

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



3260 PRODUCTION AVE.
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058
(760)439-1244

Brother Benno's Services:

	November 2011	Our 28th Year		November 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	13,118	3,183,916	Loads of laundry	25	25,938
Nights of lodging	1,145	219,292	Food packs	3,241	179,179
Articles of clothing	3,856	895,513	Blankets	124	32,301
Showers	798	162,217	Prescriptions	45	6,767
Haircuts	141	13,488	ID Vouchers	17	8,207
Bus passes	81	75,138	HUGS	1,800	815,944

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 5 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
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Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

January 2012



MAMI IS IN NEED OF REPAIRS

Brother Benno's House of Martha Ann Mary and Ida (MAMI) has been a safe haven for homeless women and women with children for many years. It is considered a transitional home—a sanctuary, a refuge, a place where the women can regain their equilibrium and can earn enough money to move into some kind of affordable housing. Total capacity is seven residents plus the House Manager, and it is often full. At the present time, two moms and two children are living there.

While the women and children live at MAMI, everything is provided for them—food, clothing, bus passes, and whatever else they might need. The women must have a job or be actively looking for one, and they have to be saving money toward future living arrangements. They are given help with things like money management and child rearing, so that when they leave MAMI, they'll be better equipped to make it on their own.

MAMI is a warm, comfortable old house in Oceanside, lovingly cared for by Brother Benno volunteers and Program Members, the Manager, and the women themselves. But like most old houses, it is now in dire need of major repairs. Because of termite and dry rot damage, all the wood siding on the rear of the house must be removed, the termite damage repaired, and then new stucco applied. The cost will probably run around \$7,000.

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, Brother Benno's has been struggling financially because of higher food prices and fewer donations, so this added expense will stretch the Foundation even further. Once again, we are

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CHRISTMAS LUNCH HONORS "GUYS"

Brother Benno's 36 Program Members were honored with a Christmas lunch at the Center on December 14. One man, "Adam," was honored for his 19 years of sobriety, as well as his service to the Brother Benno Foundation. **Harold Kutler** introduced him by saying: "Nineteen years ago, this guy roared up to Brother Benno's on his motorcycle. He was covered with tattoos, and his attitude was—well, let's say—not exactly like the man we know now."

Adam said that at the time he had no idea he'd still be around the Center 19 years later. "He eventually became the bridge between Brother Benno's and the guys 'out there,'" Harold said. He knew everyone, especially those living in the riverbed, and he became—and still is—someone the Guys can look up to and learn from. The crowd attested to that honor with at least three standing ovations for him.



Carol Muehe and Helen Parsons

The lunch menu on the 14th included hearty deli sandwiches and corn chowder, plus salads, chips, and dessert. Many volunteers joined the Guys for the festivities, and their warm applause let them know how much they are respected for the difficult task of working toward sobriety.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Disaster Averted. Thanksgiving this year offered yet another opportunity for us to experience the goodness of the community. Usually the turkeys for our big dinner are roasted in the huge ovens at the Prince of Peace Abbey on the hill above Highway 76, as we have only a few small ovens at the Center. But this year, some of the Abbey's ovens were malfunctioning, so we suddenly had a whole bunch of uncooked turkeys close to mealtime. A few phone calls solved the problem. Stepping up to help were Calvary Chapel and Calvary Baptist Churches in Oceanside, and about a dozen Brother Benno volunteers and church members who offered to cook a turkey or two in their own kitchens. Many thanks to all for saving the day!



Thanksgiving serving line

Kids Pitch In. For the second year in a row, according to Servant of the Poor **Liz Windle**, students from St. John's School in Encinitas prepared Thanksgiving boxes for our families in need. The boxes contained the complete fixings for a holiday meal, along with hand-decorated placemats and cards with messages from the children.

Work Is Fun! A couple weeks before Christmas, a group of students from Fallbrook High School's special ed class came to the Center to make one hundred sandwiches, and to draw Christmas decorations on as many lunch bags, to

be given out the next day to our Guests. If their joking and laughter were any indication, they were having a very good time while performing a needed service.

Rotarians' Service. The Rotary Club of Carlsbad has been especially supportive of the work of Brother Benno's for years, and this past year has been no exception. They have sent a serving team the third Thursday of every month for nine years; and in 2011, they donated \$11,530. Part of that money came in December as a check for \$1,200 and an additional \$1,200 worth of food (16 nine-pound hams, cans of corn, potatoes, and pineapple).

Ursula Monaco-Sweeney, the Club's Director of Community Service, singled out **Belynn Gonzales** for her generosity to Brother Benno's, saying she often drops off leftover food from her catering service. "On Thanksgiving, she brought in 20 humongous pumpkin pies," Ursula said. "Which reminds me," she added. "I was part of a blanket drive in December at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad, and we gave 185 blankets to Brother Benno's," (20 of which were especially for children).

Final Report? What started in April 2011 as a modest goal by members of the First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside of knitting 25 scarves for Brother Benno's grew to 205 scarves and 71 hats by the end of the year! They had help from others in the community and even a few from out-of-town and out-of-state. And these energetic knitters aren't relegating their needles to the back of the drawer; they plan to continue into this new year. What a great gift, especially for our homeless Guests.

Solid Math. Math has never been my strong suit, but I do know this: One can of food from one hundred people equals one hundred cans of food. No donation is ever too small.

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
Rosemary Tucker
Ben E. Lewis
Roland Bond
Anna Correia
Geraldine Howard
Richard Breen
Pat Weseloh
John Heffern
Ann Boney
Agnes Spencer
Agatha Johnson
Mary Ann Mowery
Sue Pouliot
Alice Condren
Ann & Thomas Witherow
Doug Faught
Gilbert Brown
Larry Lieux
Stanley LaMonte
Jason Frater
Andrea Boersma
Helen, Beau, & Walt McEwen

Olga Crane
Paul McAllaster
Clara & Eilert Fehr
Correia Family
Dolores & Arch Kouns
Zefarino & Dancy Nares
Mary Ann Driesbach
Andrew & Jane Yandura
William Flanagan
Jeanne Nickel
Si Urban
Mike Stendahl
Leatty Watson
Kristina Ishmael
Lorna Kroeger
Joe Koenn
John & Helen Hagan
Myron Mooney III

Happy Birthday

Fran Kliforthoffer

IN HONOR OF

M.M.J. Blythe

Needs

Motel-size toiletries ponchos, jackets socks
Canned food bulk rice & beans

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2011	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
Monthly Serving Team Schedule	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Friends from Vista	11 Naval Hospital	12 Oceanside Civitans	13 St. Patrick's	14 TVIA
	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Grace Anglican	19 Carlsbad Rotary	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
	23 Christ Anglican	24 St. Mark's San Marcos	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Fallbrook Presbyterian	28 Catholic Daughters
	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Grace Chapel of the Coast				

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON IS HUGE SUCCESS

by Vikki Ramey

Over 390 people attended the Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon on December 3 at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa. We had 25 opportunity baskets, beautifully wrapped and displayed, many of them with added cash to make the drawing for winners even more exciting. Silent auction items were very attractive, and many had the opportunity to see and bid on them. Door prizes, donated by **Elizabeth Van Hunnicks**, were all in the Christmas/holiday theme. Congratulations to all the winners, with special congrats to **Doris Streeter** for winning our "Name Game" in the amount of \$825. She was surprised and thrilled when her name was called.

All of this could not have been done without the work of many Auxiliary members and our supporters. We can't say "Thank You" enough for all your hard work, efforts, and donations. To **Vera Bayliss**, Luncheon Coordinator/Ticket Sales; **Sharon Tasker**, Opportunity Baskets; **Mary Vernaci**, Centerpieces; **Karen Gallagher**, Silent Auction; **Pamela Langness**, Programs; **Claire Carter**, **Angel Page**; **Bob Carter**, Photographer; **Judy Harris**, Name Game ticket sales; **Maureen Tutino**, Opportunity ticket sales; **Ruth Mortenson**, Centerpiece numbers, and to all who helped these ladies, Thanks.

To the Hot Flashes Follies, thank you for your program. It was nice to see a group of ladies who can have fun tap dancing, no matter how old you are. To your special dancers and to **Bob Gjerde** for being such a gentleman during the singing of "Santa Baby." (You'd had to have been there.)

More thanks go to our Angel Page and Prize Donors who make it possible for us to continually raise funds for Brother Benno's women's shelters. And to Southern California Edison for being our sponsor; we could not have done it without your generosity.

As of mid-December, the luncheon grossed over \$16,000, but there are some outstanding bills. At our January 25 meeting, we'll have a contest to see who can guess the exact amount.

We hope all who attended had a great time and will pass the word around. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 1, 2012, for our next Annual Luncheon.

Luncheon.

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Thanksgiving Helpers



Students from St. John's School, Encinitas



Members of Rotary Club of Carlsbad

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>

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appealing to our supporters for help, with either a direct donation or by putting on a fund-raiser. No amount is too small. For more information, please contact **Mary Robinson** (760-685-1021, or jinminaz@msn.com), or mail or drop off a check (marked MAMI) at Brother Benno Foundation, 3260 Production Ave., Oceanside, CA 92058. And thank you once again for your ongoing generosity.

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....continued from page 1 Christmas Lunch

Each man was given a gift bag, and about ten lucky ones also received an additional gift from a drawing.

After lunch, the Guys were challenged in a couple of simple games set up in the dining room. The simplicity didn't negate competitiveness, as attested to by the hooting and good-natured gibes.

Volunteers who organized and carried out the festivities were **Helen Parsons, Liz Windle, Suzy Martinek, Diana Shields, Kathy Christensen, Mandy Deines, Miguel, and D.P.**

Two high school freshmen, **Charlotte Brookins** and **Haley Halbig**, entertained the group with a sign-language version of "Jingle Bell Rock." Charlotte is the daughter of **Diana Shields**, one of our Servants of the Poor, and Haley is her friend. They're studying sign language at Vista High. Also on hand to help out were **Hanna and Amanda Martinek**, granddaughters of volunteers **Suzy and Dennis Martinek**.

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My Name is I AM

I was regretting the past
And fearing the future.
Suddenly my Lord was speaking.
"My Name Is I Am."
He paused. I waited. He continued.
"When you live in the past
With its mistakes and regrets,
It is hard.
I am not there.
My name is not I Was.
When you live in the future
With its problems and fears,
It is hard.
My name is not I Will Be.
When you live in this moment,
It is not hard.
I am here.
My Name Is I AM."

~ Helen Mallicoat

(This is one of Harold Kutler's favorite poems.)

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Information & Online donations**brotherbenno.org****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 _____