Brother Benno’s Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

February 2018

BROTHER BENNO’S HELPS WITH HEALTH SERVICES

With the frequent news stories about the flu and Hepatitis A outbreaks, it’s reassuring to know that Brother Benno’s is trying to create a healthy environment for our Guests, Program Members, Staff, and volunteers.

All Staff and Program Members were required to get the Hep A immunizations (first and second shots), and volunteers were strongly encouraged to do so. The San Diego County Health Department has sent a squad of four nurses and health workers to the Center at least once a week for the past four months to give shots for both Hep A and the flu.

We remind Guests to wash their hands at one of our three washing stations in the dining room before they eat, and to use the sanitizers available at these stations as well.

Most of our Program Men and Women are covered by Medi-Cal, but few have any other insurance. One of the requirements to get into our Recovery Program is that individuals be in good health and able to work five days a week at the Center or Thrift Shop.

For the past two months, Dr. Terry, a retired physician, comes to the Center every Friday morning from 6:30 to 8:30 to offer recommendations for whatever our Guests, Staff Members, and volunteers need.

Other agencies that regularly visit our Center include Vista Community Clinic, CSUSM (California State University, San Marcos) Nursing Program, County Mental Health Services, Homeless Veterans of San Diego, Interfaith Community Services, and the McAlister Institute.

WHY?

Our staff members and volunteers never know from day to day what kinds of needs will present themselves, but they seem to have a special sense of compassion that goes into gear as soon as they walk in the door.

Recently a homeless man in his late 20’s came into the Center hobbling with a crutch. All he needed, he said, was a shower and a bus pass so he could get to his job in Carlsbad. He stowed his few belongings in a corner and went into the shower room. When he came out, he discovered that everything had been stolen.

He was given a full set of clothing and shoes from our Clothing Room, but he still had no way of getting back his personal papers such as an ID. Angry and frustrated, he said to a Staff member, “You give people everything they need, why would someone have to steal anything from me?”

The answer to his question is, “Why indeed?”

With so many of our homeless Guests dealing with mental illness, it could just be a need to “have stuff.” It doesn’t seem to matter if what they steal is something they can actually use—maybe the clothes don’t fit, or they already have two backpacks.

All we can do is help the person who’s been a victim. This young man left the Center that morning with a monthly bus pass as well as a fresh set of clothing and shoes, and hopefully with the feeling that we cared about his plight.
Brother Benno’s continues to carry out its mission “To uplift the dignity of those we serve by providing necessities to low-income and homeless families and individuals.” During 2017, we provided the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOOD BOXES</td>
<td>16,054</td>
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<tr>
<td>BREAKFASTS</td>
<td>60,795</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACK LUNCHES</td>
<td>49,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHOWERS</td>
<td>14,611</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLOTHING ITEMS</td>
<td>66,442</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAIRCUTS</td>
<td>920</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUS PASSES</td>
<td>1,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLANKETS</td>
<td>2,016</td>
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<tr>
<td>TARPS</td>
<td>1,178</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAUNDRY LOADS</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.D. VOUCHERS</td>
<td>144</td>
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ASSISTANCE:

- Rental - Families: 240
- Utilities - Families: 320
- Prescriptions: 340

It would not be possible to provide the above services without our VOLUNTEERS who donated their time making up food boxes, sorting clothes, working in reception and intake, performing accounting and clerical tasks, cutting hair, driving trucks, and serving on the line each morning. Thanks to over 250 volunteers who donate their time each month.

We continue to maintain our Four-Star Rating by Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) and have been recognized by several organizations with grants to carry out our work. We have received donations/grants that have allowed us to purchase a new forklift for the warehouse and new equipment for the kitchen, including new stoves, griddle, and fry pots. Our many generous donors also made it possible to install a redesigned fire-suppression system, new kitchen lighting, and the funds to bring our kitchen up to code with a new required grease catcher, drainage pipes, and a “to code” tile floor.

Our plans for 2018 include:

* Acquisition of a new transport van for Recovery Program men and women.

* Renovation of the men’s and women’s showers.

* Painting the exterior of the Center building.

In many respects, 2017 was a challenging year: the increase in the number of homeless nationwide and in San Diego County; the spread of the Hepatitis A virus, flu, and pneumonia; and the increase of those suffering from mental illness placed increased demands on all who work at Brother Benno’s. As our Founder, Harold Kutler, has repeatedly told us, “It is only through unconditional love that we are able to meet these challenges.”

Thanks for all your support,

Dennis Martinek, President/Volunteer

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
REFLECTIONS
by Barbara Ladwig

I had no intention of going to the Brother Benno Center on Christmas Day. Bob and I would go to church first thing in the morning; then our son Tom, who lives in San Diego, would be coming up to spend the day with us. But on two separate occasions the week before, different Staff members urged me to come in, “just for a few minutes,” they said. I thought about it, and decided “Why not?” Bob and Tom were agreeable, so at about quarter to ten on Christmas morning, we walked into the Center.

We were met by Denise, our Volunteer Coordinator, who told us they were three short on the serving line, and would we be so kind as to help out. “Oh, OK,” we said. We were each given a plastic apron and a stick-on name tag, and we made our way to the back of the Dining Room to report for duty. It turned out that another man had already been recruited for one of the three vacant places, so I graciously offered the two remaining stations to Bob and Tom. (My legs would complain loudly if I had to stand in one place for two hours.)

I took off my apron, retrieved my trusty notebook from the office, and wandered around the Center, chatting with people and making notes for future use in the newsletter.

While I was aware of the Guests, most of whom were already in a long line that snaked out the door, waiting for the hearty meal to be served, I focused more on the volunteers. Every single one of them had a look on their face that seemed to say, “I want to be here!” I’m sure most of them had family and/or friends with whom they would celebrate the day, but they seemed to be so joyful that they could give a few hours first to those who aren’t so lucky.

The Staff had planned to have a large ukelele band entertain during the meal, but the group cancelled that morning because most of their members were sick. Plan B was CD’s of Christmas music, and many in the room spontaneously sang along to the familiar melodies. The tables were festive with red and green cloths and napkins, and the general air was one of joy and camaraderie.

Every once in a while, I wandered back to the serving line to check on Bob and Tom. After all, they thought we were going to stop in for “just a little while.” But judging from their smiles, and how easily they were talking with others on both sides of the line, I stopped worrying about them. And as we left the Center two hours later, they both said they were really glad we had come.

I was glad, too. In many ways, Brother Benno’s is my second family, so being with them on what I consider one of the holiest days of the year seemed like the right thing to do.

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

From Walter —

“I was a mess, living on the street. (You) provided more than I ever could have expected. I was camped out by the water tower; bet my tent is still there along with clothing from BB that I couldn’t carry when I finally left. I returned to Oklahoma, went to college, now I own my home, paid for, and a nice new car. I’m off the drugs and happy. . . . If you need help, go to Oceanside. . . . I found nothing but love and compassion there.”

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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
The Membership Brunch held in January provided an opportunity to share with guests the many fundraising, service, and support activities available for members. We welcome our new members and look forward to their participation in our various activities. Thank you to Karen Gallagher and the other volunteers who made this event a fun time for all. We will be holding a behind-the-scenes tour of the Brother Benno facilities for new (and returning) members on February 10.

New Auxiliary Members

We are proud to share that at the Brunch, Karen presented a check for $36,000 to Daniel Boone, Brother Benno Foundation Board Treasurer, which represents the Auxiliary’s fundraising efforts throughout 2017. (Our goal was $28,000, but with the tremendous support we received, we “blew” past the goal!) We are genuinely humbled and blessed by your support and hope you will accept our thanks. Our 2018 goal is to increase our contribution by another $5,000 in 2018.

We are excited to be continuing with events that have become not only traditions, but also favorites: Applebee’s Flapjack Breakfast Fundraiser in March, the Christmas in July Gift Card Fundraiser in July, and our Annual Luncheon Fundraiser in December. New ideas are also in the works!

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be in the Center Dining Room on Wednesday, February 28 – 1 p.m. for snacks and 1:30 for the meeting. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. Can’t attend a meeting but want to be a member? Download our membership application at http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9

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
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 Farquhar
William & Vennita
Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales
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
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Nysewander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
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
Ann Grier Smith
Squirrel Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb
Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Thomas Grier
Bernadette Butler
Jim Mulvihill
Carol Thornberg
Bill Severy
George Ring
Oliver & Velma Bunno
Patricia Elledge
Al Basteri
Bernie Weiler
Robert Buchach
Maurice Terwiske
Jacqueline Roberts
Virginia Walz
Eileen Smith
Daniel Cedar
Donna Kurtz
Daniel Zamora
Mary Moreno
Clay
Bob Strawbridge
Romy Bruinsma
Donald Deffenbaugh

Happy Birthday
JoAnne Shlemmer

IN HONOR OF
Larry & Linda Bajada
Marcus Brogan
Jan Roberts
People at C3 Risk
Insurance

Needs
Gently used furniture
Canes
Bottled water
Gift cards for Walmart & Target (indicate for Recovery Program)

February 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>6 St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>7 Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>2 San Luis Rey Mission</td>
<td>3 St. Thomas More</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>13 Riverview Church</td>
<td>14 Fairwinds</td>
<td>8 Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>9 St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>10 Church of the Nativity</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>20 Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>21 Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>15 Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>17 Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Christ Church</td>
<td>27 St. Mark’s San Marcos</td>
<td>28 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>23 Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>24 Catholic Daughters</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.
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

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<tr>
<th>Brother Benno’s Services:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 2017</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haircuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus passes</td>
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