**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US WITH GRANT WRITING**

Brother Benno’s has been the recipient of some sizable grants the past few years; and, along with donations from our many friends, they have greatly enhanced our ability to serve those who come to us for help.

Our current need is for volunteers to write grant proposals and also for a Grant Data Base Administrator. We will provide training if you’ve never done it before, but have an interest in learning these skills.

Please call Frank Doherty (760-804-1948) for more information and/or to volunteer.

Ω

**BROTHER BENNO’S JOKES**

Brother Benno was famous for his jokes—you had to laugh because they were so corny.

“The old man kept telling everyone about his new hearing aid. What a joy it was to hear well again, how it was the best that money could buy, how it was the latest in technology, etc. Finally someone asked, ‘Well, what kind is it?’ ‘Oh, about 4:30,’ he said, looking at his watch.”

“A little boy was writing a letter to a girl that he had a crush on. His mother said, ‘You can’t write, so why are you trying to send her a letter?’ ‘That’s OK, Mom, she can’t read!’”

“A man walked into a restaurant and asked, ‘Sir, do you serve crabs here?’ The waiter replied, ‘Certainly, have a seat.’”

Ω

**TEENAGER’S BIRTHDAY GIFTS ARE REALLY FOR THE POOR**

On a Saturday morning in January, thirteen-year-old Logan Nonaca and his mother Nathalia delivered 40 bags of items that he and his family had collected for the homeless. In the bags were socks, healthy snacks, water, and bagels. “Probably 100 bagels,” Logan said.

Nathalia shared that her son insisted that instead of buying him birthday gifts, she use the money to buy food for the homeless.

When asked how he got the idea to do this project, he said, “I felt bad for the homeless. Yes, sometimes it is their fault, but that does not mean that you can’t give them food or something to put them back on their feet.” He also said he chose to give the items to Brother Benno’s because he knows we do a really good job of helping those in our community who are in need.

Ω
Sometimes I like to look through old copies of this newsletter to remind myself about the many interesting stories we’ve covered, and the amazing people who make good things happen for so many of our Guests. This month I’d like to revisit a few of those stories.

(From December 2014). Once again I experienced Brother Benno’s in a way that makes me grateful to be part of this ministry. I arrived at the Center at 6:20 in the morning of Veterans Day, expecting to meet with a Viet Nam vet who’s been a regular Guest for quite some time. Unfortunately, he wasn’t able to come in that day; but as usual, other encounters made my early-morning rising well worthwhile.

Two things especially touched me. One was the number of children who came with their parents before going to school. They looked happy, were well behaved, and seemed very much at ease. And the adults showed a sense of camaraderie–Program Guys, Guests, Staff, and Volunteers. The line outside was orderly with quiet conversation; and once everyone was inside the dining room, that feeling of togetherness was even more evident. I know from past experience that there are occasional outbursts of shouting and unruly behavior by a Guest with mental problems, but the conduct of the vast majority of those who come to the Center contradicts the perceived notion that the homeless are somehow “less” than the rest of us.

(From September 2013). On July 13, a group of high school boys and girls put on a “Jeans for $2 a pair” event at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. They belong to Teens Care, which is under the auspices of Girlfriends Care, a group of loving and seemingly indefatigable women who never cease to amaze me with their creative outreach to Brother Benno’s. Ellen Clark of GFC leads the teen group.

The teens prepared for the big sale by sorting 1,000 pairs of jeans, making signs, and writing a plan on paper showing how they would conduct the sale. They set up everything on the sidewalk in front of the Shop, then made and gave out free root beer floats to all customers. Helen Parsons, the Board member who oversees the Thrift shop, said: “They made $192 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.; but most of all, they showed all our customers what a bright future our country will have with this caring, smart, and capable generation!”

(From October 2012). A new male Guest with a shaggy beard and soiled clothing came in one Friday afternoon, hoping for a hot meal, some clean clothes, and a shower and shave. It was too late to provide any of these services, but Servant of the Poor, Diana Shields, gave him a sack lunch and invited him to come back Saturday morning for his other needs—which he did. After he ate, Servant of the Poor, Carol Muehe, took him into the Clothing Room and helped him find a set of clean and comfortable clothes, even though we don’t usually dispense clothing on Saturdays.

Monday morning, he walked up to the intake window where Diana was working, and said, “Good morning! Do you know who I am?”

Diana confessed she didn’t remember him, and he said, “I’m the guy you gave the new razor to!” (A box of high-quality razors had been donated on Friday, and Diana had set one aside for this man before he left the Center on Friday.)

“He was cleaned up and nicely dressed,” Diana said, “so I honestly didn’t recognize him. And it was exciting to see that the razors that had been donated the first day he came in went to such a great cause!”

(From November 2011). I was leaving the Center around ten one morning when I overheard Dave at the front desk telling a woman where to go for her appointment with a Case Worker. The woman was carrying a baby in a carrier, while a little girl about two trailed behind.

The woman looked stressed, as if she were about to cry, and she seemed confused about where she was supposed to go. Even though the Case Worker’s office is just a step outside and continued on page 3....
One of the hallmarks that makes Brother Benno’s special is the fact that the vast majority of those who serve here are volunteers. And when some of those volunteers come from other parts of the country, we are especially grateful for their service.

Such was the case on January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when 30 people from Antioch University in Seattle spent three hours volunteering at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. They sorted, hung, and straightened clothing on racks, tested electronics, priced household items, and arranged furniture. Helen Parsons, Board Member who oversees the Shop, said that the staff was able to work on other projects because of all that was accomplished by this group.

Two Brother Benno Recovery Program graduates who are now on staff were invited to tell their stories, and they said that the interest shown by this group of volunteers made them feel especially cared for.

The group from Antioch University are members of the National Council of Schools and Programs in Professional Psychology (NCSPP); and every year they have a Mid-Winter Conference, which this year was held in Carlsbad. According to Jude Bergkamp, Chair of NCSPP’s Ethnic Racial Diversity Committee, “Part of my role is to coordinate our annual Day of Service Project (where) we spend a half-day volunteering in the city that holds our conference.”

Helen Parsons sent an email to Jude the next day, part of which read: “For me, you were all ‘Godwinks’! Having the opportunity to chat with many and share homeless concerns and plights gave me renewed hope. Heartfelt thanks!”

One of the perks the volunteers received for their service at the Shop was being treated to Helen Parsons’ famous corn chowder for lunch; or as Helen would say in her never-to-be-lost Boston accent, “Corn Chowdah.”

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Benno online:
Facebook.com/BrotherBenno

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
February is the month we celebrate our current Auxiliary members and welcome new ones with a delicious brunch at the Shadowridge Country Club in Vista. They have been putting on this brunch for us for many years, and everyone heartily enjoys the food, the camaraderie, and the presentation. If you’re a new member or will become one this year and didn’t make the brunch on February 8, be sure to come next year—you will not regret it!

The Auxiliary Board has been working to set the calendar for this year. Be sure to check us out in this space every month. We welcome everyone to our fundraisers, even if you’re not a member. Two events that were new last year and will be repeated again this year were a fun dinner and the Sip and Paint—a watercolor painting lesson.

A new fundraiser, “Reading Between the Vines,” will be held on April 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2359 Caddie Court, Oceanside 92056. There will be sandwiches, sweets, wine and other beverages, as well as conversation with others who like to read. Participants will be able to choose two gently-used books, and extra books can be purchased for $2 each. Event fee is $60 per person. Please make checks payable to Brother Benno’s Auxiliary and mail to Brother Benno’s Auxiliary, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. There are only 35 slots available, so reserve your space now. For more information, contact Karen (onekgone@aol.com) Book donations will also be gladly accepted.

As usual, our members are spending their volunteer efforts on our ongoing activities: Breakfast Club, Thrift Shop work parties, Meet and Greet committee, and Layette-gathering. All of these activities help those who rely on Brother Benno’s in some way. The Knitting Committee is still in force, and anyone who knits or crochets and would be willing to help us, please contact Joyce Cerimele (jcerimele11@gmail.com).

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Brother Benno Auxiliary, please come to one of our meetings. The next one is on Wednesday, February 26, at the Center, 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside. Fellowship starts at 1 p.m. followed by the meeting at 1:30. I hope to see you there!

Ω

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
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Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
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Chance Hales
Tom & Louise
Hayward
Elizabeth Holmes
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
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 Sauver
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel &
Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Ann Grier Smith
Alva & Frances
Snider
Squirrell Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb
Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Delia Hill
Nick Sauer
Jose & Felicidad Domingo
Maximino Pagaun
James Mulvihill
Toni Keane
Caroline Dusak
Darlene Ghigleri
Bernie Weiler
Gilbert & Donna Brown
Tim Diem
Pedro & Patty Miranda
Peggy Miville
Linda Scott
Jackie Camp
Elvira Oviedo
H. Edward Smith Family
Marie Atkinson
Helen, Walt, Beau Crewmen
Frank Beeson
Christine Britton
Robert Buchach
Joel Heiser
Chance Hales
Dorothy Barnell
Lois Egdahl
Bill Severy
Deacon Bob Troy
Alva & Frances Snider
Michael Stifferlen
Bill & Billy Pry
Molly Wilbur
Betty Jones
Mary Ann Wagner
Hugh, Collie, Daniel, &
John T.
Philip Larsen
Dennis O’Connor
Andrew & Jane Yandura
Bill Mulligan
Richard Giors
Robert Buchach
Monty, Michael, & Tony
Nares
Louis Nelson
June Bentley
Richard Rossmaessler
Albert Manuel, Jr.
Roger Fox
Pat Day
Joe Galizio
Thomas Grier
Eileen Smith
Michael Chapa
Agnes Gregoire
Helen Beckman
Barbara LaMothe

Happy Birthday
JoAnne Shlemmer

In Honor Of
John Jarvis
Robert Kreisberg
Peter Bing
Barbara Papa-Driscoll

Needs

Gently used furniture
Blankets
Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing)

February 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
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<td>San Luis Rey Mission</td>
<td>1 St. Thomas More</td>
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<td>10 North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>11 Riverview Church</td>
<td>12 Fairwinds</td>
<td>13 Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>14 St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>8 FVA</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>18 Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>19 Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>20 Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>15 Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td>24 St. Thomas More RCIA</td>
<td>25 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary</td>
<td>26 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>27 Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>28 Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>22 Catholic Daughters</td>
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<td>29 Shiloh Church of God in Christ</td>
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Monthly Serving Team Schedule
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 Thrift Shop
(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)
Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>Service</th>
<th>December 2019</th>
<th>Our 36th Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
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<td>Nights of lodging</td>
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<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
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<th>Our 36th Year</th>
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<td>Loads of laundry</td>
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