A recent homeless pair added to Brother Benno’s long list of amazing stories. “Flora,” in her sixties, and her nephew “Jake,” 40-something, came to the Center one morning at the urging of some of their new homeless friends. They had come by bus to Southern California, Flora said, because she was tired of the cold wet weather in West Virginia, and she remembered how wonderful our weather was out here from a visit she’d made in the 80’s. The only problem was, she didn’t have any plans beyond getting here, other than she was sure they could “live off government subsidies.”

They were taken to the office of our special Outreach Team, where Jake managed to tell Dennis Pinnick and Douglas Milovicz that he knew it was a crazy idea, but he came along so he could help his aunt when things fell apart. After several weeks, Flora had to admit that our weather wasn’t very wonderful (it was cold and wet), they had no money, and scrounging for food wasn’t anyone’s idea of a good time.

Fortunately, Brother Benno’s has a discretionary fund, set up many years ago by Harold Kutler, that doesn’t fit into our usual budget but can be used in desperate circumstances. Two people stranded in a strange place with no hope for bettering their situation certainly fit the criteria. With return bus tickets in hand, Flora was eager to get back home, where she knew a family member had a room for her. Douglas drove them to the bus station, watched them board, and left with the feeling of satisfaction that comes from knowing that once again we’d been able to help with a problem that other agencies don’t address.

2018 was a year of changes and challenges, yet the year ended with all of us coming together to give our Guests a happy, fun-filled holiday party. All year, the Center and Thrift Shop saved supplies for us. Needed donations of gift cards and pajamas started arriving, along with hundreds of stocking stuffers. As the children’s party drew closer, requests went out for wrappers, cookie bakers, stocking stuffers, cleaners, and decorators. Our beloved Auxiliary responded as usual. We had business park neighbors, teens from St. Vincent’s, local business supporters, caring families, employees, Program men and women, Girlfriends Care members, and long-time volunteers helping, helping, helping!

Santa came. Carolers from a church in Escondido sang. Faces were painted and balloons were twisted into animals. All of us there witnessed the joy in the faces of the children and their parents. What better gift could we have been given as servants of the poor! I thank you all!
WOMAN FINDS STRENGTH IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

by Barbara Ladwig

“Tessa” was the manager of Brother Benno’s House of Martha Ann Mary Ida (MAMI) when it was a temporary safe haven for women and children. (It is now used for women in our 26-week Recovery Program). If walking in another’s shoes was an important qualification for people who serve at Brother Benno’s, Tessa was well qualified.

“I started here as a resident myself,” she said, adding that her willingness to help beyond the normal duties required of residents led to her being named assistant manager and eventually manager.

At 49, Tessa looked back on all the experiences that played a role in her growth as a person, and that made her uniquely qualified to help other women whose lives were falling apart. She lost her mother when she was a baby, and her father died when she was 18. She married, but the marriage ended in divorce.

Jail. A major life-changing experience came at age 42 when she spent six months in jail for using a knife on a woman (a stranger) who barged into her apartment and refused to leave. Even though being jailed traumatized her, she found she was able to help many of the other inmates. “I had never been a patient person,” she said, “but I learned patience there.” By listening and offering support, she felt she made the stay easier for others; and she gained strength within herself as well.

Following her jail time, Tessa was given five years probation. She found a job taking care of an elderly woman, and things started to look promising. But when the woman’s son decided to move her out-of-state and asked Tessa to go along, she found herself in a dilemma. She was not given permission to leave California; but fearing she wouldn’t be able to get another job, she left anyway.

Hitting Bottom. When she came back to California four years later, she reported herself to the authorities, at which point she was given a 30-day jail sentence for violating her parole. Again, she found something inside herself she didn’t know was there, and she survived. But she said she came out of jail feeling worthless. “I felt that everything that happened to me was my fault, and my faith in God was badly shaken”.

With no place to live, she went to a shelter, only to find that it was closed. “I sat on a bus bench near the shelter, and all I wanted to do was cry,” she said. “A man was sitting there reading a book, and he asked if something was wrong. I said, ‘No, everything is fine.’ He didn’t buy it, and he told me he knew a place where I could go for help, and it was just a few blocks away. He even offered to show me where it was. I was suspicious of him, but for some reason I followed him. The place he took me was Brother Benno’s. He disappeared and I never saw him again. I know it sounds weird, but I think he was an angel, sent to help me.”

Finally Free. After being interviewed by a case manager, Tessa was sent to MAMI, and it was there that she was finally able to put her life on a strong and positive course. Along with the help of a psychologist whom she had met through a friend many years earlier, she had people to guide her into figuring things out for herself. She then was able to pass along that wisdom to those in her care.

The women and children at MAMI needed a safe place where they could think through their situations and figure out how they could get back to independent living. “You can’t clear your head in a chaotic atmosphere,” Tessa said, “so I try to keep things calm here. We’re a community, and everyone is expected to respect others and do chores daily—cleaning bathrooms, kitchen, and bedrooms.

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

continued on page 3....
We are gearing up for our first fundraiser of 2019–our famously popular **Applebee’s Flapjack Breakfast** on Saturday, March 9, from 8 to 9:30 at 2146 Vista Way in Oceanside. Auxiliary members will be greeting, seating, and serving everyone delicious plates of freshly scrambled eggs, pancakes, fried red potatoes, sausages, toast, coffee, juice, and milk—**ALL FOR ONLY $10 PER PERSON!** (Generous tips are greatly appreciated and are a big part of the fundraiser).

You can download a reservation form at https://tinyurl.com/y8zoct42 or call **Susan** (206-349-1371) to have a form mailed to you. We look forward to serving you!

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, in the Center Dining Room—1 p.m. for snacks, 1:30 meeting. All are welcome to attend and bring a friend. Can’t attend a meeting but want to be a member? Call **Sara** (760-560-6089) for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Friday, September 27, for the Brother Benno Auxiliary’s **1st Annual Golf Tournament.** Watch this space for more information.

The Mentors and other graduates, all of whom are in Alcoholics Anonymous, have learned how to live life without having to drink or use. They have a daily reprieve from the obsession because of their relationship with their higher power. The work of recovery is endless, and Brother Benno’s is committed to being there for everyone who is serious about changing and living a clean and sober life.

Donations from our many supporters, along with grants from local businesses and other entities, are what make it possible for Brother Benno’s to offer what many call the most successful Recovery Program in San Diego County.

*Editor’s Note: This is a slight variation of an article previously published in this newsletter.*

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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
FAILURE VS. SUCCESS

This is a story about two women who were powerless over alcohol and drug addictions.

“Jeannie” participated in three recovery programs in another state, graduating each time; but she continued to relapse and could not stay clean and sober.

“Mamie” went through the Brother Benno Work Support Program three times, and the third time she finally “got it.” She’s been clean and sober for more than seven years. She’s gone from what some would call a selfish and self-centered woman to one who is all about working a program of recovery.

What’s the difference?

Jeannie goes back to her old way of life after every program, failing to make any changes. She continues to live the life she’s always lived—same friends, same places, doing the same things she used to do. She even got her old waitressing job back.

Mamie has found a power greater than herself and has chosen to stay in touch with many of the people at Brother Benno’s who’ve helped her along the way. She has a sponsor who has taken her through the 12 Steps and the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. She has a support group in AA and at Brother Benno’s that she stays in touch with on a daily basis. She goes to meetings and lives in a sober-living house, where she has the day-to-day support of other women who are also clean and sober. She gives back what has so freely been given to her.

Admittedly, there are other factors that have played into the success and failure of these two women. But Brother Benno’s has learned a great deal about men and women with alcohol and drug addictions over the past thirty-plus years. It all starts with a decision, a decision to change their lives, to admit they are powerless over drugs and alcohol. They have to surrender to win.

The Brother Benno Work Support Program is 26 weeks. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous is a daily reprieve based on your spiritual condition. To maintain their spirituality, every person has to find a “God” of their understanding, or what AA calls “a power greater than themselves.” All of the participants in our Program live in Brother Benno Houses (we currently have four for men and three for women); and all of their basic needs, including food and transportation, are provided so they can focus entirely on the work of recovery. They also work at the Brother Benno Center and/or Thrift Shop five days a week, which gives them the opportunity to learn the value of being of service to others.

After completing our Program, the men and women are encouraged to come back to the Center and be of service to those who are less fortunate and to those who are new in our Program.
### Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie & Lou Bales
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Bill Buckner
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Anna Correia
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
Anita H. Donahue
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Roseanne Dreieibbis
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
Harold & 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
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
Alva & Frances Snider
Squirrel Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwesterak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Joan & Nelson Elmore
Marge Gillen
Sai
Stacy Dietz
Pablo Moreno
Mary Jo & Enrique Arregui
Henry Vale
Gilbert Brown
Josh & Robby Woods
Helen & Matt Hagen
Claude Sturges
H. Edward Amitt Family
Barbara LaMothe
Dorothy Barnell
Andrew & Jane Yandura
Bill Daley
Arlene Giggler
Albert Manuel, Jr.
Bill Foran
Robert Buchach
Jim Quill
Joel
Bernie Weiler
Clay
Frank Beeson
Toni Keane
Bill & Billy Pry
Tom & Louise Hayward
Molly Wilbur
Peggy Miville
Lee Rowen
David Paxton
Hugh Murphy
Donald Deffenbaugh
Russell Family
Bill Foran
Brother Blaize
Bobby Lago
Dorothy & Walter Jellig
Al Bastori
Roger Fox
Elizabeth Lasley
Marie Clementine
Fred & Helen Briscoe
James Echter
Jim Carroll
Dario Miranda
James Suttre
Norbert Bold
Pete & Louise Treadwell
Peter Ring
Michael Chapa
Judy Brown
Thomas & George Consiglio
Richard Young
Linda Scott
Eileen Smith
Fr. Brad & Judy Dusak
Loretta Hutter
Manuel Mancillas, Jr.
Bob Strawbridge
John Hogan
Marie Atkinson
Agatha Johnson

### Happy Birthday

JoAnne Shlemmer

### IN HONOR OF

Elder Mathew & Bertha
Donald Rodee
John Jarvie
Jan Roberts

### Needs

- Gently used furniture
- Sleeping bags
- Reading glasses 1.5 to 3.0
- Men’s belts sizes 30-40
- Men’s comfy shoes

### Monthly Serving Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 2019</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Serving</strong></td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>Females in Action</td>
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<td><strong>Team</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Schedule</strong></td>
<td>North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>Riverview Church</td>
<td>Fairwinds</td>
<td>Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td><strong>2019</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Team</strong></td>
<td>Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Catholic Daughters</td>
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<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Schedule</strong></td>
<td>St. Thomas More RCIA</td>
<td>Vista Hi-Noon Rotary</td>
<td>San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>Pilgrim Creek</td>
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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></th>
<th>December 2018</th>
<th>Our 35th Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>13,180</td>
<td>4,304,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>302,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>6,261</td>
<td>1,357,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>256,156</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22,628</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>84,207</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td>Our 35th Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loads of laundry</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>339,635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>46,097</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarps</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>4,411</td>
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<td>ID Vouchers</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUGS</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>981,994</td>
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