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 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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
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
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.

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.
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!

Ω
Memorials

Ron Alexander  Tom Hayward  Naomi Shelton  Peggy Miville
Dixie & Lou Bales  Elizabeth Holms  Bernice, Samuel &  Eric Streicher
Frank Barnet  Alice Jordan  Milton Silver  Clay
Brother Benno  Ben Kouns  Will Skinner  Bill Mulligan
Edith Blaiser  Richard Kurtz  Mike Stendahl  James O’Keefe
Andrea Boersma  Carole Kutler  Margaret Stephan  Alan Port
Roland Bond  Kay Kutler  Virginia Sylwestrak  Rose Caldwell
Bill Boster  Bill & Louise Lakoff  Mother Teresa  NT Bold
Agnus & Joan Boyd  Ben E. Lewis  Harold Thompson  Franklin Fonthoffer
Bill Buckner  Helen Lucas  Rosemary Tucker  Andrew & Jane Yandura
Deacon Art & Mary Carr  Bill & Joan Maloney  Walter Ulloa  Bob Strawbridge
Mary Teresa Carr  Helene McGill  June Williams  Jack Gillen
Anna Correia  Michael & Monty  Fred Williamson  Patricia Miller
Don & Dorothea Daybell  Nares  Zeferino & Dancy  Dale Nicholson
Phyllis H. Dierlam  Mary Nordstrom  Nares  Mathew Lloyd
Frank S. Dolley  Bud & Blanche Ogle  Nysewander Family  Donald Deffenbaugh
Anita H. Donahue  Ben Osgrove  Squirrel Family  Ruth Kahn
Dorothy M. Donahue  Pope John Paul II  Molly & Johnny  Rod Gutierrez
Fr. Luke Dougherty  Kathryn D. Pent  Samuelsen  Mary “Pat” Schmidt
Roseanne Dreibelbis  Mary Peterson  Ann Grier Smith  Mildred Provost
Fr. Abbot Claude  Jane Pfau  Richard Schulze  Joe Koenn
Ehringer, OSB  Ruth Hazel Pierson  Mary Ellen Hau  Barbara Danaky
Myron Eichen  Alan Port  June Williams  Davis Hilton
Richard Farh quar  Mary Pullman  Gilbert Brown  Diana McDonaugh
William & Vennita  Catherine L. Quinlan  Bernie Weiler
Flanagan  Dora Ramirez  Mary Kennedy
Louise Foussat  Dick & Terry Riley  Dorothy Barnell
Joe & Ida Friend  Margaret Rossini  Jim Mulvihill
Mary Gerrity  Ann Sauer  H. Edward Smith
Bob Gleason  Mary Shankle  Family

Happy Birthday
Dave Shlemmer

In Honor Of
John Jarvie

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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.
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 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

November 2016  Our 33nd Year

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Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop
(Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture)
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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

Brother Benno’s Services:

- November 2016
- Our 33nd Year
- November 2016
- Our 33nd Year

- Meals: 13,300 (3,978,393)
- Nights of Lodging: 931 (280,616)
- Articles of Clothing: 5,778 (1,224,208)
- Showers: 1,094 (226,569)
- Haircuts: 124 (20,991)
- Bus Passes: 141 (81,462)
- Loads of Laundry: 27 (27,515)
- Food Packs: 1,771 (308,790)
- Blankets: 229 (41,279)
- Tarps: 90 (1,712)
- ID Vouchers: 8 (8,898)
- HUGS: 1,800 (932,494)