



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

January 2020



## A CHRISTMAS PARTY BURSTING WITH LOVE

by Barbara Ladwig

The Christmas season is probably the time when Brother Benno's has the most volunteers coming together at one time to make Christmas memorable for the children whose families are served throughout the year, not to mention the many hours they spend before and after the big day getting things ready and then putting everything away!



Ellen Croft and Alix setting up

On the Saturday before Christmas, the warehouse was a magic land of color and music meant to delight the children who waited patiently for the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. And while they waited, they had the choice of four face painters, a balloon artist, games with prizes, and tables full of craft items where the kids could get help from Auxiliary members to create their own treasures.

What is Christmas without cookies? Thanks to many kind volunteers, we were blessed with the best of the best of holiday sweets; and of course, there was cocoa to go along with them!

When all was said and done, each child

went home with a Christmas stocking chock-full of goodies, a new stuffed animal, pajamas, socks, and underwear, and a hand-made turtle pillow. Oh, and don't forget the \$25 gift certificate for their parents to buy whatever their little ones need or desire.



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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Let There Be Music!** Many local entertainers love to come to Brother Benno's, especially on a Saturday, to brighten the day for our Guests and volunteers. Such was the case in early December when we were treated to Christmas music by **Kathy Link** on flute, **Sheila Jaffe** on harp, and **Timmaris McDowell** with vocals. "They were wonderful!" said one of our volunteers.



**We Helped.** This email came to us on the day before Christmas: *"I don't know who to contact, but this time last year I was on my way to Alaska. You guys helped me with a bus pass from Oceanside to Seattle, from which I made it to Alaska. Because of you guys, my life is amazing today! I wanna say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all you guys at Brother Benno's. God willing, I will visit in person. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you. E.D."*

**A Carload.** This message appeared on our Facebook page from El Camino Preschool in Oceanside: *"Wow! Thank you to everyone who donated to our Socks and Underwear Drive, and a special shout-out to the Moore Family for generously donating three cases of socks from their store! Socks and underwear are so important, but those items aren't always thought of, which is why we are so excited for Ms. Heike to load up her car and bring all your donations to the Brother Benno Center tomorrow!"*

**Heartfelt Gratitude.** The beginning of a new year always seems like a good time for me to thank the people who help put this newsletter together every month. **John McCaffrey** takes everything I email to him—articles, lists, and pictures—and puts them into a program that can be sent to the printer. **Mike Streicher** is that printer who "speedily" prints the issue and then delivers it to the mailing company, **Action Mail**, in Escondido. **Frank Doherty, Dennis Pinnick, Helen Parsons, Denise Seymour, Carol Muehe, Belinda Smith, and Elana Bagley** are some of the Brother Benno staff members and volunteers who have most often written articles or given me leads. (If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me). And last but not least, I thank **everyone** who makes me feel like a member in good standing of the Brother Benno Family. ♥

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### LOVE ACCORDING TO MOTHER TERESA

"Let us not make a mistake—that the hunger is only for a piece of bread. The hunger of today is so much greater: for love—to be wanted, to be loved, to be cared for, to be somebody."

"If we really want to love others, we must first begin to love one another in our own home. Love begins at home, and so from here—from our own home—love will spread to my neighbor, in the street where I live, in the town where I live, in the whole world."

"Peace begins with a smile."

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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, 760-941-1876 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

### HAROLD'S WORDS CONTINUE TO INSPIRE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

In **Harold Kutler's** book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, he continually stressed the importance of treating the people who come to us for help in a loving and respectful way. That starts with calling them Guests instead of clients, and it ends only when they no longer need our services. This excerpt from the book is typical of Harold's thinking:

"Even though the Brother Benno Center is housed in a huge warehouse, the inside looks more like a party place. Color is everywhere. Decorations appropriate to the season or holiday draw you in. . . .

"Everything is clean—the food-serving area, the tables, the floor. People hug and smile and laugh. Music plays—quietly in the background or right up front. . . . Table coverings in the dining room are the extra touch that say, 'You are our Guest.'

"**Kay** sings to the Guests—tender songs like 'May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You' or rousers such as 'I'm Just Wild About Harry!'" . . . .

"The grandest party of all is Christmas, which we celebrate—not once, but twice a year—in December and July. The dining room bursts with color and warmth, but now the warehouse has been transformed as well. As adults and children walk into Santa's Village, they are overwhelmed by a wall of 1,500 stuffed animals. \*\* . . . . (Their) last stop is our jolly Santa. He gives them candy, but his sweetest gifts are his cheery Ho-Ho-Ho's."

*\*Harold's wife Kay died in February 2012, but recordings of her songs are often played for our Guests.*

*\*\*The appearance of Santa's Village has changed slightly over the years, but the spirit remains.*

(This article was published in December 2018, but we felt it was appropriate to share it with our readers again as we continue to look to Harold and Kay Kutler for inspiration.)

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We'd need a book the size of *Moby Dick* to thank everyone involved with our Christmas Party, so we'll just say that **Helen Parsons** was the glue that held everyone and everything together; and she was lovingly and ably aided by our **Program Women and Men, Brother Benno Auxiliary, Girlfriends Care (along with husbands and children), PJ Angels, church choirs, the North County Lions Club, members of Padres Unidos, and many friends and donors who never fail to provide us with the needed funds.**

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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>

### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

December was a quiet month for the Auxiliary, except for the Children's Christmas Party, which was a big success.

The Nominating and Installation Committees presented the new Board members in a lovely—and sometimes fun—ceremony.



Joyce Cerimele, President; Doris Nyman, Vice-President; Renee Stepp, Secretary, Janetha Bailey-Long, Parliamentarian; and Nita Rodriguez, Advisor.

Our members have still been spending their volunteer efforts and time on our ongoing activities: Breakfast Club (serving once a month), Thrift Shop work parties, Meet and Greet Committee, and Layette-gathering. The Knitting Committee is still in force, and anyone who knits or crochets and would be willing to help out, please contact Joyce Cerimele [jcerimele11@gmail.com](mailto:jcerimele11@gmail.com).

The New Members Brunch will be held on February 8 at the Shadowridge Golf Club in Vista. This is when we greet and welcome new members (and possible new members). We enjoy delicious food and hear about the Auxiliary. For more information, please contact Doris ([Dnyman5@cox.net](mailto:Dnyman5@cox.net)) or Joyce ([jcerimele11@gmail.com](mailto:jcerimele11@gmail.com))

If you are not already a member of the Brother Benno Auxiliary and are interested in being one, please come to one of our meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 22, at 1:30p.m. at the Center, 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside. We hope to see you there!

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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.

**Information & Online donations:**  
**[brotherbenno.org](http://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 & Louise  
 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  
 Squirrell 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.**

### Needs

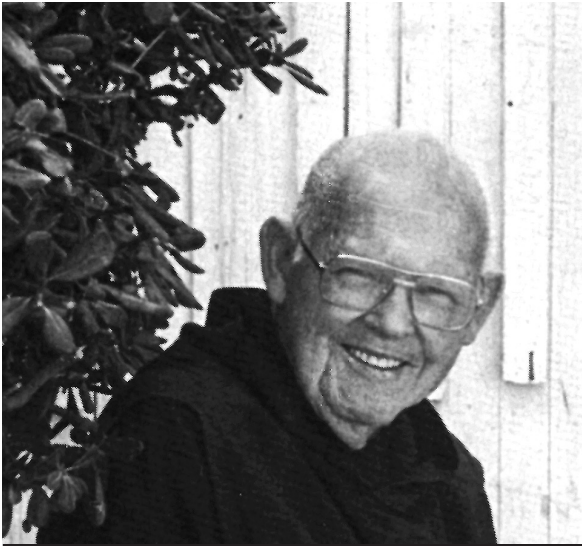
Gently used furniture  
 Used cell phone cables

Blankets  
 Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing)  
 Android or iphone chargers and charging battery packs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2020 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>			<b>1</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>6</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>7</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>8</b> Fairwinds	<b>9</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>10</b> St. Patrick's	<b>11</b> La Costa Valley Volunteers
	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Riverview Church	<b>15</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>16</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>24</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>25</b> Catholic Daughters
	<b>27</b> St. Thomas More RCIA	<b>28</b> Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	<b>29</b> Soroptimist International	<b>30</b> Brother Benno's Thrift Shop	<b>31</b> 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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	November 2019	Our 36th Year		November 2019	Our 36th Year
Meals	12,843	4,444,878	Loads of laundry	22	28,515
Nights of lodging	1,025	313,075	Food packs	839	349,906
Articles of clothing	3,593	1,403,613	Blankets	200	47,754
Showers	986	268,112	Tarps	134	5,619
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	56	9,795
Bus passes	149	85,475	HUGS	2,250	1,003,594