



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

February 2017



THE YEAR 2016 IN REVIEW FOR THE BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION

by Dennis Martinek, President/Volunteer

Brother Benno's continued to increase services in 2016 and was able to make improvements to our facilities and capital equipment. Big factors in our increased donations have been our Four-Star rating by Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org) and the improvements to our website, which communicates how we help people in need.

We have added two new Board Members this year. Below is a list of our Members: **Harold Kutler, Founder; Dennis Martinek, PhD, President, Operations; John Blasier, Vice-President, Recovery Program for Men and Women; William (Nick) Sauer, LLD, Secretary; Daniel Boone, Treasurer; Helen Parsons, Thrift Shop; Dr. Richard Shlemmer, Psychologist, Recovery Program for Men and Women; Jim O'Connell, Retired, Auditor, Accounting; Abbot Charles Wright, Chaplain, Prince of Peace Abbey; Suzy Martinek, Retired College Instructor; Richard Giroux, Property/Personnel Safety.**

NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURES included the donation of a new tilting skillet and a new tilting kettle from an anonymous employee, and a new walk-in-refrigerator door by another anonymous employee. We also had a 100-gallon water heater (including installation) donated by the brother of a former Program Member.

Our many generous donors also made it possible to install a redesigned fire suppression system and new kitchen lighting, and to bring our kitchen up to code with a new required grease catcher, drainage pipes, and a "to code" tile floor.

We also received several grants that helped us to continue our mission of providing

food, clothing, and emergency assistance to those in need.

In the past year we have provided the following:

FOOD BOXES	18,644
BREAKFASTS	62,401
SACK LUNCHES	42,460
SHOWERS	14,370
CLOTHING ITEMS	67,204
HAIRCUTS	1,495
BUS PASSES	1,459
BLANKETS	1,905
TARPS	1,076
LAUNDRY LOADS	313
I.D. VOUCHERS	100

ASSISTANCE:

RENTAL - FAMILIES	240
UTILITIES - FAMILIES	320
PRESCRIPTIONS	340

Brother Benno's also provided over 11,800 meals and over 12,000 nights of shelter for our Recovery Program members.

The above services would not be possible without our VOLUNTEERS who donate their time in making up food boxes, sorting clothes, working in reception and intake, cutting hair, driving trucks, and serving on the breakfast line each morning. THANKS to more than 250 volunteers who donate their time each month.

PLANS FOR 2017 INCLUDE:

Acquisition of a new fork lift
Finishing the remodel of the kitchen with new stoves
Painting the exterior of the Center building
New landscaping.

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Gratitude. A Program graduate wrote the following letter, which she enclosed in a Christmas card:

“To all of you who made such a difference in my life – It has been a little over a year since I graduated from the Program. I just want everyone of you to know how grateful I am for the opportunity you gave me to change my life. The day I entered the Program, I was homeless, jobless, and saw no light at the end of the tunnel. I had never been in residential treatment before. Brother Benno’s is much more than just a recovery program. You believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself. You saw a future for me that I lost focus of. You loved me till I could love myself. And you gave me everything I could possibly need till I was able to support myself. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the life I have today. ~ Brenda”

Clothing. Being in charge of all the donated clothing Brother Benno’s receives is a huge job, ably handled for years by **Carol Muehe**. She gets to know our Guests—their names and what problems, in addition to needing clothing, bring them to us.

Besides sorting and supervising other sorters in the Center warehouse, Carol takes care of the Clothing Room as well. Guests can choose what they need, but there’s a thorough record-keeping system that keeps things fair, such as limits on items per month, etc. Carol said she’d like to thank everyone for their donations, and for the volunteers and Women’s Program Members who help her on a regular basis.

Ways to Help. New people continue to find Brother Benno’s and decide they want to contribute to our mission in some way. Such was the case with **Shonn Cournyer**, a mortgage planning specialist in Carlsbad who had donated personal items in the past but during the recent holidays decided to conduct a food collection. He put empty bags on people’s doorsteps with a flyer that said, “Help Us Partner with Brother Benno’s.” A few days later he drove through the same neigh-

borhood, picked up the filled bags, and delivered them to our Center. Shonn said he felt so good about the collection that he has another one planned in the near future.

The Sound of Music. We have so many talented musicians who offer to come to the Center to entertain our Guests, usually on Saturday mornings. They range from singers to violinists to ukelele strummers, and the type of music they perform is just as diversified. It is said that music is a form of communication, and we often see the positive results in the faces of our Guests, Staff members, and volunteers.

Dearest Kay. It’s hard to believe it’ll be five years on February 15 since we lost our beautiful **Kay Kutler**. I think I speak for everyone who knew her that her spirit continues to live at Brother Benno’s, and her example of unconditional love is something we all strive for as we meet and work with the poor and homeless in our midst.

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We need a serving team for the second Tuesday of each month, starting on March 14. A team is a group of 8 to 10 people who arrive at 6:15 a.m. and serve until 8 a.m. Please contact Suzy Martinek if you’re interested: 760-518-9061 or email smartinek@miracosta.edu.

Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING STORY

"Lynette" was introduced to meth by her parents when she was 12. Although she used with both of them, she said her father wasn't really comfortable with that, but her mother actually encouraged her. "She liked us doing it together," she said.

Living in this drug culture, which included her parents' friends and their children, meant that going to school wasn't a big priority. "If I felt like ditching, my mother called in for me," she said. At age 18 she became homeless and lived on the streets for a year. Her father died of drug complications in 2014; her mother is still using and is homeless.

In mid-2015, Lynette was encouraged to look into Brother Benno's Recovery Program by a man who himself is a graduate of the Program. He knew her because he had done drugs with her father, and he saw her potential. She made an appointment with one of our Recovery mentors but when the time came, she decided not to show up. Then the subject came up again a few months later, and she did come in for help. "It has changed my life," she said.

After graduating from the Brother Benno Recovery Program, Lynette stayed on in our new Transitional Women's House for another six months. Having no family to go back to, this extra time was a godsend for her.

About a month ago, she started renting a room from someone she met in AA. She stays in close touch with her sponsor, attends five or six meetings a week, and continues to come to the Center regularly to see everyone who helped her in her recovery. "They're all my family now," she said.

During her transitional time between graduating from the Program and moving into her own room, she's been working full-time at a job she enjoys. She didn't graduate from high school, so she's working on her GED and hopes to go to college. None of this seemed possible to her before she came to Brother Benno's.

"I used to lie and steal all the time," she said. "Brother Benno's taught me how to be responsible, how to live and be content without drugs. I found happiness with being sober. I have friends. I've learned how to pray and to trust God."

(We at Brother Benno's never forget that it's our kind supporters and donors who make these beautiful stories possible.)

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BE THERE WHEN GREAT DEALS FLY OUT OF THE THRIFT SHOP!

by Michelle Hoppe, Thrift Shop Manager

The Thrift Shop just received a truckload of brand-new scrubs! Beginning February 1, the Shop is going to "share the love" with a special sale for our friends in the medical field. All new printed scrub tops will be \$5, plain tops \$3, bottoms \$3, and new shoes \$20 a pair!

Brother Benno's Thrift Shop is located at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. If you know a nurse, dental hygienist, vet tech, or anyone who loves scrubs, please let them know!

We'd like to thank Walmart on Marron Road in Oceanside for their generous donation of a case of heavy, re-usable shopping bags that were distributed to our Guests during the breakfast meal on December 29, 2016. A Special thank you to **Art Gladue**, Manager of the Poway Walmart, for arranging this donation. With the recent bag ban, we have been receiving fewer donations of plastic bags. Our Guests use them to carry their belongings and keep them dry. We welcome your donations of plastic bags at the Center or at the Thrift Shop. We promise they will be put to good use!

Our "Last Saturday of the Month Sale" has now become legendary. Everything—including furniture—is 50 percent off. Come by! Bring a friend! You are sure to find some great deals. This month we have lots of boxes of new Valentines that will be on sale for 25 cents a box. Preview day is always the Friday before, and everything is 20 percent off on that day. If you haven't been, come see what you are missing! Ω

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 Karen Gallagher & Nita Rodriguez

January was a time for our Auxiliary Board and members to review our events and activities, reflect on the impact we made last year, and reaffirm our commitment to providing financial assistance, service, and support to Brother Benno's. As we reflected, we realized how incredibly blessed the Auxiliary has been by the many dedicated and active members who helped with all of our activities in 2016.

Also in January, our Board held a special work session to set goals, establish a working budget, and draft a calendar of activities for 2017, all of which our members officially approved at our January 25 meeting.

We're excited to be continuing with events that have become not only traditions, but also favorites: the **Annual Membership Brunch in February, Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast Fundraiser in March, the Outback Christmas in July Fundraiser, and our Annual Luncheon Fundraiser in December.**

Members also suggested several new and exciting ideas for events and service activities. We can hardly wait to share these with you, but we have some details to work out before we "go public." As they say, "Watch this space!"

February is the month we kick off our Membership Drive, so if you've been thinking about joining the Auxiliary, now is a great time to do so. Current members, this is your time to renew! Vice President Edith Jones is leading this year's drive. Membership dues are \$20 a year, or \$150 for a lifetime membership.

This drive culminates with a **Membership Brunch at the Shadowridge Golf Club on**

February 22. This is a fun and delicious way for prospective members to meet others dedicated to community service and to learn more about the Auxiliary. It is also when funds from the previous year's fundraising events are officially presented to the Brother Benno Foundation. We hope you'll join us. Reservations are \$20 per person and must be received by February 15. You can download the reservation and membership forms at <http://bit.ly/2jfS9jr>, or you can call **Edith Jones** (760-529-0875).

Looking ahead to March—Mark Your Calendars! The Applebee Flapjack Fundraiser will be held on March 25. \$10 per person for a full breakfast! Tickets and reservation information will be in the March newsletter.

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Second Thursday Serving Team Oceanside Civitans



Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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

Soup...Soup...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

Ron Alexander
 Dixie & Lou Bales
 Frank Barnet
 Brother Benno
 Edith Blaiser
 Andrea Boersma
 Roland Bond
 Bill Boster
 Agnus & Joan Boyd
 Bill Buckner
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr
 Mary Teresa Carr
 Anna Correia
 Don & Dorothea Daybell
 Phyllis H. Dierlam
 Frank S. Dolley
 Anita H. Donahue
 Dorothy M. Donahue
 Fr. Luke Dougherty
 Roseanne Dreibelbis
 Fr. Abbot Claude
 Ehringer, OSB
 Myron Eichen
 Richard Farhquar
 William & Vennita
 Flanagan
 Louise Foussat
 Joe & Ida Friend
 Mary Gerrity
 Bob Gleason
 Tom Hayward
 Elizabeth Holms
 Alice Jordan

Ben Kouns
 Richard Kurtz
 Carole Kutler
 Kay Kutler
 Bill & Louise Lakoff
 Ben E. Lewis
 Helen Lucas
 Bill & Joan Maloney
 Helene McGill
 Michael & Monty Nares
 Mary Nordstrom
 Bud & Blanche Ogle
 Ben Osgrove
 Pope John Paul II
 Kathryn D. Pent
 Mary Peterson
 Jane Pfau
 Ruth Hazel Pierson
 Alan Port
 Mary Pullman
 Catherine L. Quinlan
 Dora Ramirez
 Dick & Terry Riley
 Margaret Rossini
 Ann Sauer
 Mary Shankle
 Naomi Shelton
 Bernice, Samuel &
 Milton Silver
 Will Skinner
 Mike Stendahl
 Margaret Stephan
 Virginia Sylwestrzak

Mother Teresa
 Harold Thompson
 Rosemary Tucker
 Walter Ulloa
 June Williams
 Fred Williamson
 Zeferino & Dancy
 Nares
 Nysewander Family
 Squirrel Family
 Mildred Provost
 Joe Koenn
 Barbara Danaky
 Helen, Beau, & Walt
 McEwen
 Dick & Kay Parker
 George & Eileen
 Delis
 Florence & Madison
 Payne
 Phillip Larsen
 Tom & Barbara
 Simonick
 Susan Prestie
 Mary Kennedy
 Sally Stilley
 David Lorbati
 Jose & Felicidad
 Domingo
 Maximino & Felicidad
 Pagaduan
 Margaret Gregoire
 Gilbert Brown

Clay
 Marie & Ernest Meili
 Jim Bender
 John Nelson
 Msgr. Fox
 Dcn. Bill Pollock
 Douglas Faugut
 Marc Brogan
 Patricia Day
 Kevin Garrahy
 Nancy Connor Family
 Betty Crawford
 Kenneth Erwin
 Bob Strawbridge
 Harry Opatkiewicz
 Ed, Kevin, & Sheila Flynn
 Donald Deffenbaugh
 Marvin Beasley
 Jane & Don Hoyt
 Ed Argelander
 Agatha Johnson
 Dustin Gray
 Catherine Siemens
 Marie Atkinson
 Theresa Breen
 Robin McMullan
 Jesse Bowers
 Jack Gillen
 Bruno Acosta

In Honor Of
 Martin & Rosalind Bussey

Needs

Gently used furniture

Diapers

Reading glasses

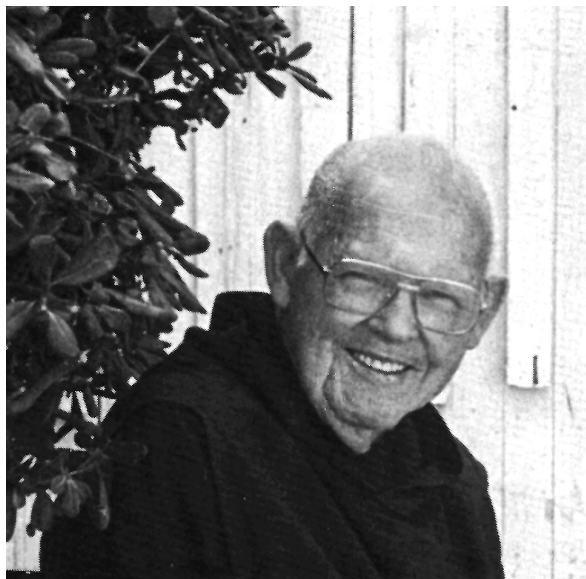
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2017			1 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
Monthly	6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 1st MLG FCPOA	9 Oceanside Civitans	10 St. Patrick's	11 Church of the Nativity
Serving	13 North Coast Methodist	14 Team Wyndham	15 Grace Anglican	16 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
Team	20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 Christ the King Lutheran	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Pilgrim Creek	24 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	25 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	27 Christ Church	28 St. Mark's San Marcos				

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 for free pickup.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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



Brother Benno's Services:

	December 2016	Our 33rd Year		December 2016	Our 33rd Year
Meals	14,032	3,992,425	Loads of laundry	33	27,548
Nights of lodging	924	281,540	Food packs	1,734	310,524
Articles of clothing	5,564	1,229,772	Blankets	210	41,489
Showers	1,073	227,642	Tarps	108	1,820
Haircuts	179	21,170	ID Vouchers	14	8,912
Bus passes	94	81,556	HUGS	2,250	934,744