



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

January 2016



LOVE AND PRAYERS TOUCH THE HEARTS OF OUR GUESTS

What could show more love than the gift of a soft, hand-sewn, flannel pillowcase? Brother Benno's homeless Guests receive such a gift every Christmas, thanks to Girlfriends Care.

A team of women and teens sew the pillowcases, which are then taken to groups of children, each of whom prays specifically for the person who will receive the pillowcase. They also decorate the labels with encouraging words, a drawing, a verse, or a combination of all three. The kids add their first name and age so there's a personal connection.

"Over the years, I have seen grown men cry that a child would take the time for them," said **Ellen Clark**, who heads the Pillowcase Project. One man, she said, carried the case, somehow with a pillow, all around town and at the Center. Numerous Guests encourage one another to take a pillowcase because "they come with a prayer."

"(And) this teaches the kids about prayer as a gift," Ellen said.



Ellen Clark and Ann Second

Ellen's favorite story happened about five years ago: "A Guest declined a case because he had his from last year. When my son and I encouraged him to take a fresh one, he told us, 'I couldn't. The boy who prayed for me spelled Jesus wrong, and I pray for him at least three times a week.' . . . Then a year later, he came back and said, 'My case finally fell apart this year, so I need a new one.'"

"(We are) giving to the poorest of our neighbors, those who feel the least loved," Ellen said.

2015 was the eighth year that Girlfriends Care have distributed pillowcases at Brother Benno's. One woman who received a case said, "Tell the children they touched my heart. It made me cry." And a man said, "Tell the kids an old soldier said Thank You!"

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GUESTS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Brother Benno's has two volunteer case workers—**Bill Harper** and **Mary Holguin**—who work with Guests needing help paying for items on a short-term basis. This assistance includes rent, utilities, prescriptions, gas, bus passes, and emergency overnight motel stays.

They stress that help is available only when there are sufficient funds, and that there are strict guidelines which must be met by those receiving such assistance. Looking at October and November of 2015, we see how many Guests were served in each category:

Rental assistance is for one month, and the Guest must have a firm solution in place in order to make his/her future payments. During those two months, we served 85 Guests.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Blanket Alert! For years, Brother Benno's has been fortunate to receive blankets for our homeless Guests from the government. That windfall has apparently come to an end, so we are asking our supporters to please donate throw-sized blankets that are warm and easy to carry around. Many stores hold end-of-the-year sales, so you can check and see if blankets are part of those sales.

That's Entertainment. I had the pleasure of meeting **C. C. Sanders** one Saturday morning at the Center, where he was preparing to entertain our Guests with his Oldies But Goodies repertoire of songs many of us can't resist.

C. C. told me he came to Oceanside in 1963 as a Marine; and after leaving the military, he served 18 years as an Oceanside Police Officer. It was in his duties as a policeman that he met **Harold and Kay Kutler** when Brother Benno's was housed in a small house in downtown Oceanside.



C C Sanders and Harold Kutler

"I'm trained as a musician and public speaker," he said; and he added that he sometimes sang with Kay as she entertained the Guests who came to the Kitchen. His favorite duets with Kay were "Side by Side" and "Second-Hand Rose," which happened to be our beloved **Brother Benno's** favorite song!

The day I met C. C. was the first time he'd been back to Brother Benno's in years, but he already has plans for other gigs at the Center and the Thrift Shop. "I want to give back," he said, "because I've been so blessed in my life." He

continues his professional music career all around our area, often entertaining at hotels and country clubs. Besides Oldies but Goodies, his music includes Rock and Roll, Big Band, Country Western, and Rhythm and Blues.

Heartfelt Giving. In November, we received donations that were somewhat outside the norm—in a good way!

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo brought in eight huge plastic bags filled with ALL NEW clothing—underwear, socks, men's jeans, light-weight jackets, and sweatshirts. According to **Joanna McClure**, who coordinated the drive, "We collected them from the parish so that your Guests can have NEW items, as I'm sure most get hand-me-downs."

Before they could deliver the clothing to Brother Benno's, Joanna's home was burglarized (she and her husband were at church); and the thief stole three dozen pairs of the new jeans!

"We have purchased more," Joanna said, "and with the help of friends, we (had) about 40 pairs to give you."

Another somewhat unusual outreach came in the form of donation drives initiated by **Elizabeth Lehner**, a realtor in Carlsbad. She sent out flyers to her neighbors in the Bressi Ranch area, telling them briefly about Brother Benno's, and asking them to set out donations on their driveways to be picked up on a particular day. And she also had a drive at her son's Montessori School in Vista.

In addition to all the donated items—new and used clothing, food, hygiene products, and toys—the children at the school made 100 Thanksgivng placemats.

We thank Joanna and Elizabeth for taking the initiative on behalf of Brother Benno's.

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A JOYFUL SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Barbara Ladwig

The Brother Benno Center was absolutely bursting with Christmas cheer on Saturday, December 12, as several groups of volunteers brought their own brand of joy to help us prepare for this most beautiful season. As the Guests came in and stood in line for the meal, I listened to the increasing buzz, then walked through the Center and talked to some of the people around me.

John Tobin, his wife **Cyndie**, and three of their eight children were ready to do "whatever was asked of them." John and Cyndie are in the fourth year of the diaconate program for the San Diego Catholic Diocese, and part of their training involves volunteering with organizations like ours. They live in Valley Center, where they belong to St. Stephen Church.

Five women who form a bell choir called **Bells of Joy** were on hand to entertain our Guests during the Saturday Spaghetti Feast. **Sally Dole**, who directs the four bell ringers, said she sees this group as her Christian ministry. "All five of us have survived huge hurdles in our lives," she said. She added that this common thread has brought them very close to each other, and they love to bring joy to others through their music.



Bells of Joy

Some of the Guests showed their appreciation for the entertainment by singing along with the familiar Christmas carols.

Sixty-plus adults and children, all connected with **Girlfriends Care**, were set up in various areas of the Center—greeting Guests, dishing out food, decorating festive placemats and lunch bags, filling stockings with toys and candy, and handing out gift bags. It was heart-warming to see how many children were on hand, learning the valuable lesson of giving of themselves to others.



Girlfriends Care

Added to all these "special" volunteers were the usual Brother Benno staff members and regular volunteers. It was one big, smiling bunch of people whose only reason for being there was to be of service to others. It can't get any better than that!

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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>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Carol Sanford

Did you make a New Year's resolution to do something "good" in 2016? Well, c'mon in, the water's fine here at Brother Benno's! We invite you to consider coming to our first Auxiliary meeting of the year to see who we are and what we do. We'll meet in the dining room at the Center on Wednesday, January 27, at 1 p.m. for social time with snacks, followed by our meeting at 1:30.

This year, the Auxiliary is celebrating our 20th year of service in support of all the good work that is done here at Brother Benno's. At our first meeting, we'll be discussing the upcoming Membership Drive Brunch set for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, at Shadowridge Country Club in Vista. Call **Nita Rodriguez** for more details (760-994-0355). Talk to your friends and neighbors about coming!

Our new Auxiliary Board was elected and installed at our November meeting. The officers for 2016 are: **Carol Sanford, President; Nita Rodriguez, Vice-President; Bi-Mia Reid, Secretary; Joan O'Connell, Treasurer; Thelma Hendrix, Parliamentarian; and Karen Gallagher, Advisor.**

Membership dues are \$10 a year, or \$150 for a lifetime membership. Please make your check payable to Brother Benno's Auxiliary and send it to Nita Rodriguez, 2399 Jefferson Street, #23, Carlsbad, CA 92008, so that you will be included in our new, updated 2016 Members Directory.

See you all at the January 27, 2016 meeting!

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Utilities assistance (gas, electric, water) has the same requirements as rent. We helped 55 families.

Prescription assistance is given only one time, and never for narcotic drugs. Nine guests received help.



Bus passes were given to five Guests, gas vouchers of \$20 each to three.

Motel vouchers are offered for one to three nights, and 21 people received a voucher during October and November.

Rental and utility assistance keeps families safe and prevents them from becoming homeless, and motel vouchers give short-term relief to homeless individuals. Bus passes and gas vouchers help Guests get to job interviews and medical appointments, as well as to agencies that can offer further help.

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Brother Benno's is in great need of a volunteer grant writer, or someone willing to be trained as a grant writer. If you are interested, please call Denise Seymour (760-439-1244, ext. 104).

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 **[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)**
 **[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Mary Gerrity	Margaret Rossini	Mother
Frank Barnet	Bob Gleason	Ann Sauer	Rita Archibald
Brother Benno	Tom Hayward	Mary Shankle	Leo & Kathleen Reuder
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Naomi Shelton	Robert Gardiner
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Bernice, Samuel &	Dorothy Barnell
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Milton Silver	Bernie Weiler
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Will Skinner	Joseph Wasko
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Mike Stendahl	Frank Forthoffer
Bill Buckner	Kay Kutler	Margaret Stephan	Sesma Family
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Bob Strawbridge
Mary Teresa Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Mother Teresa	Linda Johnson
Anna Correia	Helen Lucas	Harold Thompson	Andrew & Jane Yan-
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Joan Maloney	Rosemary Tucker	dura
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helene McGill	Walter Ulloa	Elena Osinski
Frank S. Dolley	Monty Nares	Fred Williamson	Rose Guerrero
Anita H. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Zeferino & Dancy	Dan Spoaulding
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Nares	Donald Deffenbaugh
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Ben Osgrove	Nysewander Family	Lorna Krueger
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Pope John Paul II	Squirrell Family	Pete Treadwell
Fr. Abbot Claude	Kathryn D. Pent	Mary Ann Mowery	Donna McDonough
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Peterson	Frank & Rosa Miconi	Ann Seymour
Myron Eichen	Jane Pfau	George Means	
Richard Farhquar	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Judy Chow	
William & Vennita	Mary Pullman	Gilbert Brown	
Flanagan	Catherine L. Quinlan	Rose & Floyd Caldwell	
Louise Foussat	Dora Ramirez	Ernest Leone	
Joe & Ida Friend	Dick & Terry Riley	Kathleen Waite's	

IN HONOR OF
Barbara Driscoll

Needs

Gently used furniture Diapers Reading glasses
Men's Hoodies, sizes XL and XXL Blankets

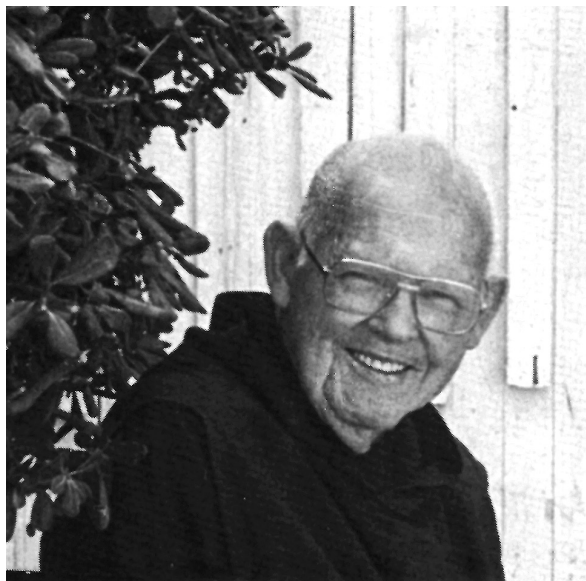
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
2016						
Monthly	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 TVIA
Serving	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Hawkes Home	13 Riverview Church	14 Oceanside Civitanis	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Team	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Grace Anglican	21 Carlsbad Rotary	22 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	23 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	25 Christ Church	26 St. Mark's San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Pilgrim Creek	29 King of Kings Lutheran	30 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Tues. - 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

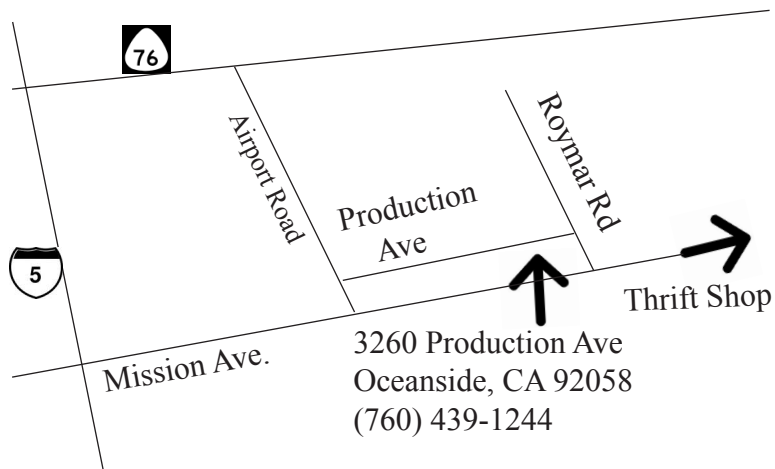
Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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, 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



Brother Benno's Services:

	November 2015	Our 32nd Year		November 2015	Our 32nd Year
Meals	12,895	3,819,255	Loads of laundry	21	27,208
Nights of lodging	1,040	269,094	Food packs	2,169	290,160
Articles of clothing	5,621	1,157,070	Blankets	192	39,416
Showers	1,040	212,164	Prescriptions	4	7,274
Haircuts	124	19,464	ID Vouchers	11	8,799
Bus passes	107	79,939	HUGS	1,800	909,544