



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

January 2015

NO ROOM IN THE INN

by Frank Doherty

Brother Benno's helps many people each month with rent and prescriptions when we have enough funds to do so. We go out of our way to help when people are faced with emergencies, particularly when children are involved. One such situation occurred before Christmas.

A mother and her two children, ages three and nine, had been living in their car for four months. The three-year-old has autism, which manifests itself as hyperactivity. The mother was exhausted.

The family had been using Brother Benno's for food, showers, and clothing. Their car had major problems, and the repair would have cost far more than they could afford. The mother had used up all of her savings, except for \$100. All the local shelters that take women with children were full and had waiting lists. "There was no room in the inn."

Without their car, and no shelter with room for them, they had nowhere to go. Given those circumstances, the Brother Benno staff got involved, surrounding the family with special care and love. Thanks to your donations, we were able to use money from our emergency "Changing Life" reserve fund to help with the auto repair. We also provided temporary shelter for the family while the car was being repaired.

The staff contacted Operation Hope and Solutions for Change for help. Despite being full, Operation Hope was able to put them up for a short time, and Solutions for Change graciously agreed to take the family in a few weeks later. There, they'll have a place to live, and the mother will get counseling until she can get back on her feet. When she got the key back to her repaired

car, she could not believe all that we had done for her.

This story seems to fit in well with the story of Christmas. Our collective efforts allowed this vulnerable family to have a safe and secure Christmas. We are so grateful to all of our donors. Without your help, we could not have made this happen.

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A JOLT OF JOY

(Editor's Note: The following reflection was written by John, a man from Ventura, California, whom we mentioned in the December newsletter. He spent a week volunteering at Brother Benno's, where he hopes to spend more time in the future.)

Back from a week-long visit to Brother Benno's in Oceanside. Part of the week I was in the Soup Kitchen, serving food or coffee. At one point, I experienced something similar to what happened when I was helping out at the Winter Warming Shelter in Ventura last winter. When a mother is there with her young children and my brain at first wants to "Photoshop" the scene before me –

Part of me thinks: this is sooo out of place—children this young should not be at a warming shelter, or in line at a soup kitchen—and then another part of my brain pipes up and says, No, the children being with their parent or parents are not out of place, not out of order. Rather, what is out of balance are the unmet needs of so many of our brothers and sisters. What is out of order is our acceptance of the situation.

And yet, in this same scene, I receive a gift, a blessing, for there is a young child—

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Christmas Party



CHRISTMAS PARTY SPREADS

LOVE ALL AROUND

Brother Benno's at Christmas time has to be one of the happiest places on earth! On Saturday, December 20, Santa made an early stop at the furniture warehouse next to the Center, where there were so many "events" taking place that people could hardly navigate from one end of the building to another.

The first stop was a table with punch and home-made cookies baked by a group of home-schooling parents who have treated our Guests before. As the children and their parents munched away, they headed to the balloon artists, then to the face-painter, and finally to the Christmas stocking table.

Well-organized volunteers were everywhere—way too many to list them all, but a few do get special mention.

Under the heading of "Never Too Old" were Auxiliary members **Dolly Bartelme**, 88, and **Elena Gonzalez**, 90, who were handing out stockings filled with candy and a toy—a little car for the boys, and lip gloss for the girls. Elena is the mother of **Vikki Ramey**, past President of the Auxiliary and one of the Chairs of this Christmas event. The other Chair was **Helen Parsons**, whose second "hat" is Brother Benno Board Member.

Morgan Williams did the face painting, which she said she loves to do because it makes people happy. She had two pages of drawings for the kids to choose from; and the smiles on their faces, when she held up a mirror so they could view her artwork, was proof that her goal had been achieved. **Sonia Davidson** and her two sons were the balloon artists, creating animals that sometimes popped and died before their time!

Rising above the happy chatter was the guitar music of **Tom Troy**, whose musical name is Troubadour Tom. He said he plays mostly environmental folk music "with a little Christmas music thrown in" for parties. He likes to promote "a kinder, gentler world" with his music, he said. He learned about Brother Benno's when he was in college and volunteered here at that time; and now, at age 61, he's been volunteering ever since.

Every child who came to the party received two age-appropriate gifts, a stuffed animal, a stocking, and a pair of new socks. The children whose parents are registered at Brother Benno's also received a \$25 gift card provided by the Auxiliary, and a ticket to

Legoland, compliments of the Park.

Months of preparation go into this annual Christmas party. Year after year, the event gets more organized; but what doesn't change is the commitment to making it a time to remember for everyone—those who give, and those who receive. Sometimes it's hard to determine who benefits the most.

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PROGRAM MEMBERS GET SPECIAL SHOPPING TREAT

Christmas shopping took on a whole new meaning at Brother Benno's Thrift Shop on Sunday, December 14, for the men and women in Brother Benno's Recovery Programs. About twenty women from Girlfriends Care were on hand to act as personal shoppers to each man and woman, who had the joy of choosing gifts, all compliments of Brother Benno's, for their family members—husbands, wives, children, moms and dads, and siblings. For some, this would be the first contact they've had with their family in a long time.

The choice of new gifts included toiletry items, jewelry, candles, fuzzy socks, gloves, and scarves; as well as selected items throughout the shop. Some of the men's faces showed deep concentration as they looked at blouses and sweaters for the special woman in their lives. One 24-year-old said he was shopping for his mom and sister.

After the gifts were selected, the personal shopper took them to the back of the Shop where another group of Girlfriends were ready to wrap and tag the packages. Those that needed to be mailed out of town were set aside. In addition to paying the postage, this loving group of ladies also donated all the wrapping paper and other supplies.

Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe** was available to answer questions, iron out wrinkles, and just in general, keep things moving smoothly.

No shopping trip can be completed without a little nourishment; so **Helen Parsons** brought her home-made clam and corn chowders, staples for any special event at the Thrift Shop. Huge pizzas rounded out the menu.

The entire evening was a feast for body and soul.

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

Another year has passed and a new Board will be installed this month: Co-Presidents, **Judy Calegari** and **Carol Sanford**; Vice President, **Penny Sallee**; Secretary, **Bonnie Gjerde**; Treasurer, **Vicky Squires**; Parliamentarian, **Thelma Hendrix**; and Advisor, **Vera Bayliss**. Please be there to support our new Board.

We have lots of events coming up in the new year. Our first event is our new member drive. We need to gather more members this year.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Party for the children at the Center, especially **Vikki Ramey** and **Helen Parsons** who planned and executed the event. It was a wonderful time for the children, and it felt so good to give a little joy to others.

Our next meeting will be January 28. Hope to see you all there.

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perhaps three or so—and as I glance over his way, his eyes catch mine, and then his face lights up and he smiles like only a child can smile. And I think, Wow! What have I done today to be a recipient of such a jolt of joy.

Impact-wise, I am unsure how productive my week of volunteering was. Certainly, others were available to serve food, to refill coffees, to hand out food boxes, or even to fold napkins around forks to prepare for the next day's meal. But there was more—there was a kinship (something Father Gregory Boyle* speaks so well on), there was a recognition of the dignity of others,

the dignity of one another. Weeks like this remind me our world does not call out for more material possessions; rather, our world cries out for belonging.

**(Father Gregory Boyle works with gang members in Los Angeles; and in his book, Tattoos on the Heart, he writes eloquently about our need to belong to each other.)*

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)

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>

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

Brother Benno	Margaret Rossini	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Fred Roeder
Pope John Paul II	Dorothy M. Donahue	Naomi Shelton	Marshall Button
Mother Teresa	Mary Teresa Carr	Rosemary Tucker	Robert Schmidt
Kay Kutler	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Ben E. Lewis	Helen, Walter, & Beau McEwen
Ann Sauer	Elizabeth Holms	Roland Bond	Bernie Weiler
Joe & Ida Friend	Edith Blaiser	Anna Correia	Sedef Esener
Mary Nordstrom	Ben Kouns	Geraldine Howard	Ella Mailand
Myron Eichen	Bill Lakoff	Helene McGill	Sarah McPherson
Alice Jordan	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Andrea Boersma	Dorothy Barnell
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Anita H. Donahue	Ben Osgrove	Patricia Miller
Richard Farhquar	Margaret Stephan	William & Vennita Flanagan	June Knox
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill Boster	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Mary Gerrity
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Louise Foussat	James Carroll	Basel & Gloria Lester
Catherine L. Quinlan	Tom Hayward	Heffern Family	Zeferino & Darcy Nares
Kathryn D. Pent	Richard Kurtz	Mary Ann Mowery	Ginny Bussey
Mary Pullman	Helen Lucas	Nysewander Family	Andrew & Jane Yandura
Joan Boyd	Bill & Joan Maloney	Squirrell Family	Imogene Helms
Agnus Boyd	Dora Ramirez	Ray Johnson	Enid Weiner
Harold Thompson	Dick & Terry Riley	Loretta Rubalcaba	Catherine & Joe Martina
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Bill Buckner	Bill Severy	Leo Reuder
Bob Gleason	Mary Shankle	Gilbert Brown	Kathleen Foley
Jane Pfau	Walter Ulloa	Rose & Floyd Caldwell	Happy Birthday
Ron Alexander	Fred Williamson	Allan Port	Norma Dite
Mary Peterson	Carole Kutler	Dorothy & Walter Jellig	
Frank Barnet	Will Skinner	Frank Forthoffer	
Frank S. Dolley	Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB		
Phyllis H. Dierlam			
Monty Nares			

Needs

Gently used furniture Diapers Hotel-size shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap
 Baby powder and shampoo Men's crew socks Women's hygiene items--pads and tampons

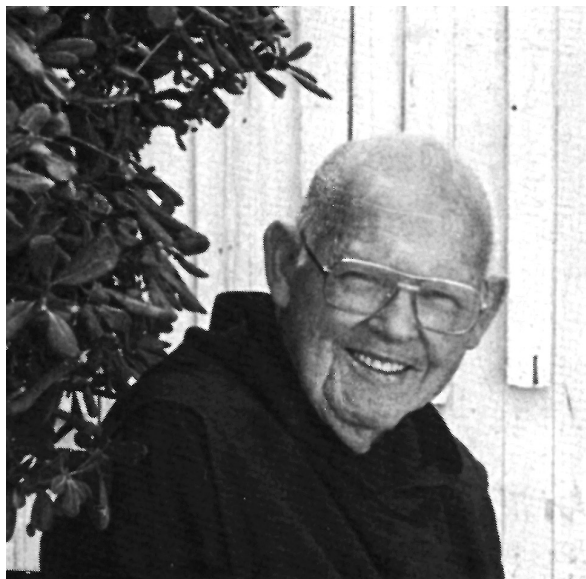
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2015				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
Monthly	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitanis	9 St. Patrick's	10 TVIA
Serving	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Hawkes Home	14 Stew's Crew	15 Carlsbad Rotary	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
Team	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	24 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	26 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Grace Anglican	30 King of Kings Lutheran	29 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

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

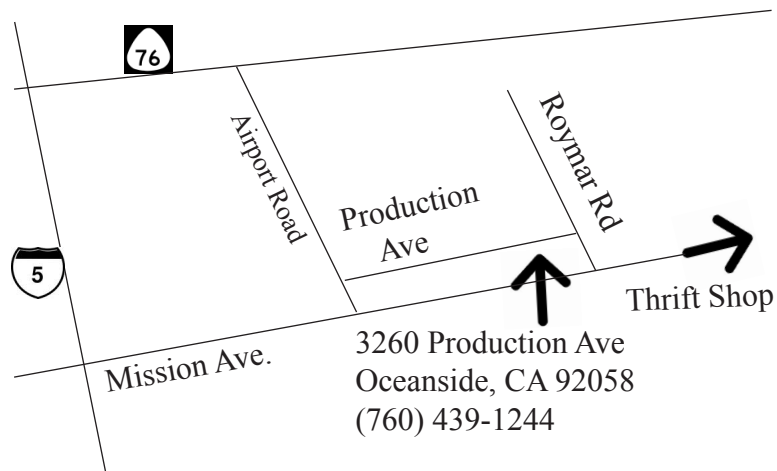
Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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.

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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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 Services:

	November 2014	Our 31st Year		November 2014	Our 31st Year
Meals	12,847	3,659,543	Loads of laundry	22	26,907
Nights of lodging	971	256,533	Food packs	2,209	267,316
Articles of clothing	5,119	1,094,316	Blankets	199	37,578
Showers	876	199,195	Prescriptions	4	7,250
Haircuts	138	17,924	ID Vouchers	14	8,628
Bus passes	94	78,602	HUGS	2,250	886,144