



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

January 2017



## AUXILIARY REPORTS BUSY YEAR, NEW YEAR PLANS

by Nita Rodriguez & Karen Gallagher

**Ending the Year on a High Note!** Our annual fundraiser Luncheon on December 3 was a huge success. In addition to raising funds for the Brother Benno Foundation, it provided an opportunity for the Brother Benno Family to join together and celebrate. **Karen Gallagher, Edith Jones, and Nita Rodriguez**, coordinators of the event, thank all for their participation. We had a great turnout, and ticket sales surpassed last year's event.

More than 80 Auxiliary members were directly involved in making this joyful event happen. The opportunity baskets were beautifully put together, and there were a variety of silent auction items. The centerpieces, made by members, were festive and creative. The Name Game winner was thrilled after trying for five years! **Thank you, Auxiliary members!**

The Fashion Show was entertaining, with models wearing items from the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. Who would believe that the Thrift Shop has so much to offer? The show, the backdrop, and the staging around the room were fantastic. **Thank you, Michelle Hoppe and Helen Parsons!**

The stories from our keynote speakers were an inspiration for all and a testament to the work of Brother Benno's. **Thank you, Roberta and Pete.**



**In with the New!** Board members and selected Auxiliary members met in December and reviewed the activities of the previous year and began a discussion of the ways to expand our contribution to the Brother Benno Foundation through financial assistance, service, and support. This initial work will be presented to the membership at our meeting On January 25.

Our monthly service and support activities continue in 2017. The Breakfast Club, chaired by **Thelma Hendrix**, will serve at the Center on January 4 from 6-8 a.m. The After-Hours Work Party, chaired by **Kate Vizcaino**, will sort clothes at the Thrift Shop on January 11 from 5-7 p.m. All are welcome to participate. The Layette Committee, chaired by Mary Jamison, have layettes available for distribution at the Center.

Our next membership meeting will be held on January 25 in the dining room at the Center, 1 p.m. for snacks and 1:30 meeting. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. If you would like to know more about the Auxiliary, visit our page on the Brother Benno website or send us an email: [auxiliary@brotherbenno.org](mailto:auxiliary@brotherbenno.org)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## JOY IN OUR WORLD!

The Children's Christmas Party on December 17 was filled with all the trappings of the holiday. Volunteers started getting ready early in the month, sorting and wrapping gifts for the kids, one month to 15 years old, and putting them into 326 gift bags! Other helpers filled Christmas stockings to overflowing.

**Helen Parsons** reported that the helpers were students from Palomar College and San Diego State, Auxiliary members, service members from Camp Pendleton, women of Girlfriends Care, and our own Recovery Program women.

On the big day, a group from Escondido Church of God sang carols for the Guests waiting in line outside; and **CC Porter** a volunteer guitarist, entertained inside. As the Guests walked into the festively decorated warehouse (it really looked like a Christmas movie set), their first stop was a table filled with cups of juice and hand-made-and-decorated cookies.

Members of TVIA (Teen Volunteers in Action) played games with the children and handed out stuffed animals. Jenny Craig/Curves brought crafts for the kids to do and take home. **Jen French** did an amazing job face-painting the little ones. Helen's grandson **Davin** and his friend **Nick** ran the snow machine as each child visited with Santa and one of his reindeer (both Recovery Program graduates).

Helen's wrap-up to her report was bitter-sweet: She said, "Each family had a story to share. Each was tinged with sadness. But for a few hours on December 17, they were showered with loving kindness!"

*(It would be impossible to name everyone who participated in this event, but please know that every single person who helped in any capacity was very much appreciated).*

Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or [smartinek@miracosta.edu](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)



Cynthia "CC" Porter



Santa and a guest



Escondido Church of God Singers



Guest enjoying balloon animal

## PROGRAM GRAD CHOOSES TO HAVE A GOOD ATTITUDE

You could say that “**Matt**” is in the middle of a family narrative. He can look back and see his father’s life of addiction, and he can also look beyond himself to his son. Fortunately, his dad got clean and sober in the 1980’s; but sadly his son is still in its throes. And Matt? Thanks to Brother Benno’s, he has not only been sober for more than a year, but he is also giving back by mentoring and sponsoring others on their journey.

Now in his late 40’s, Matt says he’s been trying since 1990 to kick his habit, which began at age ten. The Brother Benno Recovery Program was his third try. After his second program elsewhere, he managed to stay sober for several years; but gradually he stopped working the AA program and stopped praying.

In addition to his own drug and alcohol abuse, Matt became a dealer; and he brought his son into the “business.” This resulted in jail time for both of them. He continued to use while he was behind bars and also after he got out.

Because he was homeless for a while, he says he never looks at a homeless person the same as he did before. And it was other homeless men he met who told him about Brother Benno’s. At first he came just for food and clothes, but someone finally convinced him to check into the Recovery Program. After talking to two of our mentors, he knew he had come to the right place. “I found God here,” he said.

“I need to pray, I know that now,” he said. And just as important, he says he needs to attend meetings, read the AA Book, and stay connected with other recovering addicts. “I go to a meeting every day, I’m never without my Book, and I pray many times during the day,” he said. He also takes on three-month commitments at AA meetings, which means he might make the coffee, set up the room, etc.

After graduating from our six-month Program, Matt stayed on for another three months as a mentor. During that time, he worked at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop as well.

Matt’s job history was in construction, and he says when he was fired from his last job he was told, “Get out and never come back!” But when it was time for him to leave the Thrift Shop and get

a full-time job, his old employer did take him back. He’s been there seven months, and he says they’re very happy with his work.

Until he started working full time, Matt came to the Center every morning to volunteer. Now he comes in only on Saturdays, and he says he wishes he could come more often. “I just want to be here,” he said. “This place is church for me.” He likes to talk to staff members and volunteers, and he likes being useful and giving back.

Matt sums up his success this way: “It’s simple—you just have to do what the AA Program tells you to do. Keep doing what you are doing and you will have a good life. I get to choose my attitude every day, and I choose to have a good attitude.” His one sadness is that he’s lost touch with his son and doesn’t know where or how he is.

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### THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

**Flatter me, and I may not believe you.  
Criticize me, and I may not like you.  
Encourage me, and I will never forget you.**

### 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>**

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**A Feast.** A report on our Thanksgiving dinner at the Center included the fact that 38 turkeys were baked at the Prince of Peace Abbey (they have big ovens!). And 160 mostly-home-baked pies were delivered by members of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Oceanside. Some of the pies were still warm from the oven!

**Coordination.** Staff members and volunteers often copy me on emails that they send to each other. I was amazed recently by an exchange involving about a half dozen people who were trying to coordinate schedules dealing with Christmas preparations. That's obviously a huge job, but one that eventually ends up with everyone knowing when and where they're supposed to be. The "finished product" might look simple to an outsider, but the mechanics behind the scenes show a great deal of creativity and stick-to-it-iveness! One volunteer wrote: "If you want to include me in any further plans, I am happy to help all I can." That's the Brother Benno spirit!

**Warmth.** Girlfriends Care also keeps me in the loop via emails, and I was pleased to see that they had collected 1,800 pairs of new socks (their goal was 1,000), and that our Guests were among the recipients of that windfall. They also delivered their home-made Prayer Pillowcases, which are given to the men and women in our Recovery Program as well as to our Guests. These cases are colorfully decorated with pictures and messages by children, and they mean a great deal to those who receive them.

**Little Acts, Big Help.** We were able to help a single mother with 10-year-old twins by paying part of her rent for one month. She had applied for several jobs and got two of them, thus insuring that she could continue to manage on her own.

Another happy-ending story involved an anonymous donor who made it possible for a young couple with two babies to get back to Wyoming, where they had family who could help them out.

**HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!**

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**Dennis Martinek, Santa and Helen Parsons**

**Information & Online donations:** [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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  
 Dixie & Lou Bales  
 Frank Barnet  
 Brother Benno  
 Edith Blaiser  
 Andrea Boersma  
 Roland Bond  
 Bill Boster  
 Agnus & Joan Boyd  
 Bill Buckner  
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr  
 Mary Teresa Carr  
 Anna Correia  
 Don & Dorothea Daybell  
 Phyllis H. Dierlam  
 Frank S. Dolley  
 Anita H. Donahue  
 Dorothy M. Donahue  
 Fr. Luke Dougherty  
 Roseanne Dreibelbis  
 Fr. Abbot Claude  
 Ehringer, OSB  
 Myron Eichen  
 Richard Farhquar  
 William & Vennita  
 Flanagan  
 Louise Foussat  
 Joe & Ida Friend  
 Mary Gerrity  
 Bob Gleason

Tom Hayward  
 Elizabeth Holms  
 Alice Jordan  
 Ben Kouns  
 Richard Kurtz  
 Carole Kutler  
 Kay Kutler  
 Bill & Louise Lakoff  
 Ben E. Lewis  
 Helen Lucas  
 Bill & Joan Maloney  
 Helene McGill  
 Michael & Monty  
 Nares  
 Mary Nordstrom  
 Bud & Blanche Ogle  
 Ben Osgrove  
 Pope John Paul II  
 Kathryn D. Pent  
 Mary Peterson  
 Jane Pfau  
 Ruth Hazel Pierson  
 Alan Port  
 Mary Pullman  
 Catherine L. Quinlan  
 Dora Ramirez  
 Dick & Terry Riley  
 Margaret Rossini  
 Ann Sauer  
 Mary Shankle

Naomi Shelton  
 Bernice, Samuel &  
 Milton Silver  
 Will Skinner  
 Mike Stendahl  
 Margaret Stephan  
 Virginia Sylwestrzak  
 Mother Teresa  
 Harold Thompson  
 Rosemary Tucker  
 Walter Ulloa  
 June Williams  
 Fred Williamson  
 Zeferino & Dancy  
 Nares  
 Nysewander Family  
 Squirrell Family  
 Molly & Johnny  
 Samuelsen  
 Ann Grier Smith  
 Richard Schulze  
 Mary Ellen Hau  
 June Williams  
 Gilbert Brown  
 Bernie Weiler  
 Mary Kennedy  
 Dorothy Barnell  
 Jim Mulvihill  
 H. Edward Smith  
 Family

Peggy Miville  
 Eric Streicher  
 Clay  
 Bill Mulligan  
 James O'Keefe  
 Alan Port  
 Rose Caldwell  
 NT Bold  
 Franklin Forthoffer  
 Andrew & Jane Yandura  
 Bob Strawbridge  
 Jack Gillen  
 Patricia Miller  
 Dale Nicholson  
 Mathew Lloyd  
 Donald Deffenbaugh  
 Ruth Kahn  
 Rod Gutierrez  
 Mary "Pat" Schmidt  
 Mildred Provost  
 Joe Koenn  
 Barbara Danaky  
 Davis Hilton  
 Diana McDonaugh

**Happy Birthday**  
 Dave Shlemmer  
**In Honor Of**  
 John Jarvie

### Needs

Gently used furniture

Diapers

Reading glasses

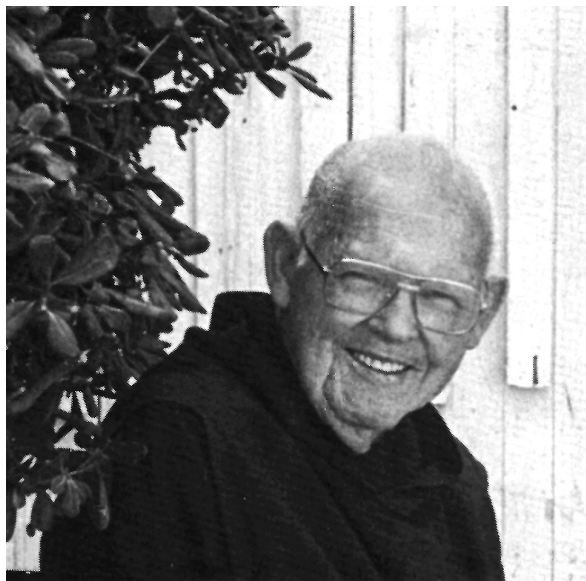
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January</b>	<b>2</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>3</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>4</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>5</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>6</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>7</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2017</b>	<b>9</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>10</b> Team Wyndham	<b>11</b> 1st MLG FCPOA	<b>12</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>13</b> St. Patrick's	<b>14</b> TVIA
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>16</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>17</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>18</b> Grace Anglican	<b>19</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>20</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>21</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>23</b> Christ Church	<b>24</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>25</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>26</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>27</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>28</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>30</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>31</b> Welk Resort				
<b>Schedule</b>						

### Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**  
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	November 2016	Our 33rd Year		November 2016	Our 33rd Year
Meals	13,300	3,978,393	Loads of laundry	27	27,515
Nights of lodging	931	280,616	Food packs	1,771	308,790
Articles of clothing	5,778	1,224,208	Blankets	229	41,279
Showers	1,094	226,569	Tarps	90	1,712
Haircuts	124	20,991	ID Vouchers	8	8,898
Bus passes	141	81,462	HUGS	1,800	932,494