By Kathleen Diehlmann

We are often asked about our services at Brother Benno’s. Who do we serve? What types of services do we offer? What needs are unmet?

We migrated to our new database, Mission Tracker, in early summer of 2021, which helps us to answer these questions. Some generous benefactors helped the Foundation to fund this new resource. Since that time, our intake staff has been hard at work entering our Guests into the system and producing plastic ID cards with photographs, which allow them to obtain resources such as food, clothing, diapers, backpacks, tarps, and other supplies. The resources also include services like rental and utility assistance, bus passes, temporary shelter assistance, and gas vouchers.

Part of this migration to Mission Tracker was due to a requirement by the City of Oceanside that Brother Benno’s provide those we serve with “a plastic or laminated photo ID card that will be used for entry into the facility.” (Item No. 39 of Conditional Use Permit between City of Oceanside and the Brother Benno Foundation, updated in March 2021).

Getting this database set up and training our team how to utilize it has taken some time. We continue to add more data and services each month, such as items of clothing being distributed, and each case and payments for rental and utility assistance. Our community outreach team keeps track of the services we provide, which includes detailed case notes that document progress, and actions to provide shelter, medical and mental health care, and financial aid to our homeless Guests. We are adding data about the number of food boxes and food bags we distribute each month.

More and more information will be available so that we can share our story with you, assess our performance, and better manage our services. All this information also helps us to apply for grants. We are grateful for the efforts of our volunteers and staff who have assisted with the implementation and expanded use of Mission Tracker.

We are pleased to announce that we have entered more than 2,000 people into Mission Tracker as of the writing of this article. We continue to add new individuals who need assistance almost every day. Brother Benno’s is grateful that we can continue to serve and provide resources to those most in need of help. We cannot do this without your support. Thank you.

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The following note was received by Kay Kutler in 2004 from a grateful Guest:

Dear Kay,

In the shadows of the dark places of the mind walk many.
Thank you for taking the burden,
For soon they shall no longer walk in darkness,
But become a beacon of light for their fellow man.

(signed S.)
FEEDING AND FLEXIBILITY
by Kathleen Diehlmann

Due to the rapid increase in COVID-19 spread in the community, the Brother Benno Foundation made the decision to temporarily close the dining room at the Center starting on January 11. We continue to feed our Guests, but we have returned to providing meals outside, to-go. We will also keep providing food boxes Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. for families with children, senior citizens, and the disabled. We are so appreciative of our serving teams who have helped us the last several months. We hope to see you all again very soon. If you would like to help, the Foundation is in need of rapid tests and masks for our Guests, staff, volunteers, and Program members. Thank you!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Brother Benno’s is fortunate to have a group of volunteers filling key positions, and a dedicated staff committed to serving persons in need. Three key volunteer positions are currently open.

**Human Resource:** An experienced Human Resource professional is needed to manage the human resource needs of our volunteers and staff. This is a part-time position reporting to our Board of Directors.

**Grant Writer:** This position is responsible for drafting applications as a member of our grant-writing team. Good writing skills and experience is writing proposals is preferred. Grant writers have the benefit of working closely with the Brother Benno staff and volunteers in drafting detailed and compliant applications. They especially find it rewarding to work with team members in securing financial support for the services provided to those in need.

**IT Professional:** An experienced IT Professional is needed for the overall management of the IT functions at Brother Benno’s.

Most duties for the above positions can be performed off-site, with some duties performed at the Brother Benno Center. For those interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, **Renee Stepp**, via email: volunteersatbb@gmail.com or leave a message at 760-231-1613.

Have You Checked Our Amazon Wishlist Lately?

Our homeless guests are often in need of the most basic necessities.

To help clothe and keep our guests safe and healthy, you can visit the Brother Benno’s Amazon Wish List and purchase the items needed. Once purchased, they can be shipped directly to our Center and be distributed by Carol in our clothing room.

The list is updated as new needs arise; but we can always count on the following needs:

- men's and women's undergarments
- first aid ointment and band aids
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- travel sized deodorant
  and for these cooler days and nights:
- socks (especially women’s knee socks)
- foot, toe and hand warmers
- mylar emergency blankets, mylar-lined ponchos, and mylar sleeping bags/covers

You can access our WishList here: https://amzn.to/3kfHXWn

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BROTHER BENNO AUXILIARY COMES TO AN END

by Barbara Ladwig

Joyce Cerimele, most recent President of the Brother Benno Auxiliary, has announced that the Auxiliary formally disbanded in January after 25 years of service to the Foundation. It was started by Dixie Bales*, who was the Secretary of the Brother Benno Board of Directors at the time, as the fund-raising arm of the Foundation.

Six charter members have continued to be part of the Auxiliary all these years: Alma Boone, Daniel Boone, Maureen Hartin, Debbie Knight, Colleen O’Harra, and JoAnne Shlemmer.

Joyce stated that in addition to raising money, Auxiliary members served in other endeavors such as the Breakfast Club (a morning serving team), Thrift Shop volunteering, Knitting Group, Layette Group, Postal Carriers Food Drive, Children’s Christmas Party, and the Golf Tournament.

Board member Helen Parsons, a long-time Auxiliary member, reminisced about her experiences with the group. “Our Fashion Show was quite the social event in Oceanside each year,” she said. “It was held at Camp Pendleton for years, and hundreds of tickets would sell out months ahead of time. At my very first one, I was asked by Karen Gallagher to go to the entrance and help Kay Kutler hug the incoming guests, as she was ‘holding up the show.’ I approached Kay, introduced myself, and told her I would help her hug. She was delighted and placed me right beside her. All guests then received two hugs instead of one. The show started late!”

Helen said that the Auxiliary’s Cookie Booth at the annual Carlsbad Street Faire was her absolute favorite event. “We were allowed to bake cookies at home, take them to the Center where we put three big cookies in each bag, then sell them at the Faire,” she said. “We sold hundreds, and we got the word out to the public about who and what Brother Benno’s was all about. It was a sad day when we could not bake our own cookies any more (state regulations, certified kitchens only).”

Board President Kathleen Diehlmann has said that the Golf Tournament fundraiser will continue in 2022, and Joyce Cerimele has volunteered to help with the gift card donations for the Children’s Christmas Party in 2022.

Joyce urges anyone who wants to continue volunteering to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Renee Stepp at volunteersatbb@gmail.com or leave a message at 760-231-1613.

The following are the past presidents of the Auxiliary from 1996 to 2021: Dixie Bales, Vikki Ramey, Alicia Sullivan, Marge Stogdill, Karen Gallagher, Angela Gothard, Helen Parsons, Debbie Knight, Vera Bayliss, Carol Sanford, Nita Rodriguez, and Joyce Cerimele.

*(Harold Kutler, in his book–Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen, featured Dixie Bales in chapter 12, The Golden Years, starting on page 76.)
GOLDEN RULE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Did you know that the Golden Rule is honored by the major world religions?

**Christianity:** Treat others the way you would have them treat you; this sums up the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12)

**Judaism:** What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men. That is the entire law; all the rest is commentary.

**Brahmanism:** This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause pain if done to you. (Mahabharata 5,1517)

**Buddhism:** Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. (Udana-Varba 5, 18)

**Confucianism:** Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: Do not unto others that you would not have them do unto you. (Analects 15, 23)

**Taoism:** Regard your neighbor’s gain as your own gain, and your neighbor’s loss as your own loss. (T’ai Shang Kan Ying P’ien)

**Islam:** No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. (Sunnah)

**Zoroastrianism:** That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself. (Dadistan-I Dinik, 94, 5)

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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 & Louise Hayward
Elizabeth Holmes
John Jarvie
Dorothy and Walter Jellig
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Harold & Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben & Ozelle Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Monty, Natalie, &
Michael 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
Nick 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
Bob Strawbridge
Nancy Still-Hoines
Donna Gleason
Kevin Marks
Frank Beeson
Linda Erland
Albert Freiburger
Alva & Frances
Snider
Bill Justus
Andrew & Jane
Yandura
Josh Hogan
Arhe & Patricia
Hoines
Bill Pollock
Pat Day
Mary Louise
Wisinewski
Ruth Johnson
Timothy Diem
Nick Jellison
Barbara LaMothe
Helen, Beau, &
Walter McEwen
Timothy McCoy
Hugh Murphy
Floyd & Marie
Atkinson
Kathleen
Belinda Ledoux
Jim Bruynell
Nancy Connor
Elaine Port
Sharon de la Cruz

Needs
Gently used furniture  Blanks  Adult Unisex Diapers  Baseball caps

WE WILL RESUME PUBLISHING THE SERVING TEAM CALENDAR WHEN THE CENTER REOPENS FOR OUR HOT BREAKFAST.
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: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon

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.

Brother Benno’s Services:

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>December 2021</th>
<th>Our 38th Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
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<td>Nights of lodging</td>
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<th>December 2021</th>
<th>Our 38th Year</th>
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