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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>November 2010</th>
<th>Our 28th Year</th>
<th>November 2010</th>
<th>Our 28th Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>12,303</td>
<td>3,032,913</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>1,174</td>
<td>204,794</td>
<td>2,765</td>
<td>149,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>4,734</td>
<td>843,919</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>31,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>151,597</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>12,011</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>73,722</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>792,544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166

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.

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

Brother Benno’s Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

January 2011

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.)
loving 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!

Ω
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 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 Pennsylvania 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!)

Ω

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...

Name______________________________
Address____________________________
City______________________________
State____________________________
Zip Code________________________
Donation $_______________________
Number of copies__________________