Kerry Lewis, CEO of MC Painting, located near the Brother Benno Center, watches many of our Guests walk by her office window, especially on weekends. “I have seen many with no shoes, one shoe, trash for shoes, and all kinds of foot ailments,” she said. “I felt that a good pair of shoes could really help make their day a little easier.”

The company decided to start with a donation of 50 pairs of new shoes and socks; and they have asked Carol Muehe, who is in charge of our Clothing Room, to let them know when we need more. The administrative staff wrapped the shoes and socks and delivered them to the Center on December 14.

Kerry summed up her thoughts about this project when she said, “I can’t solve homelessness or mental health issues, but making their day a little easier is something I can do.”

Girlfriends Care hosted the Brother Benno annual Holiday Blitz on December 8. We had 60 volunteers working in ten different roles and projects, all simultaneously! Each Guest received a special cloth tote bag as they arrived. We served them brunch, filled their refreshments, and gave out hugs. They were led in rounds of Christmas carols, and we read books to the children to add to the joy of the event.

A team of our “elves” were busy in another area of the Center, creating gorgeous gift bags topped with a card of inspiration for teens and women, plus extra cards for those who are less fortunate. Two more sets of elves created holiday-decorated placemats and lunch bags to be given to Guests throughout the season. They also filled 270 Christmas stockings with treats of all sorts, which were given out at the Children’s Christmas Party on December 15.

On December 5, we had a team of ten to assist Helen Parsons and Michelle Hoppe with the annual Santa’s Closet event at Thrift Shop. We helped the Program Guys and Gals select gifts for their families, then wrapped them and prepared them for shipping if needed. This is a fun-filled and inspirational event.

Happy Holidays to all, and thank you, Brother Benno’s, for allowing us to do these events. We love them!

(Diana Hanes in a member of the Board of Directors with Girlfriends Care, Inc.)
EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Serving Teams. We send a huge Thank-You to the many volunteers who faithfully serve our morning meal six days a week, all year long. Providing food for the poor and homeless has always been the number one service of Brother Benno’s, and involving the community to perform this act of kindness was started “way back when” by our Founders, Harold and Kay Kutler. Some serving teams have been coming “forever,” and new ones have jumped into the mix as spots became available. No matter how long you have served, please know that your commitment is very much appreciated.

Changed Lives. Members of a motorcycle club, all in recovery, have been collecting and donating items like blankets, belts, and socks to Brother Benno Guests once a year for the past several years. An announcement is made at breakfast, and Guests are invited to go outside where tables have been set up with all the donations.

Recently it was noted that some of the club members make up three generations of a family. It’s an event that not only celebrates the holidays, but also the success of lives turned around from addiction to clean living and service.

Church Supports Program Members.
North Coast Church put up a Christmas tree in their lobby with cards giving the names of Brother Benno’s current Program Men and Women. Church members were invited to take a card and buy a gift for that person, and these gifts were given out at the annual Program Christmas party at the Center. It’s a good way for the community to show their support to those who are working hard to change their lives.

We wish a Happy and Peaceful New Year to all our friends and supporters!

Ω

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

From the beginning of Brother Benno’s back in 1983, music was right up there with bread when it came to serving our Guests. Brother Benno baked and delivered the bread, and Kay Kutler “delivered” the music.

As time went on, many musicians graced our “stage,” and they continue to do so. A recent addition to this list of luminaries is Sheila Jaffe, who plays the harp and was recently joined by her friend of 20 years, Kathy Link, a flutist.

Sheila has performed twice, then once with Kathy, on Saturday mornings, when we serve our popular brunch at 10 o’clock. They play background music while people are eating, then continue with well known songs. They generally don’t ask for requests, but recently a man came to them and asked if they could play “Amazing Grace.” Since they knew the song, they readily agreed to play it. “The man cried through the entire song,” Sheila said.

Playing at Brother Benno’s is the highlight of Sheila’s season. “I just feel blessed to be there,” she said.

Ω

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
Ending the Year on a High Note! Our annual luncheon fundraiser held on December 1 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.

Thank you to Beatriz Palmer for sharing her personal experiences with Brother Benno himself, and how he inspired her to give back to her community. Thank you also to Victoria Edrington and the Church of God choir, who entertained us with beautiful voices.

Beatriz Palmer

The luncheon coordinators with their committee volunteers worked many hours to make this a joyful event. The luncheon was very festive with a winter wonderland display, including a sleigh made by John Jarvie, a long-time volunteer.

Karen Gallagher and John Jarvie

There were many happy winners of the opportunity baskets, silent auction items, and centerpieces. Karen Gallagher and Nita Rodriguez, co-chairs of the event, thank everyone for their participation. We also thank the following sponsors for their generosity: Elizabeth Van Hunnick, Karen Gallagher, Edison International, Deb Drew, El Pollo Loco Oceanside, Frank and Joyce Cerimele, Isobel Haring, James and Joan O’Connell, Colleen O’Harra, Dennis and Suzy Martinick, and Nita Rodriguez. Thank you to the many individuals and businesses who donated items for the silent auction and opportunity baskets.

In With the New! Board members and selected Auxiliary members held a lively meeting in December to review the activities of the

continued on page 4....

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
previous year, measure our progress toward meeting our 2018 goals, and begin discussion of fundraising, service, and support goals for 2019. This initial work will be presented to the membership at the January meeting.

Want to Learn about the Brother Benno Auxiliary? The Membership Brunch for new and renewing members will be held on Saturday, February 9, 10 to noon, at Shadowridge Country Club in Vista. We will present our fundraising check to the Brother Benno Foundation. (Last year, the Auxiliary donated $36,000 to the Foundation). The price for the brunch is $20. For more information, please contact Sara Bussiere (760-560-6089).

Our next meeting will be on January 23 in the Dining Room at the Brother Benno Center—snacks at 1 p.m., meeting at 1:30. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. WE’VE GOT GREAT THINGS PLANNED FOR 2019.

Happy New Year!

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A CHRISTMAS STORY

In his book, Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen (page 109), Harold Kutler shared a letter that had appeared in a local newspaper. It’s as appropriate now as it was years ago.

“This past Christmas, I was fortunate enough to work the dinner shift at Brother Benno’s Soup Kitchen. . . . I would certainly suggest this for everyone to do at least one time in his or her life.

“I had expected something quite different than I received. I did not expect that I would be the recipient of such a gift. I was greeted by the most warm and loving people. The opposite side of the line was filled with homeless and well-meaning people. They never once pushed or shouted. They never once took for granted the feast in which they were about to partake. They never once took the food from my hands in a hurry. Each different set of eyes I encountered smiled. Each blessed little child that came through said Thank you . . .

“I just wanted to give a big thanks to those people and let them know what a precious gift they have given me. My faith in the power of love has been restored, and my faith in people. Thank you, each and every one of you whose paths I crossed, for the most precious gift of all: love.”

~ Joellen A.

Ω

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
Facebook.com/BrotherBennos

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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

Due to the holiday crunch, our most recent list of Memorials will appear in the February newsletter.

Ron Alexander          Bob Gleason          Catherine L. Quinlan
Dixie & Lou Bales      Chance Hales          Dora Ramirez
Frank Barnet           Tom Hayward           Dick & Terry Riley
Brother Benno          Elizabeth Holms        Margaret Rossini
Edith Blaiser          Alice Jordan           Ann Sauer
Andrea Boersma         Ben Kouns              Mary Shankle
Roland Bond            Richard Kurtz          Naomi Shelton
Bill Boster            Carole Kutler          Bernice, Samuel &
Agnus & Joan Boyd      Harold & Kay Kutler       Milton Silver
Bill Buckner           Bill & Louise Lakoff      Will Skinner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr Ben E. Lewis          Ann Grier Smith
Anna Correia           Helen Lucas            Alva & Frances
Don & Dorothea Daybell Bill & Joan Maloney     Snider
Phyllis H. Dierlam     Helene McGill          Squirrell Family
Frank S. Dolley        Michael & Monty         Mike Stendahl
Anita H. Donahue       Nares                  Margaret Stephan
Dorothy M. Donahue     Zeferino & Dancy         Virginia Sylwestrzak
Fr. Luke Dougherty     Nares                  Harold Thompson
Roseanne Dreibelbis    Mary Nordstrom         Carol & Herb
Fr. Abbot Claude       Nysewander Family        Thornberg
Ehringer, OSB          Bud & Blanche Ogle       Rosemary Tucker
Myron Eichen           Ben Osgrove            Walter Ulloa
Richard Farquhar       Kathryn D. Pent         June Williams
William & Vennita      Mary Peterson          Fred Williamson
Flanagan               Jane Pfau              
Louise Foussat         Ruth Hazel Pierson     
Joe & Ida Friend       Alan Port             
Mary Gerrity           Mary Pullman          

Happy Birthday

Needs

Gently used furniture  Men’s belts  Diapers, sizes 2, 3, 4
Baby wipes             Kids pull-ups, sizes 3, 4M, 5L, 6XL
Adult pull-ups, Men’s size Small and Large
Women’s size Small, Medium, Large

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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

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