



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

January 2018



A PLETHORA OF GOODNESS

Brother Benno's has been blessed from Day One (October 21, 1983) with the most incredible volunteers, supporters, and donors anyone could ask for. Thanksgiving and Christmas bring extra-special examples of the kindness of people who choose our ministry when they want to reach out to help the poor and homeless in our area.

We'd have to go from this six-page monthly newsletter to a big-city-like daily newspaper in order to acknowledge and thank all the men, women, and children who have been part of Brother Benno's in more ways than we can count. But, since that isn't going to happen, we simply have to choose a few people, organizations, or businesses to feature, and hope that everyone else understands our limitations.

We start with our Founders, **Harold** and **Kay Kutler**. At this year's Auxiliary Luncheon in December, Harold was given special honor. In spite of his frail health, he was able to greet many of the attendees, and he was heard to say that the last time he felt so much love was when he met **Mother Teresa** (in 1976).



Mary Robinson, former Volunteer Coordinator and Harold's Assistant, who now lives in Arizona; Harold's sister Pat Brotman, who lives in San Francisco; Harold; and Alicia Lacey of Oceanside, who is helping with Harold's care.

(Please see the Auxiliary News on page 3 for more news about Harold and the Annual Luncheon.)

Harold and Kay are the epitome of volunteerism. Kay, who died in 2012, was known as The Hugger; and Harold touches everyone he meets with his aura of unconditional love. They both have given their lives to the Brother Benno Foundation without reserve.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Oceanside has donated pies for our Thanksgiving feast for several years. This year they brought us 154 pies, many of them home-baked. Heading up this collection was **Deacon Tom Goeltz** (center), **Ann Nowicki** (right) and her granddaughter **Sadie Verdugo** (left).



The parish also conducts annual drives to collect diapers, underwear, socks, and toiletries.

Another story involves a big mistake that was corrected in less than an hour. The 432 rolls for our Thanksgiving dinner had been put into the freezer without being marked for the feast, so on the day before Thanksgiving, one of the kitchen workers gave them all away, as was the normal

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routine. When the error was discovered, a small panic set in. With so much to do, who had time to go out and buy more rolls.

Then, in walked a man no one knew, who said he'd been thinking about helping out for Thanksgiving, and was there anything he could do. When he was told we needed rolls, he said he'd be happy to donate them, went out to buy them, accidentally came back with only half the needed amount, and went right back to the store to buy the rest. Sadly, we don't know the man's name; hopefully he reads the newsletter and now knows how much we appreciate him!

Gilead Sciences in Oceanside is new to Brother Benno's. In November, they donated 360 backpacks stuffed with hygiene items (178 for men, 109 for women, and 73 for children). Basic items were shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm, and Kleenex. The children also received bandages, Loofah, plus a hair accessory for girls and toy car for boys.

Maria Fischer, who was the company's contact person, told us: "We all had such a great time setting up this event and packing the backpacks. Everyone was down to business and ignored our snack table until all of the backpacks had been packed. We were done in under an hour!"



left to right: **John Zimmerman, Kimo Thoms, Louie De Vera, Shira Brockett, Kelsey Long, Andres Betancourt-Torre**

Stuffed animals have always been a big deal at Brother Benno's, especially for our Children's Christmas Party. **Jill Haynie** brought in 182 brand-new cuddly animals this year, and she told us what inspired her to do it.

"A couple years ago, I was dropping off donations as the holiday party was wrapping up. There was one little boy who had a used stuffed animal, and he was so excited to have it. I thought that every child should have a new stuffed animal for Christmas."

Jill said she started gathering them last January, and it took her a year to reach the 182 mark.



What a great commitment all these people (and many others) made in order to make someone else's Thanksgiving and Christmas special. The spirit of Brother Benno lives on.

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AUXILIARY REPORTS BUSY YEAR, NEW PLANS AHEAD

By Nita Rodriguez

Elena Gonzalez celebrating her 97th birthday. Congratulations!

At the October meeting, the Auxiliary celebrated Elena's birthday with song, cheers and good wishes.

She is an active member of the Auxiliary. Her latest activity was the Annual Fundraiser. Joining her in celebration are other Auxiliary Members with October birthdays:



Kimiko Sycks, Joan O'Connell, Elena Gonzalez, Doris Nyman and Nita Rodriguez

Ending the Year on a High Note!

Our annual luncheon fundraiser held December 2 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 to honor and celebrate **Harold Kutler's** life and legacy. We were honored by Harold's presence and his inspiring invocation.



Abbot **Charles Wright** and **Dennis Pinnick** provided insight and testament to Harold's compassion for others. **Helen Parsons** and **Michelle Hoppe** used music and models wearing clothing from the Thrift Store, to represent each decade of Harold's life.

Twelve coordinators with their committee volunteers, worked many tireless hours to make this joyful event happen. The luncheon was so festive with the many opportunity baskets, door prizes, name game, silent auction, and centerpiece activities. **Karen Gallagher** and **Nita Rodriguez**, co-chairs of the event, thank everyone for their participation. We thank the following sponsors for their generosity: **Edison International, Elizabeth Van Hunnick, Karen Gallagher, John Beran, Burke & Domercq, LLP, Deb Drew, Isobel Haring, Dennis & Suzy Martinek, Nita Rodriguez, North County African American Women's Association** and **Judi Turner**. Thank you to the many individuals and businesses who donated items for the silent auction.

In with the New! Board members and selected Auxiliary members met in December to review the activities of the previous year, **MEASURE OUR PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING OUR 2017 GOALS** and begin discussion of fundraising, service and support goals for 2018. This initial work will be presented to the membership at the January meeting.

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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

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Want to learn about the Brother Benno Auxiliary? The Membership Brunch for new and renewing members will be held on Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. to noon, at Shadowridge Country Club. At this brunch, we will present our fundraising check to the Brother Benno Foundation. Last year the Auxiliary donated \$25,000 to the Foundation. The price for the brunch is \$20.00. For more information, please contact Anne Speraw @760 439-1543. You may download the membership brunch invitation at <http://bit.ly/2zfqrn> (copy and paste or just type the link in your computer browser)

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be held January 25 in the dining room at the Brother Benno Center - 1 p.m. for snacks and 1:30 p.m. for the meeting. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. Can't attend a meeting but want to be a member? Download our membership application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>

WE'VE GOT GREAT THINGS PLANNED FOR 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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<p>Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org</p> <p>Follow Brother Bennos online:</p> <p> Facebook.com/BrotherBennos</p>
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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

(This is a new feature in our newsletter where we will share stories told to us by our Guests.)

From Nancy ~~

I would like to tell a story about what a great man Brother Benno was. I was born in San Diego and raised in Oceanside in the 60's and '70's. My mom had four kids . . . she was raising on her own. As a little girl, I remember Brother Benno bringing us food-home-made bread, cakes, etc. He even brought my mother a refrigerator once. I am 53 years old and moved away from Oceanside in the late 70's. Thru the years I often thought about Brother Benno and wondered whatever became of him. This past weekend I was in California, and (I and my two sisters) went back to Oceanside for a visit. We went to Mass at San Luis Rey Mission, and I asked the priest about Brother Benno and was so happy to hear about his Foundation and found it as no surprise. I was saddened that he is no longer with us, but I believe wholeheartedly this man is and was a Godsend and his spirit lives on thru his Foundation. He made such an impression on four children, mostly myself, that I never forgot him. . . . I will look to donate once I return home."

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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>

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

Ron Alexander	Alice Jordan	Will Skinner	Ric Bethel
Dixie & Lou Bales	Ben Kouns	Ann Grier Smith	Bonita Trotta
Frank Barnett	Richard Kurtz	Squirrell Family	Jessica Lastrilla
Brother Benno	Carole Kutler	Mike Stendahl	Greg Mendez
Edith Blaiser	Kay Kutler	Margaret Stephan	Barbara LaMothe
Andrea Boersma	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Joseph Schubert
Roland Bond	Ben E. Lewis	Harold Thompson	Bob Strawbridge
Bill Boster	Helen Lucas	Rosemary Tucker	Patricia Fonseca
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Bill & Joan Maloney	Carol & Herb Thornberg	Soledad Celestial
Bill Buckner	Helene McGill	Walter Ulloa	Wayne Richards
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Michael & Monty Nares	June Williams	Barbara Harshaw
Anna Correia	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Fred Williamson	Dorothy & Walter Jellig
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Mary Nordstrom	Jack Gillen	Ray Kaija
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Nysewander Family	John McCall	Sheila Mortell
Frank S. Dolley	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Gilbert Brown	Marion App
Anita H. Donahue	Ben Osgrove	Paul McAllaster	Anthony Mysarra
Dorothy M. Donahue	Kathryn D. Pent	Gianna Speruti	Rosemarie Bruinsma
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Mary Peterson	Dick Ellis	Micheo Ogamori
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Jane Pfau	Thomas Soher	Kay Parker
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Howard Kelley	Patricia Day
Myron Eichen	Alan Port	Norbert Bold	Toni Keane
Richard Farhquar	Mary Pullman	Margaret Nelson	
William & Vennita Flanagan	Catherine L. Quinlan	Darlene Ghigleri	Happy Birthday
Louise Foussat	Dora Ramirez	Hugh & Terence Murphy	Jean Newmyer
Joe & Ida Friend	Dick & Terry Riley	William Daley	
Mary Gerrity	Margaret Rossini	Rosie Verdugo	IN HONOR OF
Bob Gleason	Ann Sauer	Bruno Acosta	John Jarvie
Chance Hales	Mary Shankle	Robert Buchach	Larry & Linda Bajada
Tom Hayward	Naomi Shelton	Helen, Walter, & Beau McEwen	
Elizabeth Holms	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Gloria Ash	

Needs

Gently used furniture Used (not new!) bath towels Bottled water
 Gift cards for Walmart & Target (indicate for Recovery Program)

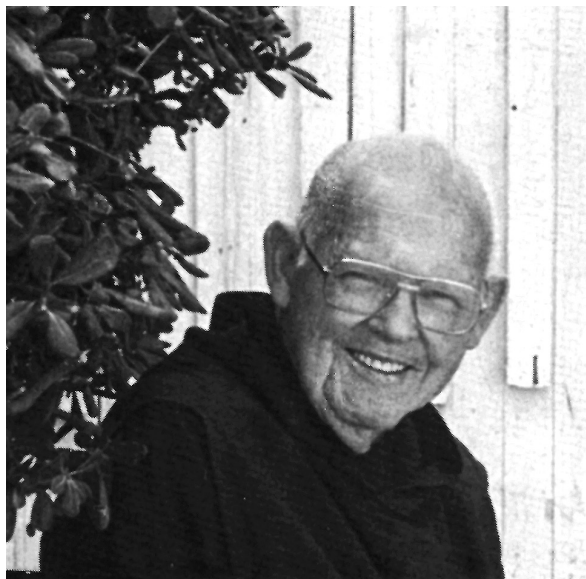
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2018	1 Happy New Year	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
Monthly	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Riverview Church	10 1st MLG FCPOA	11 Oceanside Civitans	12 St. Patrick's	13 TVIA SD1
Serving Team	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	18 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
Schedule	22 Christ Church	23 St. Mark's San Marcos	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	27 Catholic Daughters
	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Welk Resort	31 Soroptimist International			

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 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 2017	Our 34th Year		November 2017	Our 34th Year
Meals	13,314	4,137,061	Loads of laundry	22	27,854
Nights of lodging	892	290,956	Food packs	1,472	325,401
Articles of clothing	5,028	1,291,737	Blankets	165	43,356
Showers	1,242	241,087	Tarps	115	2,900
Haircuts	24	22,079	ID Vouchers	9	9,049
Bus passes	111	82,791	HUGS	1,800	956,344