



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

July 2013

## FOOD BOXES FILL IN GAPS

Every month, Brother Benno's hands out between 2,200 and 2,500 food boxes to our Guests—mostly families, seniors, and handicapped persons. This outreach is in addition to the six-days-a-week hot meal served at the Center and the bag lunches that are available as well.

“The purchase of food is Brother Benno's largest expense,” said **Dennis Martinek**, one of our Operations Managers. That's why the various food drives held throughout the year are so important in the day-to-day scheme of things. (In the June newsletter, we highlighted recent windfalls of canned goods and other non-perishables collected by postal workers and a Carlsbad church.)

Dennis also said that “each box is meant to get families over the hump by providing four to five days of food,” and recipients are allowed just one box per month (two for larger families). Every box contains the following items: cereal, pasta, Macaroni and Cheese, peanut butter, rice, dry beans, and cans of tuna, tomato sauce, soup, and vegetables. They are then “topped off” with whatever other items are on hand, such as crackers, jam, boxed potatoes, pudding, small juice containers, etc.

**Jim and Ronne Czuleger** have been the mainstays in the food warehouse for twelve years, ably assisted by Program Members and other volunteers. They've developed an assembly line operation, with food items stacked in the order in which the boxes are filled. But in spite of all this efficiency, the typical Brother Benno love permeates the workspace. As volunteers, it's the gift we give and the gift we receive.

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## THRIFT SHOP IMPACTS COMMUNITY

The new Brother Benno Thrift Shop continues to be in the public eye, thanks to a recent appearance of Manager **Michelle Hoppe** on Fox 5 San Diego Morning Show on April 27. The occasion was the TV station's focus on Oceanside's Green Fair, an event held at the Junior Seau Amphitheater at the beach, which highlights environmental issues.



Michelle Hoppe and Heather Ford

“We participated in a fashion show showcasing some of our donated clothing,” Michelle said, “and our model was the lovely **Angelica Ruiz**, Miss Latina Woman of Achievement (an honor presented by Women of Achievement 2013). Volunteers from the Thrift Shop—**Angie, Janice, and Carol**—helped man (our) booth.”

Michelle went on to say that several other resale shops participated in the Fair, showing how donated items can be recycled and reused. She invites other organizations to contact her if they'd like to show off Thrift Shop fashions or other products at their events. Call her at 760-967-7505.

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Thanks!** For two years, a man who calls himself "Mystery Man Bill" has been one of our faithful deliverers of bread and other grocery items. It's helpers like Bill who make it possible to feed the many people who come to us for help.

**Food For Thought.** A graduate of our Recovery Program passed along some information about an organization called the Human Kindness Foundation. "This group sends free books and ministers to people incarcerated all over the world," he said. "Their kindness to me laid the groundwork for my spiritual awakening." The three principles of the Human Kindness Foundation are: "Live simply. Dedicate your life to service. Spend some time every day in spiritual practice."

**Outback Outreach.** The Brother Benno Auxiliary continues to entice us with their popular fund-raisers held at local restaurants. The next one, at the Outback Steakhouse in Oceanside on July 19, is definitely a big one. Be sure to make your reservations right away—see page 4 for details.

**Updating Records.** Our many faithful donors continue to send their checks every month, and we are happy to send them a thank-you postcard when they do. But if you're one of a growing number who prefer not to get the card, just put a note with your next donation and we'll add you to our Do-Not-Send-A-Card list. Also, if you or someone you know has changed their address, no longer wants to receive the newsletter, or is deceased, we'd like to hear about that, too. We try to keep our records current, but with more than 5,000 on our mailing list, we need all the help we can get. (Just so you know, the cost of the newsletter is covered by profits from our Thrift Shop, never from donations.)

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"A hug is like a boomerang- you get it back right away."

~Bil Keane

## IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA

Brother Benno's lost one of its most faithful and dynamic volunteers when **Virginia Sylwestrzak** died in May at the age of 85. Although various health problems plagued her during her 18 years at the Center, she continued to show up, always with a hearty hello and a smile.

Virginia started in the Clothing Room in 1994 when she was just a "youngster" of 67. She set up a system for keeping track of the items that



were given to our Guests. Her next area of service was as manager of the warehouse, which included purchasing food items. In fact, her title as Purchasing Agent was the one she still held at the time of her death.

In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope*, **Harold Kutler** featured Virginia in the chapter titled "The Golden Years." He said in part, "Virginia raised ten children, ran a restaurant, and was active in her church. Her golden years included a heart condition, two hip replacements, and a severe case of arthritis. She was certainly entitled to rest on her laurels, but Virginia, who started working at age 13 as a waitress, had other ideas. . . ."

She had heard about Brother Benno's from her son **Tim**, who encouraged her to come down and see what she could do to help. "She brought in two bags of clothing to donate so she could 'check us out,'" Harold wrote. "When she went into the office for her receipt, . . . our office manager saw something special in Virginia. 'Would you be interested in volunteering?' he asked. . . . Virginia came back the next day and started sorting clothing."

Harold ended his story in the book about Virginia by quoting her as follows:

"When I get home, I'm very tired. But it's a well-earned tired. As long as I'm on earth, I want to do something worthwhile. When I wake up in the morning, I'm raring to go, because I have something meaningful and fulfilling waiting for

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## KIDS LOVE THE READING ROOM!

by Brandy Pearson

Around 10 o'clock on a Saturday morning, kids begin to trickle into Brother Benno's Reading Room through a door that declares "Kids Only!" Volunteers greet each child and ask them to write their name on the large white board on the wall.

"What kind of books do you like to read?" a volunteer asks. Many kids are shy and simply drift over to the table where books with a collage of illustrations and cover art are on display. After a child chooses a book or two, the volunteer asks him or her, "Do you want to read to me, or would you like me to read to you?"



Regardless of their reading level, most children seem to take pride in their skills and opt to read to the adult. Many of the kids are regulars; and, knowing the drill, they plop down next to a volunteer and simply begin reading aloud.

The reward for reading is not only getting to take the books home, but also to take a toy or stuffed animal from the much-loved treasure chest. Admittedly, it seems at first that the treasure chest is the primary incentive for reading; but I've noticed that they cuddle their books as protectively as they do the cute sock monkey or fluffy teddy bear they've chosen from the chest.

Some books are competitively sought after, titles like *Dora the Explorer*, *Star Wars*, and *Goosebumps*. Other books with striking cover art that promise the intrigue of dragons or magic have found themselves in a tug of war between two kids, both saying, "Hey, I want that one!"

**Debbie Fredette** coordinates the activities in the Reading Room, and she is aided by the following volunteers: **Linda Gomez, Alfonso Gomez, Rose Reed, Atheena Ramos, Kathryn Lalana, Gretchen Kotch, Betty Vander Velde, Heather Buckley, Pon-tea Dianati, Brandy Pearson, Elvia Salazar, and Sergio Salazar.**

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The Thrift Shop is also sponsoring one of 47 apartments in the "House to Home" project sponsored by Solutions for Change, a local organization that works to create permanent solutions to homelessness by offering workshops and classes for parents to help them find jobs and learn how to sustain financial stability. Volunteers from the Shop will set up the furniture and household items that will transform an apartment into a cozy home for a family that has graduated from "Solutions University."

A final note about the Thrift Shop: the \$5-a-Bag sale has returned on the last Friday of every month! All the clothing you can stuff into a bag costs just \$5, cash only!

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me. Working here gives me happiness and joy. What's better than that?" (Harold asked her, "How long do you think you'll keep doing it?") "Until they carry me out!" she said.

Rest in peace, dear Virginia.

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

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**



**[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)**



**[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)**

**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>**

**Brother Benno's Auxiliary  
Invites You to Join Us for Lunch at the**

**Outback Steakhouse  
2485 Vista Way, Oceanside, Ca. 92054  
Friday July 19, 2013**

Once again thanks to the generosity of Janice Koehler, proprietor of the Oceanside Outback Steakhouse, Brother Benno's Auxiliary will be able to sponsor a fund-raiser to provide school supplies for needy children.

The facility and food are provided by Janice Koehler. The employees are donating their services, therefore a generous tip would be greatly appreciated.

This year you will again have the opportunity to sponsor a Marine to honor them for their service to our country.

Two seatings for lunch are offered:

First seating at 11:30 A.M. and must be out by 12:45 P.M.

Second seating at 1:00 P.M. and must be out by 2:15 P.M.

Each seatings is limited to 100, therefore, please mail your reservation by Friday, July 12, 2013. The cost of the lunch is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children ten and under.

The lunch selections for adults consists of either a 9 oz. Sirloin Steak, Chicken on the Barbecue or Grilled Salmon. Each meal is served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Cesar Salad and a beverage (coffee, tea or soda). The child's plate consists of Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes and a beverage.

Questions? Contact Maureen Tutino, 760-598-8211 or Tanya Bryson, 760-715-4915

Please enclose the below form with your check.

Cut-----cut-----cut-----cut-----cut-----cut-----

Check your seating selection and fill in the number of adults and children attending.

\_\_\_ 11:30 A.M. \_\_\_ 1:00 P.M. \_\_\_ Adults @ \$20.00 ea. \_\_\_ Children @ \$10.00 ea.

I would like to buy lunch for a Marine \_\_\_ Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: BROTHER BENNO'S AUXILIARY.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Adress: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Maureen Tutino, 1529 Roma Dr., Vista, Ca. 92081 or  
Tanya Bryson, 1506 Oak Dr. #118, Vista, Ca. 92084



**Memorials**

Brother Benno	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	Jacinto Soto
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Milton Knight
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Squirrell Family
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Nysewander Family
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Richard Mather
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Ida Lea Roberts
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Lorraine Ybarra
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	William & Vennita
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Flanagan
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Virginia Sylwestrzak
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Stanley LaMonte
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Jeanne Nickel
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Dancy & Zeferino
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Nares
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Bob, Naia, & Ricky
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Provost
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	Billy Pry
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	<b>HAPPY FATHER'S</b>
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	<b>DAY</b>
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	Al Basteri
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Alan Port	<b>Get Well</b>
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Gilbert Brown	Harold Harrison
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Myron Mooney III	

**Needs**

Gently used furniture  
Men's pant and shorts sizes 30-32-34-36

Diapers  
Boxers small-medium-large

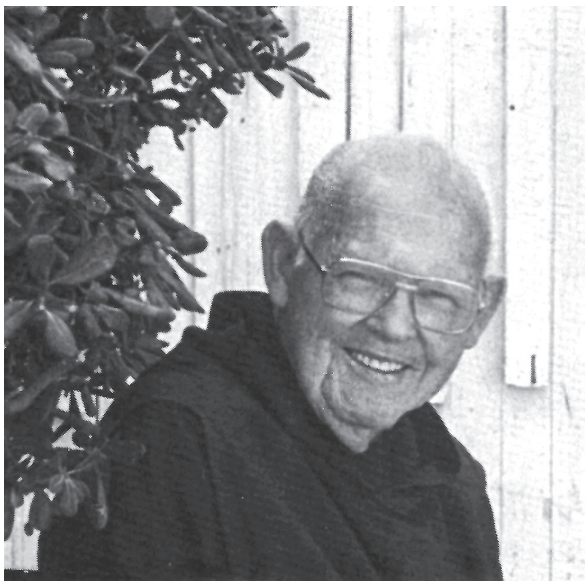
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 2013 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>	<b>1</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>2</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>3</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>4</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>5</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>6</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>8</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>9</b> Hawkes Home	<b>10</b> Stew's Crew	<b>11</b> Oceanside Civitan's	<b>12</b> St. Patrick's	<b>13</b> The Farmers of Morro Hills
	<b>15</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>16</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>17</b> Grace Anglican	<b>18</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>19</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>20</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>22</b> Christ Anglican	<b>23</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>24</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>25</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>26</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>27</b> Catholic Daughters
	<b>29</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>30</b> Welk Resort	<b>31</b> Soroptimist International			

**Furniture Sales at the Center**

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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 Foundation, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049**

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



**Brother Benno's Thrift Shop**

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

**Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture**

**Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!**

**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, 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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	May 2013	Our 29th Year		May 2013	Our 29th Year
Meals	13,361	3,420,751	Loads of laundry	22	26,423
Nights of lodging	911	238,713	Food packs	2,093	224,716
Articles of clothing	6,229	990,624	Blankets	158	34,765
Showers	1,187	179,561	Prescriptions	7	7,136
Haircuts	140	15,430	ID Vouchers	10	8,423
Bus passes	112	76,777	HUGS	1,800	850,594