andrea Boersma  
 Ben Osgrove  
 Jim Mulvihill  
 Leo Reuder  
 Kathleen Foley  
 Gilbert Brown  
 Paul Collins  
 Juanita Dietz  
 Rose & Floyd Caldwell  
 Frotte Weihnacht  
 Grant Family  
 Joan & Larry Lieux  
 Joseph Schubert  
 Charles Gipe  
 Catherine & Joe Martina  
 John Simpson  
 Maurice Terwiske  
 Eileen Smith  
 Bob Lubeski

Helen Olund  
 Mark Wolder  
 Paul Doxson  
 Arlene, George, & Charles Fawson  
 Jeanne Nickel  
 Michael Bever  
 Kevin Flynn  
 Mary Nee  
 Abe Marcovis  
 Alex Williman  
 Ross Terrones  
 Bruce Brusseau  
 Bill Combs  
 Dancy & Zeferino Nares

### Happy Birthday

JoAnne Shlemmer  
 Mack Brown-Johnston

### IN HONOR OF

John Jarvie  
 Peter Ring  
 Marc Brogan  
 Jan Roberts  
 Carol DeLillo  
 Harold Cutting

### Needs

Gently used furniture      Diapers      Women's underwear  
 Coffee...regular grind not instant      Disposable razors      Individual water bottles  
 Women's personal hygiene items      Bags of rice & beans      Tarps...9x12 is our usual size but appreciate all

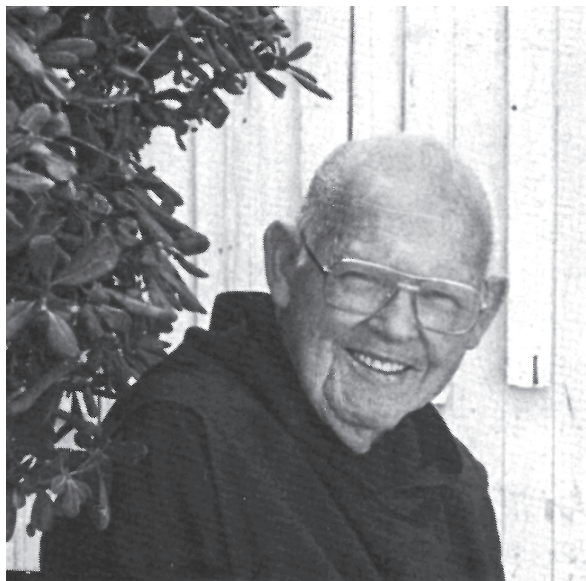
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February 2014</b>						<b>1</b> St. Thomas More
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>3</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>4</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>5</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>6</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>7</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>8</b> Oak Hills
<b>Serving</b>	<b>10</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>11</b> Hawkes Home	<b>12</b> TBA	<b>13</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>14</b> St. Patrick's	<b>15</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>17</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>18</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>19</b> Grace Anglican	<b>20</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>21</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>22</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>24</b> Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	<b>25</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>26</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>27</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>28</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	

### Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

**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 Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- 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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:**

	December 2013	Our 30th Year		December 2013	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,300	3,514,370	Loads of laundry	29	26,616
Nights of lodging	985	245,930	Food packs	2,617	241,762
Articles of clothing	5,493	1,036,669	Blankets	174	35,784
Showers	965	187,243	Prescriptions	3	7,192
Haircuts	127	16,393	ID Vouchers	11	8,503
Bus passes	92	77,611	HUGS	1,800	864,544