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.

continued on page 4 ....

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.

Ω

“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

In Memoriam
EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Unlikely Evangelists.** Two young “vagabonds” 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!”
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.

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________________________


Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

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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

Ω
Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Kay Kutler
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 Holmes
Edith Blaiser
Ben Kouns
Bill Lakoff
Bernice, Samuel & 
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 Brussseau
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

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 Farquhar
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Happy Birthday
JoAnne Shlemmer
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IN HONOR OF
John Jarvie
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Jan Roberts
Carol DeLillo
Harold Cutting

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

February

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<td>Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
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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

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 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

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