

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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:

	May 2011	Our 28th Year		May 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	11,873	3,107,098	Loads of laundry	27	25,772
Nights of lodging	1,182	212,086	Food packs	2,106	163,776
Articles of clothing	3,943	869,257	Blankets	60	31,763
Showers	848	156,820	Prescriptions	48	6,478
Haircuts	104	12,568	ID Vouchers	11	8,143
Bus passes	112	74,494	HUGS	1,800	804,244

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

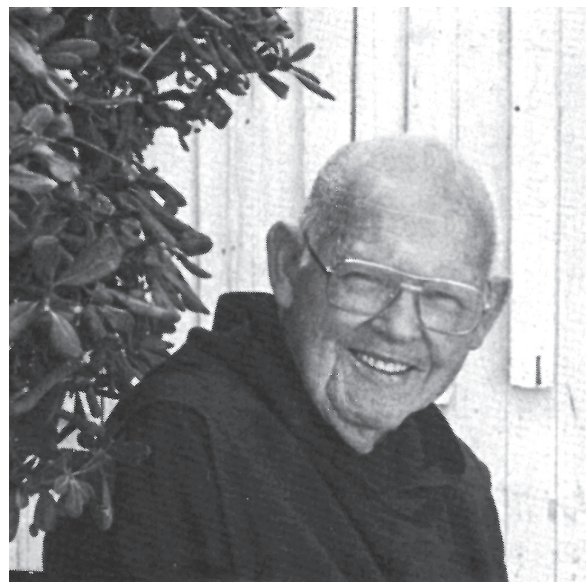
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

July 2011



RECOVERY MEMBERS GET BOOST FROM “ALUMNI”

A group of men who found sobriety through the Recovery Program at Brother Benno's have formed the Brother Benno Alumni Association in order to be of service to other alumni, as well as to current Program Members. “We had completed the Program,” one of the men said, “and now we want to help someone else. We had a good foundation in recovery and a new lease on life. We also knew we could help other guys by sharing our own stories—our failures as well as our successes.”

One of the greatest fears for almost all the Members is: How am I going to manage once I leave the Program? The Alumni often admit that they had the same fears, and they can give the new guys suggestions on ways to prepare. They can also mentor the newly sober while they're still in the Program and after they've graduated. Brother Benno's often becomes a family for the men. The love and support they receive from each other and from the volunteers helps them to succeed.

One of the ideas the Alumni group came up with has been very successful—sponsoring activities for current Members, Alumni, family members, and anyone else connected with Brother Benno's. “It's for anyone who has had the Brother Benno experience, even the guys who got kicked out of the Program,” another man said. “For them, the seed had been planted, and they did get sober later.”

A recent event was a trip to the USS Midway in San Diego, one of the most popular museums in the country. It was a huge success, with more than 40 people in attendance. The group also has barbecues, and some of the Alumni have

formed a monthly meal-serving team at the Center.

One night a week, several of the Alumni attend a recovery meeting at Brother Benno's Phase Two house, where they share their stories and offer support.

One Alumni member looks back on his ten-plus years of sobriety with a huge sense of gratitude. When he first came to Brother Benno's, he'd been living in his car for a year. Very slowly, he gained back his life and found sobriety. During his tenure here, he worked with volunteer **John Jarvie** on various construction jobs at the Center and the Houses. He found he had a knack for the work; and he is now gainfully employed in that field, is married, and owns his own home.

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Auxiliary members and guests on Alaska cruise—
See page 4.

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

C'mon Along. I was wandering around the Center one Thursday morning, trying to track down this person and that for info for the newsletter. It suddenly occurred to me: Somebody must be handing out extra doses of happy pills this week! I'd been there on Monday and Wednesday, too, and the same lighthearted joyfulness had filled the air.

It wasn't spring fever. Even though the calendar insisted spring had arrived, the weather was definitely stuck in winter. Black clouds, drizzles, gusty wind, and bone-rattling cold were still the order of the day. But inside the Center, sunlight ruled.

Laughter spilled out of the Intake Office, where **Tom, Denise, Joe,** and **Diana** were taking a break from servicing guests. **Liz** tried to introduce me to **Kathy**, who sits at the front desk when she isn't running around doing anything anyone asks her to do. At first we pretended not to know each other, but then we had to admit to Liz that we'd already met. It was our accents that led us to each other—Kathy grew up in Milwaukee, and I in Sheboygan, 60 miles to the north. It must be the influence of Lake Michigan, because we both have that unmistakable Wisconsin accent. She's younger than I am, but I tell her: After more than 50 years in California, I still can't get the hang of sounding like a Californian.

Harold was unusually chipper that day, too. He was eager to share his memories of **Rosemary Tucker**, a long-time supporter who died recently. **Dennis** was loveable as always, never failing to pass along a kind word and a hug; and **Sean** smiled every time we passed each other in the hall. **Greg** had an extra bounce in his step as he hurried to get me the information I asked for, and the guys in the Accounting Office—**Dan, Ron,** and **John**—had the same lightheartedness as everyone else.

Many years ago, I realized that if I woke up on the wrong side of the bed, all I had to do was get myself down to the Brother Benno Center, and all would be well. It still works.

Touching Lives. We all know that someone else's mood can affect us, be it happy or sad.

Harold shared an experience he had recently that left him in a definitely upbeat place. He went to the Life Care Center in Vista where some of our volunteers go every week to cheer up the residents. It was their recreation period, lively music poured forth, and **Heather** was dancing with the wheelchair-bound men and women. (Heather coordinates this outreach program.)

"She stood in front of them," Harold said, "held their hands, and danced around the floor. It was wonderful! One woman even got out of her wheelchair, held on to the handles in the back, and danced by herself!"

He walked around talking to people, and a woman named **Judy** told him she'd been a stewardess "way back when." Then she said to him, "Can I get you anything? Coffee? Are you warm enough?" Harold said it was as if she'd slipped back into her job, taking care of others.

Dennis, another volunteer, visits with a man in his room, because he has to be flat on his back. "They've become friends," Harold said. "Personal interaction and a relationship are what these people are starving for."

I'm sure Heather would welcome more volunteers. You can call her (760-433-8623 or 760-729-5482) if you'd like to get involved.

In Memoriam. It is with sadness that we learned of the death of **Sam Domenici**. He was a 20-year member of the serving team from St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Carlsbad, and he also did tile work in several of the Brother Benno Houses. We offer our sympathy to his family.

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"I know the world is filled with troubles and many injustices. But reality is as beautiful as it is ugly. I think it is just as important to sing about beautiful mornings as it is to talk about slums. I just couldn't write anything without hope in it."

~ Oscar Hammerstein II

Memorials

Brother Benno	Jane Pfau	Louise Foussat	Floyd & Rose
Pope John Paul II	Ron Alexander	Tom Hayward	Caldwell
Mother Teresa	Mary Peterson	Richard Kurtz	Cecilia Dillhoefer
Ann Sauer	Frank Barnett	Helen Lucas	Nysewander Family
Joe & Ida Friend	Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Squirrell Family
Mary Nordstrom	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Dora Ramirez	Josephine & Charles
Myron Eichen	Monty Nares	Dick & Terry Riley	Campbell
Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Bill Buckner	Judy Chow
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Shankle	William Flanagan
Richard Farhquar	Mary Teresa Carr	Walter Ulloa	Angel "Ty" Tirona
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson	Stanley LaMonte
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Elizabeth Holms	Carole Kutler	Geraldine Howard
Catherine L. Quinlan	Edith Blaiser	Will Skinner	Kenneth Kuefler
Kathryn D. Pent	Ben Kouns	Fr. Abbot Claude	Mike O'Sullivan
Mary Pullman	Bill Lakoff	Ehringer, OSB	John Simpson
Joan Boyd	Bernice, Samuel &	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Ann & Tom
Agnus Boyd	Milton Silver	Naomi Shelton	Witherow
Harold Thompson	Anita H. Donahue	Rosemary Tucker	Carol Gladstone
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Margaret Stephan	Ben E. Lewis	Jim Rost
Bob Gleason	Bill Boster	Roland Bond	Paul Soltero

Needs

- Volunteer Drivers
- Socks for all ages
- Used furniture
- Men's clothing, underwear, socks, shoes
- Aluminum cans for recycling
- Motel-size hygiene items

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
2011						
Monthly	4 Independence Day Closed	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 ACL Mira Costa
Serving	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Friends from Vista	13 Naval Hospital	14 Oceanside Civitans	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Team	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Grace Anglican	21 Carlsbad Rotary	22 Fallbrook Presbyterian	23 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	25	26 St. Mark's San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Pilgrim Creek	29 King of Kings Lutheran	30 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

BROTHER BENNO EXPERIENCE CHANGES PERSPECTIVE

Each Servant of the Poor brings his or her unique gifts to Brother Benno's. **Diana Shields** is no exception.



Unlike most Servants, Diana came to us by way of being a Guest. After 25 years in the business world, the last nine with a good job and a comfortable salary, she joined the ranks of the unemployed due to the recession. After much searching, she was unable to find another job; and she decided she needed to go back to school to get her bachelor's degree in business in order to be more competitive. But first, she came to Brother Benno's to get help to meet the day-to-day needs for herself and her children.

She didn't want to take help without giving back, she said, so she came in to volunteer. What she experienced changed the way she looked at her life, and also the lives of those whose needs were greater than hers.

As a Servant of the Poor, Diana helps Guests who find themselves unable to pay their rent or utility bills. She also fills in in the Intake Office. In both positions, she says, she can offer her own experiences. "When I needed help, I did a lot of research about where and what kinds of help are out there," she said. "Now, if we are unable to help someone here at Brother Benno's, I can refer them to other programs where they will be able to find what they need." And being bilingual, she can step in when other volunteers can't communicate with some of the Guests.

Diana still wants to go back to school, but now she'll major in social work rather than business. "I know what they (our Guests) are feeling," she said. "I know how to help them. People come in feeling so desperate, and I tell them, 'It's OK. Let's take this one step at a time.' I ask them, 'Do

you need help taking those steps?'" And she urges them to come back and let her know how things are going, and to see how she might follow up with what they're doing.

She also said she feels it's important to ask the Guests to be part of the solution. If they need \$100 to solve a problem, and Brother Benno's can give them only \$50, what can they do to make up the difference? She said that, given a choice, they almost always find a way to participate in the solution. "I encourage people to be more proactive. They have to put forth the effort."

Diana cited two examples of ways in which Brother Benno's was able to change the lives of two Guests with a very small outlay of money, but a great deal of care and support.

A man who'd been homeless only a short time came in with an unusual problem. His teen-aged son was being removed from his mother's house because of her drug problem, and the father would be awarded custody, except that he didn't have a place to live. Diana referred him to Solutions for Change, which houses people for up to one year, while helping their clients find jobs and deal with some of their issues. They gave this man a two-week hotel voucher but said that the housing wouldn't be available for another week.

At that point, the man came back to see Diana, and she was able to give him the extra one-week hotel voucher he needed, plus a bus pass so the son could get to school. They are now living at Solutions for Change. "It was just that little extra he needed that made all the difference," Diana said.

The other person Diana—and several others at Brother Benno's—helped was a woman on disability who'd been kicked out of the apartment she was sharing. "First we retrieved her walker and scooter from the man who kicked her out," Diana said. "Then we put her up in a hotel for one night and told her to come back the next day, when we were able to contact her brother, who came to get her. Just that one night in the hotel made her feel such a sense of relief. We could see it in her face when she came back."

Continued on page 4....

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

WHAT A TRIP! On June 3, 28 Auxiliary members and guests boarded the Royal Caribbean Rhapsody of Sea for a seven-day cruise to Alaska. Ports visited were Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria, BC. The weather was absolutely beautiful, and the sights were breath-taking. Many were able to see bears and whales; excursions included ziplining, dogsledding, hiking, kayaking, helicopter rides, and train rides. Our cabin winners, **Chela Ortiz** and **Sharon Castano**, had a wonderful time, best trip ever.

Father's Day bags were distributed at the Center on June 18, with all men present receiving a bag of goodies, thanks to **Claire Carter** and **Alicia Sullivan**.

There might be a few seats still available for the Outback Steakhouse fundraiser on July 9. Proceeds will go for the purchase of backpacks and school supplies. Please contact **Vicky Squires** (760-724-7371). We will assemble the backpacks on August 12 in the warehouse, and they will be distributed to the children on August 13.

We still need a theme for this year's luncheon on December 3. Give your ideas to **Vera Bayliss**; the winner will receive a prize. Also, don't forget to come to our meetings and be eligible to take part in the taste-testing for the luncheon.

Opportunity baskets and money trees/frames are needed for the luncheon. Please let **Sharon Tasker** know the basket theme and amount donated.

Our next meeting will be on July 27.

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....Continued from page 3

Even though it's not part of her duties, Diana comes to the Center on Saturdays because she loves interacting with the Guests in the relaxed atmosphere of the popular spaghetti feast. "I stand at the end of the serving line and serve up the parmesan cheese," she said. She also walks around chatting with people, enjoying getting to know them.

Since being at Brother Benno's, Diana says, "Now I know I am doing what God made me for."

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Information & Online donations
brotherbenno.org

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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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...

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Number of copies _____