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).

(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 continued on page 2....
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!”

**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.

Ω
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.

continued on page 4....

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
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/2zfqrun (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!

Ω

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.”

Ω

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_________________________________ Donations $________

Address________________________________ Number of copies_________

City, State, Zip Code__________________________
Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie & Lou Bales
Frank Barnett
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Anna Correia
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
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
Chance Hales
Tom Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben E. Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Jan Maloney
Helene McGill
Michael & Monty Nares
Zeferino & Dancy Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Nysewander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pflau
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
Ann Grier Smith
Squirrel Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Rosemary Tucker
Carol & Herb Thornberg
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Jack Gillen
John McCall
Gilbert Brown
Paul McAllaster
Gianna Speruti
Dick Ellis
Thomas Soher
Howard Kelley
Norbert Bold
Margaret Nelson
Darlene Ghigleri
Hugh & Terence Murphy
William Daley
Rosie Verdugo
Bruno Acosta
Robert Buchach
Helen, Walter, & Beau
McCwen
Gloria Ash

Needs

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

January 2018

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

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 Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 2017</th>
<th>Our 34th Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>13,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,137,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>290,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>5,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,291,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>1,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>241,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82,791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 2017</th>
<th>Our 34th Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loads of laundry</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>1,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>325,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarps</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID Vouchers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUGS</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>956,344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>