



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

January 2019



BUSINESSWOMAN SEES NEED, DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT

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."



Kerry, Jennifer, Diana, Lisa, Maria, Andres, and Carol Muehe

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THESE GIRLFRIENDS TRULY CARE!

by Diana Hanes

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.)

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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!

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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.

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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

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Nita Rodriguez

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 Martinek, and Nita Rodriguez. Thank you to the many individuals and businesses who donated items for the silent auction and opportunity baskets.



Luncheon Fundraiser Committee

Seated L-R Nita Rodriguez, Linda Donahue, Susan Westlund, Renee Stepp
Standing L-R Louise Lussier, Joan O'Connell, Karen Gallagher, Mary Jamison, Dorine Meade, Debra Drew
Absent: Michelle Hoppe, Helen Parsons, Belinda Smith, Teresa Keith, Pamela Langness

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

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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>

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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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Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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.

Information & Online donations: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
 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
 Chance Hales
 Tom Hayward
 Elizabeth Holms
 Alice Jordan
 Ben Kouns
 Richard Kurtz
 Carole Kutler
 Harold & Kay Kutler
 Bill & Louise Lakoff
 Ben E. Lewis
 Helen Lucas
 Bill & Joan Maloney
 Helene McGill
 Michael & Monty
 Nares
 Zeferino & Dancy
 Nares
 Mary Nordstrom
 Nysewander Family
 Bud & Blanche Ogle
 Ben Osgrove
 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
 Ann Grier Smith
 Alva & Frances
 Snider
 Squirrel Family
 Mike Stendahl
 Margaret Stephan
 Virginia Sylwestrzak
 Harold Thompson
 Carol & Herb
 Thornberg
 Rosemary Tucker
 Walter Ulloa
 June Williams
 Fred Williamson

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

Happy Birthday

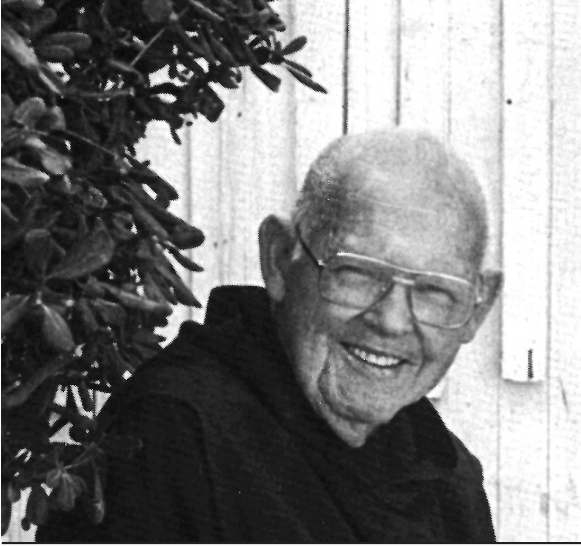
Needs

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2019 Monthly Serving Team Schedule		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Riverview Church	9 Fairwinds	10 Oceanside Civitans	11 St. Patrick's	12
	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ the King Lutheran	16 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	17 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
	20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Pilgrim Creek	24 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	25 Catholic Daughters
	27 St. Thomas More RCIA	28 Welk Resort	29 Soroptimist International	30 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop	31 King of Kings Lutheran	

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

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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Tue-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up

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 2018	Our 35th Year		November 2018	Our 35th Year
Meals	13,132	4,291,612	Loads of laundry	34	28,206
Nights of lodging	886	301,968	Food packs	1,084	338,646
Articles of clothing	4,953	1,350,976	Blankets	231	45,892
Showers	1,134	255,139	Tarps	142	4,319
Haircuts	31	22,595	ID Vouchers	37	9,316
Bus passes	98	84,136	HUGS	1,800	979,744