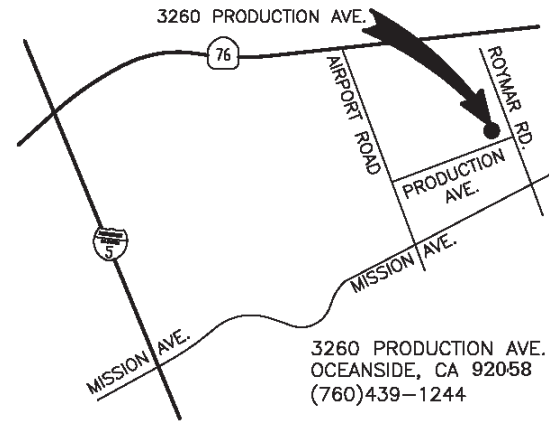


Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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:

	November 2010	Our 28th Year		November 2010	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,303	3,032,913	Loads of laundry	28	25,593
Nights of lodging	1,174	204,794	Food packs	2,765	149,891
Articles of clothing	4,734	843,919	Blankets	169	31,178
Showers	817	151,597	Prescriptions	35	6,181
Haircuts	150	12,011	ID Vouchers	5	8,075
Bus passes	123	73,722	HUGS	1,800	792,544

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

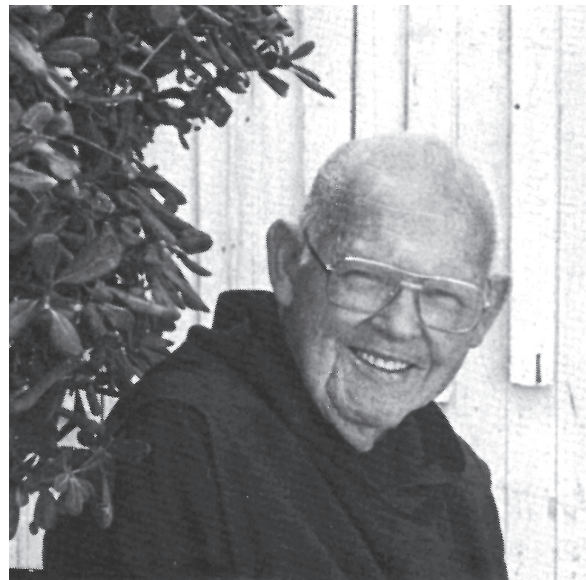
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

January 2011



HOW ARE WE TO SERVE? A Reflection for the New Year

by Harold Kutler

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and told them that this was the way they were to serve one another. (*John 13:4-9*) This symbolized how our Christian service is to be performed: with great humility. We cannot wash someone's feet while we are standing or sitting. We must get down on our knees in a non-judgmental position of humility and prayer. Then we are serving out of our own poverty, not out of our strength.

Living out the gospel each day means that we humbly serve those in need with love and compassion.

Most of the people we encounter each day are in need. They hunger for a smile, a kind word, a prayer. They want the gift of love, compassion, appreciation, caring, or affection. Just touching or hugging someone can free them from their prison of loneliness, and sincerely complimenting a person can help remove their blindness to their own goodness.

Mother Teresa and Brother Benno have shown us the way to live out the gospel in our everyday lives. Humbly serving the needy with love and compassion is an irresistible force that can make a real difference in our world and in our own lives.

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Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty, than the person who has nothing to eat. ~ Mother Teresa

THRIFT SHOP HAS SPECIAL VISITOR



+ Santa visited Brother Benno's Thrift Shop on December 4, where little **Elisabeth** was one of the lucky children who got to sit on his lap and whisper her wishes to him. Elisabeth lives at one of our women's shelters with her grandmother, and she has captured the hearts of everyone who meets her.

According to the Thrift Shop's acting Manager **Michelle Hoppe**, volunteer **Diane May** arranged for Santa's visit, and she set up the cookies, cider, and hot chocolate that were given to shoppers. Inside the Shop were the usual high-quality bargains, including Christmas items that sold for half-price that day.

(Please see back page for address and times of Thrift Shop.)

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Tons of Information. The Brother Benno website (brotherbenno.org) is the perfect doorway into understanding what Brother Benno's is and does. Your first stop, once you've walked in, might be the ten-minute video called "Legacy of Hope." With the help of pictures and voices, you will be immersed in the spirit of Brother Benno himself, and of Harold and Kay Kutler, who embody that spirit of loving and giving that has touched guests and volunteers alike for more than 25 years.

After you've watched the video, you'll probably want to learn more about the Foundation. Just click on Services or Recovery or Thrift Shop or any of the other buttons that will take you directly to your area of interest. You can also find out how to volunteer and how to donate. It's all there! Look at the website yourself, and encourage your friends to do the same.

Above and Beyond. Brother Benno's is full of stories—small vignettes that, when put together, form a beautiful mosaic of caring and commitment. The volunteers who are the main characters in these stories don't want to be singled out because they don't think they're doing anything special, so I'll use only their initials; but I see them as worthy of special mention. The drawback, of course, is that I know there are many more I don't know about, and I beg their forgiveness.

J.M. works at the Center two days a week. He found out recently that the main printer in the computer room was beyond repair, so apparently without giving it a second thought, he just went out and bought a new one. He also buys diapers regularly, as he knows they are seldom donated by others and always needed by guests.

H.P. volunteers one day a week, more often if his services are needed. Every year before Thanksgiving and Christmas, he goes around his neighborhood asking for donations for Brother Benno's—food, clothing, and whatever else people are willing to give.

J.J. puts his superlative handyman talents to work at the Center and the various Brother Benno Houses, and he often trains Program Members to help with these projects. Some of the men discover abilities they didn't know they had, al-

lowing them to find jobs—after they complete the Program—that use their new-found skills. Recently J.J. added yet another skill to his repertoire—he has managed to "coerce" three Program Guys to quit smoking. "It's easier to quit than to listen to J. harp at us when we're working with him," quipped one of the newly smoke-free Guys!

Following Through. We printed excerpts of letters from 7th graders at St. John the Evangelist School in Encinitas in the December 2010 newsletter after the class took a tour of our Center. Many of the students said they wanted to get more involved with outreach, especially at Brother Benno's, and they were true to their word.

First they brought in clothing, books, and toys from home and delivered them to the Center in October. Then they decided that putting together food boxes for Thanksgiving would be a good idea, and they got the entire school of almost 600 students to join in. Each class was asked to bring a particular food item, and everyone was invited to bring hams. "We were hoping to get 40 hams (one for each box)," said **Teresa Roberts**, the 7th grade teacher, "which is exactly what we got."



Every class made turkey centerpieces, placemats, and cards, which were put into decorated boxes along with the food. Liz Windle, Servant of the Poor, who was involved with this project, said, "When the box is opened, the recipients will feel the love, for sure."

Mrs. Roberts said, "We were blessed that everyone at the school embraced this project with so much enthusiasm and generosity."

Guests at Brother Benno's were doubly blessed!

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Memorials

Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Ann Sauer
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Nordstrom
Myron Eichen
Alice Jordan
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Richard Farhquar
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Catherine L. Quinlan
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Pullman
Joan Boyd
Agnus Boyd
Harold Thompson
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Bob Gleason
Jane Pfau
Ron Alexander
Mary Peterson
Frank Barnet
Frank S. Dolley
Phyllis H. Dierlam

Monty Nares
Margaret Rossini
Dorothy M. Donahue
Mary Teresa Carr
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Elizabeth Holms
Edith Blaiser
Ben Kouns
Bill Lakoff
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Anita H. Donahue
Margaret Stephan
Bill Boster
Louise Foussat
Tom Hayward
Richard Kurtz
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler

Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Naomi Shelton
Marjorie Heath
Judy Chow
James O'Keefe
Floyd & Rose Caldwell
John Gerz
Ruth, Dean, & Gerald Becker
LaRue Ditmore
Anna Correia
William Flanagan
Martha Brizendine
P.J. Daheim
Beverly Otis
Bernie Weiler
Nysewander Family
Squirrell Family
Ann Witherow
Thomas Witherow
Franklin Forthoffer
Andrew & Jane Yandura

Josephine & Charles Campbell
Joyce Sheetz
Milton, Samuel, & Bessie Silver
Margaret Zachan
Stanley LaMonte
Dolores Sheets
Ruth Willis
Helen, Walt, & Beau McEwen
John Simons
Jack Miller
Mary and Joseph Opathuing
Tom Becker
Zeferino & Dancy Nares
Patricia Miller
Clara & Eilert Gehr
Ben Lewis
Matt Wetall

IN HONOR OF
John Jarvie

Needs

Rain ponchos, jackets, gloves and knit caps

Sleeping bags

Men's underwear, socks, shoes

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2011						1 St. Thomas More
Monthly Serving Team Schedule	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 TVIA
	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Friends from Vista	12 Naval Hospital	13 Oceanside Civitans	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
	17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 Christ the King Lutheran	19 Grace Anglican	20 Carlsbad Rotary	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Catholic Daughters
	24 5/11 Marines 31 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	25 St. Mark's San Marcos	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Pilgrim Creek	28 Fallbrook Presbyterian	29 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to brotherbenno.org, click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

COMPUTER ROOM VOLUNTEERS SERVE "OUT OF VIEW"

Mary Spitz, Helene McGill, and John McCaffrey are among the most unseen volunteers at Brother Benno's. They work in our Computer Room, which is so far off the beaten track that even regulars sometimes have to ask how to get there.



Mary, John and Helene

Mary has been coming in every Wednesday morning since 1996. She updates the newsletter mailing list each week and emails the updated list to the mailing company once a month. It's an endless job, she says, because the list contains almost 5,000 addresses, and there are always changes to be made.

Mary has her own accounting and bookkeeping company, specializing in small businesses. Even though that keeps her busy, she said she wants to be at Brother Benno's too, because she likes to help others. One day someone asked her why she was there. "Because I want to be here," she said. Was it a drug or alcohol problem? "No," I said, "I'm a volunteer!"

Helene started her volunteer work at the Center in 2002, helping **Blanche Ogle** in the kitchen. Now she types and sends out thank-you letters for **Harold Kutler**, as well as doing other correspondence; and she also helps Mary Spitz with the mailing list.

"My mom always volunteered," Helene said, giving one reason why she has done volunteer work all her life. She helped at her children's schools and worked for the Cerebral Palsy Association, because her sister-in-law had a daughter with the disease.

Helene moved from New York to Pennsylva-

nia to Connecticut, finally landing in San Diego County in 1995. "I took care of my grandchildren who lived in the various states," she said, "never imagining I would eventually end up on the West Coast. Now I have many close family members residing not too far away."

John has been coming to the Center every Tuesday and Thursday for more than five years, and he never seems to lack for something to do. "I prepare the newsletter for the printer," he said, "and I create various brochures, like the one for the Auxiliary Luncheon and several that explain what Brother Benno's does." He also works with Program Members and volunteers who need help on the computer, using the skills he gained during his 35 years at IBM as a computer programmer.

For fun, John and his wife **Judy** love playing duplicate bridge at local clubs and in tournaments in Southern California and Las Vegas.

When asked why he gives of his time and talent at Brother Benno's, he said, "To give back for all the blessings I have been given."

(Editor's Note: John is indispensable when it comes to getting the newsletter out every month; and I can attest to the fact that he's hooked on bridge, as I've seen him here and there in the community, waiting for a bridge game to start!)

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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>

TOGETHER WE CAN

(This tribute to Harold and Kay was written by a "Thankful Program Member.")

These are some words about an unselfish man
Whose motto in life are the words "we" and can."
For we can make a difference, restore some hope,
With a bowl of soup, a hug,
A mere bar of soap.

For a total trust in God, and some hardships in life
A reward was bestowed, an incredible wife.
For this match made in Heaven, God had a plan
And whispered the words "together you can."

When they started this journey and walked side by side
Perfectly yoked the Lord did provide.
Then he blessed them with children, not one time
but three,
A family of five they were to be.

So he worked and provided, this driven man,
All the time knowing "together we can."

And then came the day this monk did walk in,
A loaf of bread in his hand,
On his face was a grin.
And so once again, in God's master plan
The words heard so clearly, "together we can."

The monk has since passed, but so huge was his mark
That a fire was started from the tiniest spark.

So praise be to God for this woman and man
who defined the words,
"Together we can."

Ω

Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org



Preparing for Christmas toy giveaway



Mary Robinson and Helen Parsons

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...

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Donation \$ _____

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