



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Interdenominational Volunteers Making a Difference in This World

July 2012

IMMERSION TOUCHES LIVES

The Immersion Program continues to bring people into contact with those who are struggling to make ends meet or who are homeless. Every Saturday morning at 9:15, one or more persons meet at the Center to hear a brief overview of the services we offer, take a tour of the Center, then get in line with our Guests and share a meal with them. The people in the immersion experience remain anonymous; they simply interact with others and learn what has brought them to Brother Benno's.

A recent participant in the Immersion Program shared his reactions in an email to one of the Program's leaders: “I was amazed by the way things ran and how wonderful everyone was. To say the least, I was humbled more than I have ever been before. The stories (by two leaders) were very moving to me. I would really love to do what I can to volunteer, as would my wife. I believe that what you give, you will get back twofold. The feeling I got walking around and saying hi to everyone left a feeling inside that just can't be duplicated. Many times (although I hope it didn't show), I was brought to tears looking at and listening to everyone. To say I was moved is an understatement. The way everyone smiles and cares for one another is a beautiful thing.”

Brother Benno's does not use the Immersion Program as a tool for recruiting volunteers; its purpose is to build community. For anyone who wants to look into becoming a volunteer, we have a tour on the first Saturday of every month.

To participate in the Immersion Program, contact **Dennis** (760-439-1244, ext. 116). For the Volunteer Tour, contact **Denise** (760-1439-1244, ext. 107). Or just come to the Center around 9 a.m. on any Saturday for either tour. Ω

CONNECTIONS

One of the things that energizes Brother Benno volunteers is hearing from people who have been helped in the past, even though the interval may be many years.

Harold Kutler had such a heart-warming experience recently when a woman called from West Virginia, hoping to thank **Kay** again for her kindness many years ago that had changed the woman's life. The call was routed to Harold, who had to tell the woman that Kay died in February. She was understandably dismayed to hear the news, but she shared her story with Harold; and he added it to his many memories of how Kay changed lives almost daily.

This woman had come to the old Kitchen in downtown Oceanside for dinner, and in the course of talking to Kay, she learned that Brother Benno's hosted an NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meeting every week. Because Kay was so kind to her, she agreed to go to a meeting; and that began her road back to a life without drugs.

Not knowing how to get in touch with Kay, the woman went on the Internet and found Brother Benno's there. “She told me she's still clean and sober,” Harold said, “and she just wanted to thank Kay again for setting her on the right path.”

Harold's musings about the West Virginia woman reminded him of another connection that began even before the Brother Benno Kitchen was formally established. Working in another outreach program, he had met a man who told him that he had just moved to Oceanside from Chicago to get away from the gang life. Harold felt sorry for the man, so he invited him home for dinner. During the course of the meal, Kay became more and more agitated, as the man shared shocking stories

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

We Missed Him! It's wonderful to have **Harold Kutler** back at the Center. He took time off after Kay's death to take care of personal business and catch his breath. We certainly understood his need to do that, but he was so missed!

Special Partners. Every so often, I like to acknowledge two businesses that make getting out the newsletter an easy task. **Tis Speedy Printing** in San Marcos has been printing the newsletter for more years than we can count, and they continue to give us superb service and a great price. **Action Mail** in Escondido is a more recent partner; but they, too, have proven to be easy to work with and responsive to our needs. Many thanks to everyone at these great businesses!

Knitting Mittens. "What better time than July to start getting ready for winter?" quipped **Kathy Christensen** as she showed me a picture of a fingerless mitten on her computer screen at the Center. She's going to start knitting them herself, and she invites anyone who has unwanted yarn to drop it off for her—and for anyone else who'd like to knit as well. She's looking especially for "manly" colors of yarn for the homeless men whose needs in winter usually include a way to keep their hands warm. If you need more info, contact Kathy (kathy46@rocketmail.com).

Donor Creativity. Two recent donations were a little out of the ordinary. The first was initiated by **Mandy Deines**, a former volunteer who works at Jones Lang LaSalle. She sent an email to co-workers and put a box in the kitchen with a sign that said: "The Brother Benno Center Peanut Butter Drive." As a result, our Kitchen is now richer in a well-loved comfort food. "I chose peanut butter after hearing about the significant price increase for such a common food staple," Mandy said.

The other donation came from LMI Aerospace in Vista—1,700 cans of food, plus a new bicycle. The bike was an incentive for the employees. The three top donors were part of a raffle, and **Brian Penn**, who donated 120 cans, won. He do-

nated the bike to Brother Benno's, saying that the organization would benefit more than his keeping the bike for himself.

Thank-You Cards and Email Newsletters. We continue to get requests from donors who would prefer not receiving a thank-you card, and from newsletter readers who now want to receive their copy as an email instead of a paper copy in the mail. If you'd like to make either of these changes, just let us know. To stop thank-you cards, include a note with your next donation. To change to an email newsletter, send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com, and include your full name and street mailing address.

Update. Volunteer truck driver **Jeff Davis** gave me an update on "Clarence," the homeless man whose feet were washed at Brother Benno's by Jeff and **Brian Smith** (June 2012 newsletter).

Jeff took Clarence to a hospital emergency room, where he spent ten hours being treated for various problems. Then, after taking Clarence to a facility in Escondido and back to Brother Benno's, Jeff was led, through prayer, to take him to Set Free Ministries in the desert, a 125-mile drive from Oceanside. He learned that after three days, Clarence walked away; he's had no contact with him since.

Jeff said he realizes that Clarence isn't his "project"; he did what he could, and now Clarence is in God's hands. He recalled one hopeful sign. On the drive to the desert, after a long period of silence, Clarence said, "Jeff, do you think one day I'll be able to work with you and help people like you're helping me?"

In summing up what his experience with Clarence was all about, Jeff said he lives by these words: "If we view people as being losers, we treat them with contempt. If we view them as lost, we treat them with compassion."

SENTIMENTS WORTH REPEATING

Two articles published in the past continue to be relevant to anyone who has ties to Brother Benno's. We hope that by offering them to you again, you will find the refreshment of spirit that many of us need in today's difficult world.

This reflection was written by **Harold Kutler** and published in January 2011. It was titled: HOW ARE WE TO SERVE?

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and told them that this was the way they were to serve one another. (John 13:4-9) This symbolized how our Christian service is to be performed: with great humility. We cannot wash someone's feet while we are standing or sitting. We must get down on our knees in a non-judgmental position of humility and prayer. Then we are serving out of our own poverty, not out of our strength.

Living out the gospel each day means that we humbly serve those in need with love and compassion.

Most of the people we encounter each day are in need. They hunger for a smile, a kind word, a prayer. They want the gift of love, compassion, appreciation, caring, or affection. Just touching or hugging someone can free them from their prison of loneliness, and sincerely complimenting a person can help remove their blindness to their own goodness.

Mother Teresa and Brother Benno have shown us the way to live out the gospel in our everyday lives. Humbly serving the needy with love and compassion is an irresistible force that can make a real difference in our world and in our own lives.



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>

This article was written by **Barbara Ladwig** about **Kay Kutler** and was published in November 2010, a little more than a year before Kay died. It was titled: KAY IS EVERYBODY'S ANGEL; the following is an excerpt:

Kay Kutler is the most beloved person in the Brother Benno "family." She's been the personification of the good work that's been done for the poor and homeless over the past 27 years, and she is often called an angel by her husband Harold.

Anyone who ever saw Kay's office at the Center knows that she has angels everywhere on the walls and shelves. Harold now uses that office, and he has kept the angel theme intact, so it feels like Kay is still there.

Even though health problems now make it impossible for Kay to be the everyday presence that we all came to depend on, we feel her spirit throughout the Center; and the staff and volunteers seem to have an inner urge to carry on the love she gave so freely to everyone. . . .

Kay's outpouring of love over the years is being carried forward by many who have been touched by her. Guests still tell Harold how a hug from Kay meant the world to them when they felt that no one cared about them. Volunteers who might have come to the Center with heavy hearts knew that a hug from Kay—along with her million-dollar smile—were just what they needed to brighten their day.



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about his life on the streets of Chicago, much to the delight of their three teenage children.

Eventually the man decided he'd be better off going back to Chicago, so he asked Harold for bus fare. Harold told him he'd put him to work to earn the money, and in three weeks the man was on his way back to the Midwest.

"Over the years, every time something good happened in his life, he'd call to tell me about it," Harold said, "And it was always a way for him to reach back to say thank you one more time."



AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

The Auxiliary will sponsor a fundraiser at the Oceanside Outback Steakhouse on Vista Way on Saturday, July 14. There will be two seatings: 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ten and under. Attendees will have four entrees to choose from: steak, fish, chicken, or vegetarian. Funds raised from this event will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for children this fall. Contact **Vicky Squires** (760-724-7371) to purchase tickets. If you are not able to attend, you may want to buy a ticket for a Marine to join us.

Many thanks to **Claire Carter** and **Terri Keyes** for passing out Father's Day bags to all male Guests on June 16. Thanks also to Claire's mom for helping her during her visit in preparing the bags. The men were very happy to receive a nice goody bag.

Next Auxiliary meeting will be on July 25. Backpacks will be assembled on August 11 and handed out on the 12th.

A fundraiser will be held on August 22 at Shakey's Pizza in Oceanside from 4-9 p.m.

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Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

\$5 BAG SALE IS BIG HIT

by Michelle Hoppe

A few months ago, the Thrift Shop instituted the \$5 bag sale. We give customers a bag, they stuff it with clothing, and they pay \$5. This solved our problem of what to do with "outdated" stock so we can make room for new merchandise.

Very quickly the word spread, and the bag sale caught on. Now it's not unusual to have a line of people waiting for us to open on bag sale day. We had about 30 customers waiting at our last sale! One day, a customer handed our cashier the following hand-written note:

"Dear Brother Benno's, Thank you for the \$5 bag days at month's end. It gives us all a chance to help your cause and help make ends meet in a difficult economy. I am donating back the items I bought and washed but cannot use. Thanks!"

The \$5 bag sale is held on the last Friday and Saturday of each month. Come by and stuff a bag! I'd also like to thank the shop staff, volunteers, and customers for helping to make our little shop a huge success. We hope to see you soon!

(Michelle Hoppe is the Thrift Shop Manager. See back page for Shop location and hours.)

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"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others lives on."

~ Anonymous

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 _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Frank Barnet	Bill Buckner	Dorothy & Joseph Roth
Pope John Paul II	Frank S. Dolley	Mary Shankle	Clara & Eilert Fehr
Mother Teresa	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Walter Ulloa	Squirrell Family
Kay Kutler	Monty Nares	Fred Williamson	Nysewander Family
Ann Sauer	Margaret Rossini	Carole Kutler	Mike Stendahl
Joe & Ida Friend	Dorothy M. Donahue	Will Skinner	Andrea Boersman
Mary Nordstrom	Mary Teresa Carr	Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Judy Chow
Myron Eichen	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Thomas Chakkanaku zhi
Alice Jordan	Elizabeth Holms	Naomi Shelton	William Flanagan
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Edith Blaiser	Rosemary Tucker	Alva Snider
Richard Farhquar	Ben Kouns	Ben E. Lewis	Stanley LaMonte
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill Lakoff	Roland Bond	Gilbert Brown
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Anna Correia	Jean Hollenbeck
Catherine L. Quinlan	Anita H. Donahue	Geraldine Howard	Dancy & Zeferino Nares
Kathryn D. Pent	Margaret Stephan	Helene McGill	Aurzlias & Kark Kutzke
Mary Pullman	Bill Boster	Jacinto Soto	Laurenice Knecher
Joan Boyd	Louise Foussat	Milton Knight	Dorothy Plum
Agnus Boyd	Tom Hayward	Elizabeth Fimon	
Harold Thompson	Richard Kurtz	Floyd & Rose Caldwell	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Helen Lucas	Fran & Mary Weekly	
Bob Gleason	Bill & Joan Maloney	Louise Ortega	
Jane Pfau	Dora Ramirez	Robert Dalin	
Ron Alexander	Dick & Terry Riley		
Mary Peterson			

Needs

Diapers (All sizes, especially 4 & 5)
Disposable Razors

Canned Soup
Men's Shoes and Socks (suitable for lots of walking)

Toothbrushes

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Closed Holiday	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
2012	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Friends from Vista	11 Naval Hospital	12 Oceanside Civitanis	13 St. Patrick's	14 The Movement
Monthly	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Grace Anglican	19 Carlsbad Rotary	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	23 Christ Anglican	24 St. Mark's San Marcos	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Fallbrook Presbyterian	28 Catholic Daughters
Team	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Welk Resort				
Schedule						

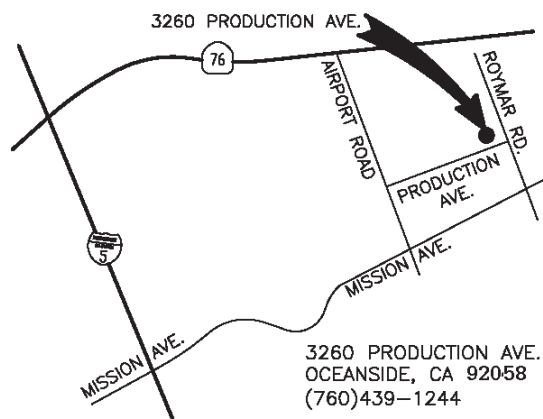
Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

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.

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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:

	May 2012	Our 28th Year		May 2012	Our 28th Year
Meals	13,224	3,260,877	Loads of laundry	26	26,095
Nights of lodging	1,072	226,003	Food packs	2,784	195,258
Articles of clothing	4,575	920,614	Blankets	105	33,047
Showers	961	167,597	Prescriptions	44	7,029
Haircuts	91	14,094	ID Vouchers	12	8,273
Bus passes	87	75,613	HUGS	1,800	827,194

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, religion, 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 5 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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 Oceanside, California
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