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 neighborhood, 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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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.”

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

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!

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

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

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 Doughearty
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Myron Eichen
Richard Farquhar
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
William Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Nysewander Family
Squrell 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
Den. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 2017</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Serving Team Schedule</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>14 Team Wyndham</td>
<td>15 Grace Anglican</td>
<td>16 Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>18 Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>21 Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>22 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>23 Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>24 Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Christ Church</td>
<td>28 St. Mark’s San Marcos</td>
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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’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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 2016</th>
<th>Our 33rd Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>14,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
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<td>Loads of laundry</td>
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<td>Food packs</td>
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<td>Blankets</td>
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<td>Tarps</td>
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<td>ID Vouchers</td>
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<td>HUGS</td>
<td>2,250</td>
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