



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

February 2022



## KEEPING TRACK OF HOW WE HELP OUR COMMUNITY

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!

### 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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## 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 in 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](mailto:volunteersatbb@gmail.com) or leave a message at 760-231-1613.

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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 Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or [jim.napier@cox.net](mailto:jim.napier@cox.net).

## 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](mailto: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.)*

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Brother Benno Foundation**  
**PO Box 308**  
**Oceanside CA 92049**

**Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>**

## 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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**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.

**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorials**

Ron Alexander	Tom & Louise	Catherine L. Quinlan	Linda Erland
Dixie & Lou Bales	Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Albert Freiburger
Frank Barnet	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Alva & Frances
Brother Benno	John Jarvie	Margaret Rossini	Snider
Edith Blaiser	Dorothy and Walter	Ann Sauer	Bill Justus
Andrea Boersma	Jellig	Nick Sauer	Andrew & Jane
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Mary Shankle	Yandura
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Josh Hogan
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Bernice, Samuel &	Arhe & Patricia
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Milton Silver	Hoines
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Harold & Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Bill Pollock
Anna Correia	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Ann Grier Smith	Pat Day
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Alva & Frances	Mary Louise
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helen Lucas	Snider	Wisniewski
Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Squirrell Family	Ruth Johnson
Anita H. Donahue	Helene McGill	Mike Stendahl	Timothy Diem
Dorothy M. Donahue	Monty, Natalie, &	Margaret Stephan	Nick Jellison
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Michael Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Barbara LaMothe
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Zeferino & Dancy	Harold Thompson	Helen, Beau, &
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares	Carol & Herb	Walter McEwen
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Nordstrom	Thornberg	Timothy McCoy
Myron Eichen	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	Hugh Murphy
Richard Farhquar	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	Floyd & Marie
William & Vennita	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	Atkinson
Flanagan	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson	Kathleen
Louise Foussat	Mary Peterson	Bob Strawbridge	Belinda Ledoux
Joe & Ida Friend	Jane Pfau	Nancy Still-Hoines	Jim Bruynell
Mary Gerrity	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Donna Gleason	Nancy Connor
Bob Gleason	Alan Port	Kevin Marks	Elaine Port
Chance Hales	Mary Pullman	Frank Beeson	Sharon de la Cruz

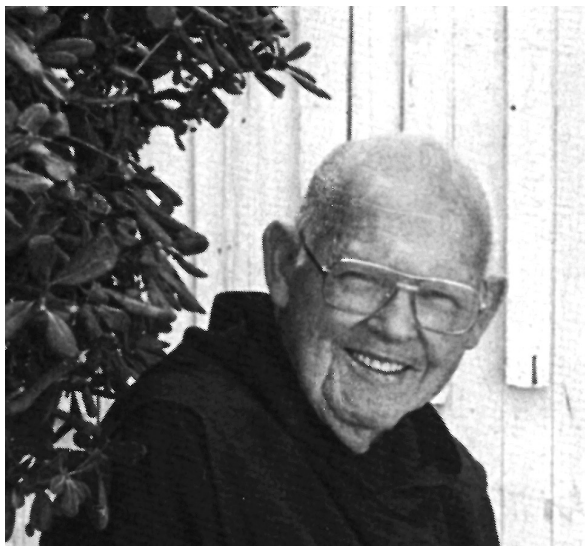
**Needs**

Gently used furniture      Blankets      Adult Unisex Diapers      Baseball caps

**WE WILL RESUME PUBLISHING THE  
SERVING TEAM CALENDAR WHEN THE  
CENTER REOPENS FOR OUR HOT BREAKFAST.**

**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**

**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**

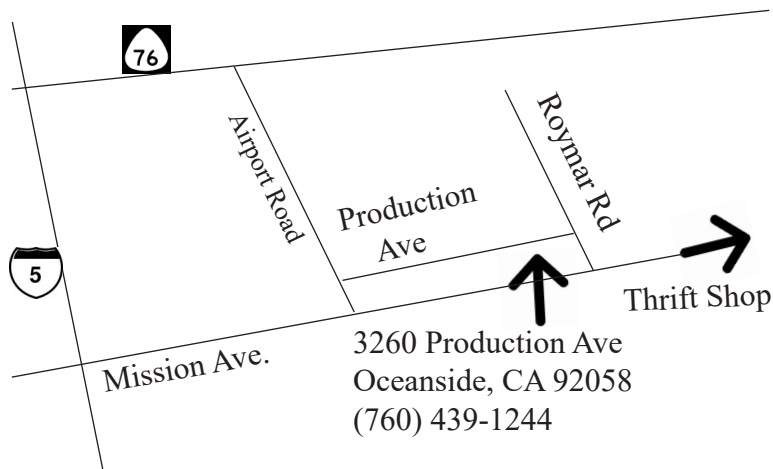
**Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!**

**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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	December 2021	Our 38th Year		December 2021	Our 38th Year
Meals	7,010	4,674,519	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	800	335,086	Food packs	440	364,633
Articles of clothing	3,663	1,465,696	Blankets	183	50,379
Showers	228	272,338	Tarps	72	6,709
Haircuts	60	23,357	ID Vouchers	18	10,322
Bus passes	111	86,968	HUGS	0	1,011,244