



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

February 2020



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.

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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.”

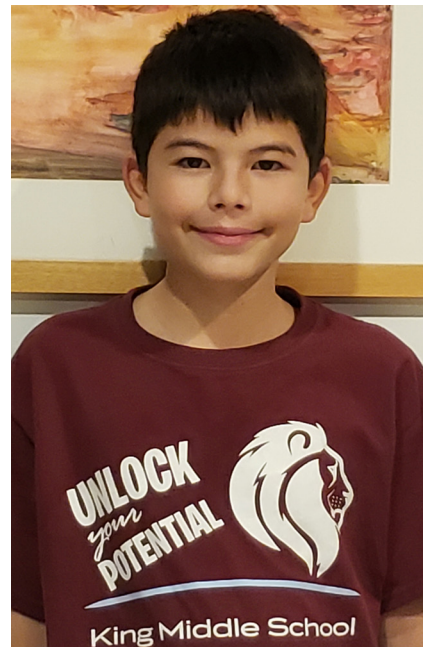
“A little boy was writing a letter to a girl that he had a crush on. His mother said, ‘You can't write, so why are you trying to send her a letter?’ ‘That's OK, Mom, she can't read!’”

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

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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.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

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

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SEATTLE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

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."

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one door down, I could tell she needed help. "I'll walk her over there," I said to Dave.

The Case Worker's door was open but no one was in. I suggested she sit down and said I was sure someone would be there very soon. Again, I saw her weariness and tenseness.

Just then, **Bill Harper** came in from the back, saw the woman and asked if she had an appointment. She showed him a piece of paper she'd been clutching in her hand. "Your appointment was at 9 o'clock," he said.

She took a deep breath. "I know, but my baby is sick, and I couldn't get her in time." Bill immediately ushered her into his office and closed the door. I found out later that the woman had received an eviction notice from her landlord. Brother Benno's was able to help with her rent, thus keeping the family from becoming homeless.

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Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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>

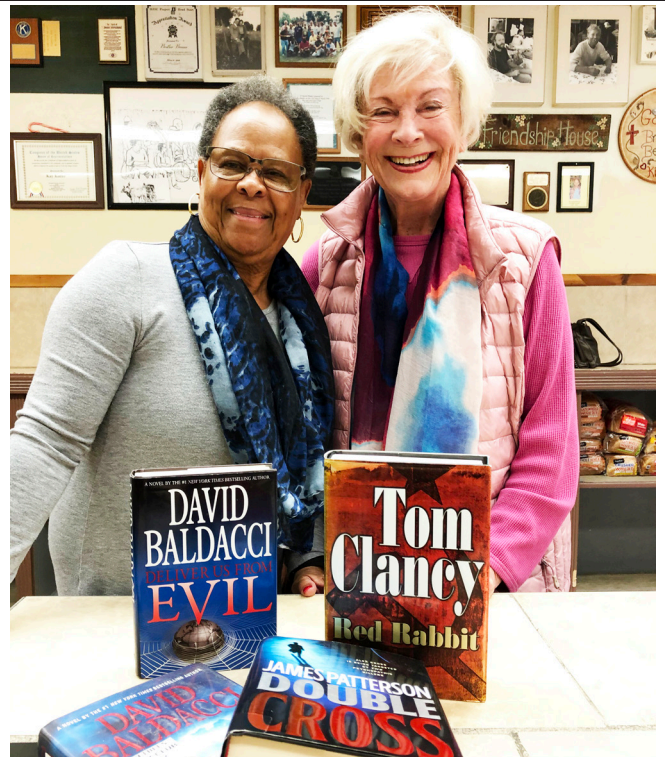
AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

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.



Edith Jones and Karen Gallagher

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!

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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
 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 Farhquar
 William & Vennita
 Flanagan
 Louise Foussat
 Joe & Ida Friend
 Mary Gerrity
 Bob Gleason
 Chance Hales
 Tom & Louise
 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
 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
 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 Pagauan
 James Mulvihill
 Toni Keane
 Caroline Dusak
 Darlene Ghiglieri
 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 Sifferlen

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 Rossmassler
 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 Jarvie
 Robert Kreisberg
 Peter Bing
 Barbara Papa-Driscoll

Needs

Gently used furniture

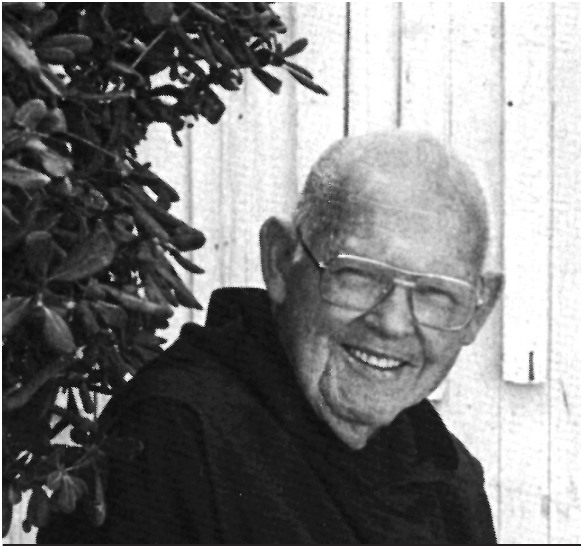
Blankets

Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February						1 St. Thomas More
2020	3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 FVA
Monthly	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Riverview Church	12 Fairwinds	13 Oceanside Civitanis	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 Christ the King Lutheran	19 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	20 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Catholic Daughters
Team	24 St. Thomas More RCIA	25 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Pilgrim Creek	28 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	29 Shiloh Church of God in Christ
Schedule						

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

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 Oceanside, California
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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

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 2019	Our 36th Year		December 2019	Our 36th Year
Meals	12,063	4,456,941	Loads of laundry	32	28,547
Nights of lodging	983	314,058	Food packs	756	350,662
Articles of clothing	3,573	1,407,186	Blankets	183	47,937
Showers	857	268,969	Tarps	115	5,734
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	38	9,833
Bus passes	139	85,614	HUGS	1,800	1,005,394