



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

January 2023



## Brother Benno's Children's Christmas Party

By David Williams

Christmas was seven days away when Brother Benno's hosted its yearly Children's Christmas Party on December 18th 2022. The celebration took place outside of the Brother Benno's Thrift Shop. Santa came to town to meet with over 400 beautiful boys and girls. This event did not just magically happen out of nowhere, though. It took many months of preparation. Coordinating the event once again was **Helen Parsons**. Helen, a member of the Board of Directors of the Brother Benno Foundation, has been a strong asset giving back to the community for many years. This year she even dressed up as Mrs. Claus for the day and helped put smiles on everyone's face.

At this year's event the line may have been long, but families anticipated with excitement Christmas starting a bit early for the children of Oceanside. What was waiting for them seemed to be a small part of the North Pole itself. With a live DJ on scene playing only the best Christmas songs, decorations everywhere, and hot chocolate being handed out to anyone who wanted it. This truly had one using all five of his human senses feeling the Spirit of Christmas. The walk from the start of the line to the end included so many amazing adventures for the children to feel the warmth of Christmas time. With games of throwing rings around Christmas trees, hand crafted racecars being handed out, wrapped and sized up pajamas, age-appropriate filled stockings, age determined toys, a \$25 gift card to Walmart for each child that registered for the event, and finally the chance to meet Santa Claus and his sleigh with some of his trusty friends.

Walking around and being a part of this

event truly reminds you of the purposes of the holidays. Purpose in my eyes of making everyone happy, loved and cared for. Throughout the entire event, I can recall looking around at the children, their families, volunteers and even Santa Claus always having a huge smile on and truly passing the love to everyone around them. Yes, of course the children were getting presents because that's a small part of it too. Brother Benno's really went the extra mile this year and created happiness for the community. This was my first year participating in the event and I am beyond humbled by the efforts put forward. I cannot wait to contribute more next year and continue the traditions.

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## Thank You, North Coast Church

As part of our holiday celebrations, The Brother Benno Foundation has a special party before Christmas for our recovery program members. Each individual is given a \$25 gift card and treated to a special meal for the day. This year, North Coast Church and its outreach coordinator **Mary Bishop**, provided the gift cards. In addition, they made a contribution to support the recovery program. We have been blessed to receive this support that helps to acknowledge the work the program members are doing one day at a time.

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### Children's Christmas Party Photos





### SPOTLIGHT: MEET MONICA REYES

By Steve Oetting

**Monica Reyes** is the Food Rescue Manager at Brother Benno's. Since assuming that role last May, she has worked as a liaison with organizations such as Feeding San Diego and the North County Foodbank, as well as local government entities, to ensure that useable food is "rescued" rather than sent to the landfill. Six days a week, Monica organizes a team of volunteers to make pickups from big box stores such as Walmart, Albertsons, and Target. She also coordinates with programs, including Produce Good, which provides excess produce from local growers.



The food received from the rescue program provides the lion's share of the meals served at Brother Benno's soup kitchen and its sack lunch program. Excess food is made available to church pantries, local rehabilitation facilities, and programs such as "Got Your Back," which provides backpacks of food to some elementary school children.

Monica has also participated in school resource events at Mira Costa Community College's Learning Center.

Monica recognizes and appreciates the "beautiful position" she is in. "I see the generosity of the community and am able to witness the gratitude of the guests when they are served wholesome food." She is continually amazed by the heart and kindness of our community. She sees food rescue as an essential long-term component of both building a healthier community and protecting the environment.

As a graduate of the Brother Benno's recovery program, Monica shares that the Brother Benno Foundation "gave me a new life." In her spare time, Monica operates a pet care business and is studying to become a Pilates instructor. She is also in the process of organizing a grass roots effort to ensure that menstrual products are made available to those who need them. Monica is an invaluable part of the Brother Benno's team.

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Brother Benno Foundation**  
PO Box 308  
Oceanside CA 92049

**Printable version:** <https://bit.ly/3PvfNET>  
**Or, donate online at** <http://brotherbenno.org>

### Volunteer of the Month – John McCaffrey

On December 14th, long-time volunteer **John McCaffrey** was recognized by the Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis club for his service to the Brother Benno Foundation. John helps format and produce this newsletter, monitors the info@brotherbenno.org email box, and writes grants for the Foundation. John and his wife have been serving the Thanksgiving meal for 20 years. This is how John got started volunteering at Brother Benno's. We appreciate all of John's hard work and dedication.



If you know a special Brother Benno's volunteer, we are accepting nominations for volunteer of the month! Please email [volunteers@brotherbenno.org](mailto:volunteers@brotherbenno.org) and let us know what makes this volunteer special. If you would like to volunteer, please join us at our Volunteer Orientation and Tour on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at The Brother Benno Center. The next orientation/tour is on January 7, 2023.

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

**Follow Brother Benno's online:**  
**[Facebook.com/BrotherBenno](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBenno)**  
**[Twitter.com/brotherbennos](https://twitter.com/brotherbennos)**  
**[Instagram.com/brotherbenno](https://www.instagram.com/brotherbenno)**

### The PJ Angels Deliver

Once again, a group known as the "PJ Angels" generously donated 534 cozy, new jammies for our Children's Christmas Party. These brand-new pajamas are wrapped and given out to children 15 and younger at our annual Christmas party. The PJ Angels have been providing new pajamas to Brother Benno's for nine years. We are truly grateful for their support.



**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.



## 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  
 John Jarvie  
 Dorothy and Walter  
     Jellig

Alice Jordan  
 Ben Kouns  
 Richard Kurtz  
 Carole Kutler  
 Harold & Kay Kutler  
 Bill & Louise Lakoff  
 Ben & Ozelle Lewis  
 Helen Lucas  
 Bill & Joan Maloney  
 Helene McGill  
 Monty, Natalie, &  
     Michael 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  
 Nick 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  
 Andrew & Jane  
     Yandura  
 Bill Stone  
 Barbara La Mothe  
 Jack B. Trayer  
 Patricia Day  
 Rev. Hal Tindall  
 Catherine & Joseph  
     Martina  
 Nysewander &  
     Squirrel Family  
 Shirley Kudzia  
 Donna J. & Gilbert J.  
     Brown  
 Hugo F. Carlos  
 Timothy Diem  
 Elaine Nielsen  
 Oliver Leary  
 Joe Galizio  
 George and Mary  
     Zammit  
 Elaine Port  
 Ron Beckman

Deacon Ed Moser  
 Frank Beeson  
 Bessie Silver  
 Kevin Ehringer  
 Nancy Hogan  
 Monica Simler  
 Molly Wilbur  
 Father Tom Herbst, OFM  
 Helen McEwen  
 Walt McEwen  
 Beau McEwen  
 Jerry Viner  
 Norman Goyette  
 Ryland Moyer  
 Paula Mathis  
 Mildred Provost  
 William Justus  
 David Mowery  
 Toni Keane  
 Peggy & Beverly Miville  
 Donna S. & Gilbert J.  
     Brown  
 Ream & Erik Braegger  
 Walter & Lorraine Brown  
 Carreen Golden  
 Walter & Toyoko Zurvalec  
 Mom & Dad Basteri  
 Dick Newell & Chance  
     Hales  
 All we have lost this year

**Get Well**  
 Pete Saraceno

## Needs

Gently used furniture  
 Diapers size 5 and 6  
 Men's 2x and 3x t-shirts  
 Travel-size shampoo

Blankets  
 Adult Unisex Diapers  
 Baby wipes  
 Travel-size body wash

Baseball caps  
 Women's underwear, sizes 4 and 5  
 Travel-size toothpaste  
 Travel-size deodorant

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2023 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>	<b>2</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>3</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>4</b> Juanita's Team	<b>5</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>6</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>7</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>9</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>10</b> Riverview Church	<b>11</b> Open	<b>12</b> Servers R Us	<b>13</b> St. Patrick's	<b>14</b> Mission San Luis Rey Parish
	<b>16</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>17</b> Christ The King Church	<b>18</b> Friends of Brother Benno	<b>19</b> Ernest Packaging	<b>20</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>21</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>23</b> Open	<b>24</b> Rotary Club of Vista	<b>25</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>26</b> Open	<b>27</b> Open	<b>28</b> NMRTC Camp Pendleton Orthopedics Dept
	<b>30</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>31</b> Brother Benno's Volunteers & Staff				

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

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Oceanside, California  
**PERMIT NO. 166**



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**Brother Benno's Thrift Shop**

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

**Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture**

**Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon**

**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**

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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](http://brotherbenno.org) and click on Donate. We've expanded your donation options to include bank transfers, Venmo, Apple Pay, and Google Pay in addition to PayPal.**

Your donation is used each month at our main center and seven recovery and sober living 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.

**Please Note Our Mailing address:**

The Brother Benno Foundation  
Post Office Box 308  
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

**If you wish to drop off donations or deliver donations in person, our physical address is:**

3260 Production Avenue  
Oceanside, CA 92058

[www.brotherbenno.org](http://www.brotherbenno.org)

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**Brother Benno's Services:**

	November 2022	Our 39th Year		November 2022	Our 39th Year
Meals	11,567	4,785,601	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1,042	345,923	Food packs	853	376,136
Articles of clothing	3,110	1,497,858	Blankets	105	51,418
Showers	970	281,118	Tarps	79	7,374
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	18	10,620
Bus passes	0	88,664	HUGS	0	1,011,244

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