Brother Benno’s Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2016

CHILDREN SHOW DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING AND LOVE

Brother Benno’s believes that we’re never too old—or too young—to learn about the beauty of helping others. However, when three staff members and seven children from the Discovery Isle Child Development Center in Oceanside came to tour the Brother Benno Center on June 7, there was some concern that children of such a young age might not appreciate what we do.

Frank Doherty, who led the tour, brought the group into the Children’s Reading Room. He said that at first the children were fidgety, talking and looking all around. But then he started asking questions about being poor, and suddenly he had their total attention.

“Why do you think people are poor?” he asked. “Because they don’t have a job,” one little boy said. “Because somebody gets sick,” said another child. “And what can we do to help them?” “Give them some food.”

And so it went. “Their responses to the questions showed an unbelievable sense of understanding, compassion, and love well beyond their age,” Frank said. “This discussion with the children is among the most memorable times I’ve had at a tour presentation. I think it may have had a very positive impact on the children.”

GUESTS ARE HELPED WITH RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Helping people at Brother Benno’s takes many forms; and when funds are available, providing temporary relief by paying part of our Guests’ rent continues to be an important way we serve.

Mary Holguin and Bill Harper have been volunteers in this important area for several years, and they say the need never seems to end.

In order to qualify, Guests must be a family with children, a senior citizen, or a disabled person. Typical reasons for needing help are being laid off from a job or not being able to work because of illness.

Even when these qualifications are met, Mary said she is careful to be sure those requesting assistance really need our help. “First I ask them what their monthly rent is,” she said, “and then I ask how much of that amount they can come up with themselves. If they say their rent is $1,000, and they can only provide $800, then I’m likely to authorize the needed $200. I think it’s important for them to take as much responsibility as possible, and not to rely too heavily on us. That also gives people a sense of pride in themselves.”

Mary stresses to the Guests the importance of having a plan for the future. Brother Benno’s typically provides rental assistance to a particular person or family once a year; therefore, they need to be looking ahead. Our help is only an emergency solution.
**EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE**

by Barbara Ladwig

**Seeing Is Helpful.** Three long-time friends of mine have known about and supported Brother Benno’s for many years, but it wasn’t until they took the Saturday tour that they REALLY got to know what we’re all about.

“I thought it was all about feeding people, but there’s so much more!” one of them said.

“I couldn’t believe that huge warehouse with all those boxes of food,” another commented.

Being shown the Chapel, the Children’s Reading Room, and the Clothing Room made a big impression. Even though they’d heard about these things, apparently seeing them made it more real. They also got to meet some of the staff and volunteers, and they saw the line of Guests—men, women, and children—waiting for the meal to be served.

Tours are given on the first Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. No reservations are needed; just come!

**A Welcome Donation.** The Woman’s Club of Vista donated $35,000 in May to area organizations that help improve lives here in North County communities and San Diego County, and Brother Benno’s was one of the lucky recipients. Jan Roberts, the Director of our Women’s Recovery Program, was on hand to accept the donation. In addition to the much-appreciated funds, we were also given a short blurb in the Club’s Donation Day program, telling about some of the services we provide. Many thanks to the Woman’s Club of Vista!

**Getting the Word Out.** A small group of volunteers and staff people meets once a month to discuss topics for the newsletter, our web page, social media, and local newspapers. An obvious theme has emerged at these meetings: we want people to know that serving others is the core of our work, that serving those in need brings meaning to our own lives, and that service produces a ripple effect—one person reaches out, which prompts the receiver to help someone else, and on it goes.

Recently, someone shared a rather typical experience since being involved at Brother Benno’s, going from a person who always needed a pat on the back for any “good deeds,” to now thanking God every day for the quiet, unsung opportunity to make a difference in someone else’s life.

We know the spirit of self-giving often has a positive effect on the poor and homeless we meet every day, and we hope that spirit is somehow transmitted to all our friends and supporters who make the work of Brother Benno’s possible.

**Check It Out!** Have you visited our website recently? [http://www.brotherbenno.org/](http://www.brotherbenno.org/) It’s been updated, and you can easily access our Facebook and Twitter accounts, or click on **About - Our History** to watch a short video.

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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 Frank Doherty (760-804-1948 or dohertye@aol.com).
FINDING MEANING AT BROTHER BENNO’S
by Frank Doherty

We at Brother Benno’s have a unique opportunity to live out lives of mercy and compassion. I don’t think there has ever been a time when the need for love and compassion has been greater.

Our numbers of chronically homeless, unemployed, and disfranchised people continues to grow. Our staff and volunteers have the blessed opportunity to provide unconditional love and compassion each day, and our donors provide us the financial means to carry out our work.

Most of the people we encounter each day are in need in some way. The materially poor need food, clothing, showers, and housing. And almost everyone needs a smile, a kind word, a prayer, and an outward sign of our love and appreciation.

One of the greatest gifts we have to give is our presence, the giving of ourselves. Joy comes to those who in a sense forget themselves and become focused on the needs of others others. A hug and a smile can free our poor and disfranchised from their prison of loneliness, and sometimes an encouraging word can help remove their blindness to their own goodness.

So often when our volunteers return a smile and provide a service, it is they who receive the most. In so doing, they realize that they can make a difference in the lives of others. They find a new sense of meaning and joy, whether it be at the Center, our Thrift Shop, or while working on the many projects undertaken by our Auxiliary. Volunteers who experience the most joy are those who have sought and learned how to serve.

Many of the men and women who have successfully beaten their alcohol and/or drug addictions in our Recovery Programs attribute their success to AA, and also to the love they experienced during their time at Brother Benno’s.

The staff, volunteers, Auxiliary members, and donors are a family. They are all vital to our success. Brother Benno’s could not exist without them.

Serving at Brother Benno’s provides us with a way to live out a life of mercy and compassion, making a real difference in our world and in our own lives as well.

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AWAKENS MEMORIES

When funds are available, the Brother Benno Foundation awards college scholarships to local high school seniors. The following letter was received from a grateful recipient of one of those awards:

“Dear Mr. O’Connell, My name is David Jimenez, a senior at El Camino High School and the recipient of your scholarship award. I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for choosing me as the award winner, and I will be using this money to assist me in attending UCR (University of California Riverside).

“The night of the award ceremony, my mother reminded me of when we were so poor, we would go to Brother Benno’s for canned foods, school supplies, and Christmas gifts. For me, the Christmas gifts were the best because as a young child, they filled my heart with joy.

“Who would have thought that I would be receiving a financial award from a Foundation that provided food, gifts, and warmth for me in the past. I believe this proves that we live in a small world and there is always opportunity for us to give back to our communities.

Again, I thank you for being here for me in times of need, and for supplying me with a scholarship award. ~ David Jimenez”

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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
Our annual fundraiser at the Outback Steakhouse is only weeks away. The proceeds from this event provide gifts for the registered kids and their families at the Brother Benno Center Christmas Party, which will be held on Saturday, December 17.

This is also an opportunity to sponsor a meal for a member of our Military, to honor them for their service to our country and to Brother Benno’s. If you’d like more information, contact Eileen Ciganko, Co-Chair (760-804-5962).

Planning continues to evolve for our main event, the Annual Luncheon with Fashion Parade on Saturday, December 3, once again at the Sheraton Resort and Spa in Carlsbad. SAVE THE DATE NOW, and think about how you can help us to stage this event. We need help before, during, and after!

This year we will have three Co-Chairs to spread the workload and allow more of you to volunteer in a meaningful way. Karen Gallagher (760-434-1058) and Nita Rodriguez (760-994-0355) have volunteered for the two major areas, and we are looking for Co-Chair #3. Could that be you? Call them for detailed info. This is the time we need the most volunteers.

Our mini-speaker this month will be Mary Holguin, one of our case workers at the Center. She’ll tell us about herself and what she does. Join us on Wednesday, July 27, at 1 p.m. for social time with snacks and 1:30 for our meeting.

Get the latest details on what’s happening with the Auxiliary as we all work together to support the Brother Benno Foundation. Visitors are always encouraged and welcomed! Hope to see you there.
Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie Bales
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Mary Teresa 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
Tom Hayward
Elizabeth Holmes
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben E. Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Michael & Monty
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Pope John Paul II
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
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Mother Teresa
Harold Thompson
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Nysewander Family
Squirrel Family
Fred Hilton
Gilbert Brown
Dewaine & Lynn
Kolbo
Toyoko & Walter
Zurvalec
Joe Koenn
Bernie Weiler
Donald Deffenbaugh
Lillian & Chester
Rarus
Andrew & Jane
Yandura
Mary Gregush
May Taylor
Bob Strawbridge
Bruno Acosta
Fr. Brad Cusak
Deacon Richard
Mather
Mary & Joseph
Opatkiewicz
Roger Malloy
Kathy Ryder
James O’Keefe
Sarah McPherson
Agatha Johnson
Marcela Hanson
John, Helen, Matt
Hogan

Happy Birthday

Marie Smeltzer

Needs

Gently used furniture  Diapers  Reading glasses  Bottled Water  Baby Wipes
Used Vehicles   Hoodies  Easy-to-Carry Blankets   Hotel size hygiene items

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<tr>
<th>July 2016</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Team Wyndham</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1st MLG FCPOA</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Christ Church</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>St. Mark’s San Marcos</td>
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<td>San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
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Furniture Sales at the Center
3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm
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, 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

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 Daily Specials!!
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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

Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>May 2016</th>
<th>Our 32nd Year</th>
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<td>Meals</td>
<td>12,421</td>
<td>3,900,224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>275,210</td>
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<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>5,905</td>
<td>1,190,665</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
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<td>219,620</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>20,210</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>80,749</td>
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<tr>
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<th>May 2016</th>
<th>Our 32nd Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Loads of laundry</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27,359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>1,453</td>
<td>299,546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>40,315</td>
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<td>Tarps</td>
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<td>ID Vouchers</td>
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