



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 send 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.

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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.

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THE BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION YEAR OF 2017 IN REVIEW

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:

FOOD BOXES	16,054
BREAKFASTS	60,795
SACK LUNCHES	49,500
SHOWERS	14,611
CLOTHING ITEMS	66,442
HAIRCUTS	920
BUS PASSES	1,317
BLANKETS	2,016
TARPS	1,178
LAUNDRY LOADS	327
I.D. VOUCHERS	144
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

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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>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Nita Rodriguez

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.



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>

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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!)

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Chance Hales	Dick & Terry Riley	Al Basteri
Dixie & Lou Bales	Tom Hayward	Margaret Rossini	Bernie Weiler
Frank Barnet	Elizabeth Holms	Ann Sauer	Robert Buchach
Brother Benno	Alice Jordan	Mary Shankle	Maurice Terwiske
Edith Blaiser	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Jacqueline Roberts
Andrea Boersma	Richard Kurtz	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Virginia Walz
Roland Bond	Carole Kutler	Will Skinner	Eileen Smith
Bill Boster	Kay Kutler	Ann Grier Smith	Daniel Cedar
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Squirrell Family	Donna Kurtz
Bill Buckner	Ben E. Lewis	Mike Stendahl	Daniel Zamora
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Helen Lucas	Margaret Stephan	Mary Moreno
Anna Correia	Bill & Joan Maloney	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Clay
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helene McGill	Harold Thompson	Bob Strawbridge
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Michael & Monty Nares	Carol & Herb Thornberg	Romy Bruinsma
Frank S. Dolley	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Rosemary Tucker	Donald Deffenbaugh
Anita H. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Walter Ulloa	
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nysewander Family	June Williams	Happy Birthday
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Fred Williamson	JoAnne Shlemmer
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ben Osgrove	Thomas Grier	
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Kathryn D. Pent	Bernadette Butler	IN HONOR OF
Myron Eichen	Mary Peterson	Jim Mulvihill	Larry & Linda Bajada
Richard Farhquar	Jane Pfau	Carol Thornberg	Marcus Brogan
William & Vennita Flanagan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Gilbert Brown	Jan Roberts
Louise Foussat	Alan Port	Bill Severy	People at C3 Risk Insurance
Joe & Ida Friend	Mary Pullman	George Ring	
Mary Gerrity	Catherine L. Quinlan	Oliver & Velma Bunno	
Bob Gleason	Dora Ramirez	Patricia Elledge	

Needs

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

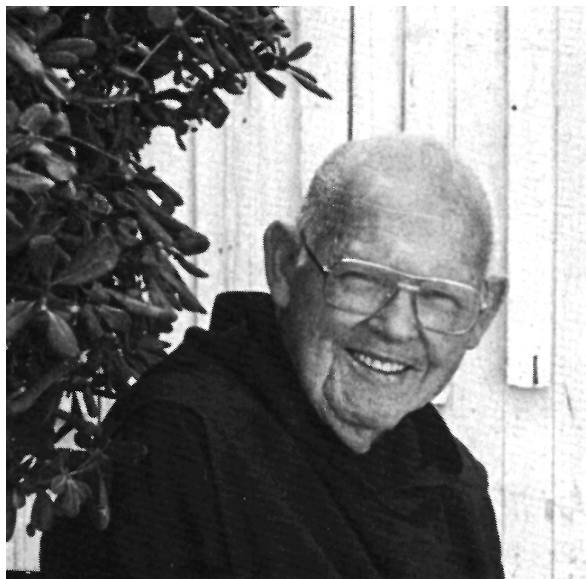
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2018				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
Monthly	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitans	9 St. Patrick's	10 Church of the Nativity
Serving	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Fairwinds	15 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
Team	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	24 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	26 Christ Church	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist			

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
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 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 2017	Our 34th Year		December 2017	Our 34th Year
Meals	12,830	4,149,891	Loads of laundry	21	27,875
Nights of lodging	928	291,884	Food packs	1,177	326,578
Articles of clothing	4,477	1,296,214	Blankets	149	43,505
Showers	1,166	242,253	Tarps	97	2,997
Haircuts	11	22,090	ID Vouchers	7	9,056
Bus passes	82	82,873	HUGS	2,250	958,594