



# 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."

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## 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.

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## 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!

**A Celebration!** About one hundred Program Members and Alumni, along with some of their families, got together for the Annual Brother Benno Memorial Day Picnic at the beach. The men cooked hamburgers and hot dogs, and the women put together huge pasta and fruit salads. One family entertained the group by playing bongo drums, and impromptu "ball games"—which were mostly just tossing footballs, soft balls, and beach balls—kept many of the participants happy. It's a time of camaraderie for the men and women whose lives have been changed by our Recovery Programs.

**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/> 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 [dohertyfe@aol.com](mailto:dohertyfe@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. 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>

### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Carol Sanford

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.

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**“Christmas in July”  
Fundraiser  
Friday, July 29, at noon  
Outback Steakhouse  
2485 Vista Way, Oceanside**

**Choice of 7 oz. Steak,  
Barbecued Chicken, or Grilled Salmon  
Only \$20**

**Kids \$10  
Chicken Tenders**

**Mail checks to  
Joan O’Connell  
2841 Andover Ave.  
Carlsbad 92010**

**Do It Now!**

**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)**

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_



### Memorials

Ron Alexander	Mary Gerrity	Dick & Terry Riley	Bernie Weiler
Dixie Bales	Bob Gleason	Margaret Rossini	Donald Deffenbaugh
Frank Barnet	Tom Hayward	Ann Sauer	Lillian & Chester
Brother Benno	Elizabeth Holms	Mary Shankle	Rarus
Edith Blaiser	Alice Jordan	Naomi Shelton	Andrew & Jane
Andrea Boersma	Ben Kouns	Bernice, Samuel &	Yandura
Roland Bond	Richard Kurtz	Milton Silver	Mary Gregush
Bill Boster	Carole Kutler	Will Skinner	May Taylor
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Kay Kutler	Mike Stendahl	Bob Strawbridge
Bill Buckner	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Margaret Stephan	Bruno Acosta
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Fr. Brad Cusak
Mary Teresa Carr	Helen Lucas	Mother Teresa	Deacon Richard
Anna Correia	Bill & Joan Maloney	Harold Thompson	Mather
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helene McGill	Rosemary Tucker	Mary & Joseph
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Michael & Monty	Walter Ulloa	Opatkiewicz
Frank S. Dolley	Nares	June Williams	Roger Malloy
Anita H. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Fred Williamson	Kathy Ryder
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Zeferino & Dancy	James O'Keefe
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Ben Osgrove	Nares	Sarah McPherson
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Pope John Paul II	Nysewander Family	Agatha Johnson
Fr. Abbot Claude	Kathryn D. Pent	Squirrel Family	Marcela Hanson
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Peterson	Fred Hilton	John, Helen, Matt
Myron Eichen	Jane Pfau	Gilbert Brown	Hogan
Richard Farhquar	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Dewaine & Lynn	
William & Vennita	Alan Port	Kolbo	<b>Happy Birthday</b>
Flanagan	Mary Pullman	Toyoko & Walter	Marie Smeltzer
Louise Foussat	Catherine L. Quinlan	Zurvalec	
Joe & Ida Friend	Dora Ramirez	Joe Koenn	

### Needs

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

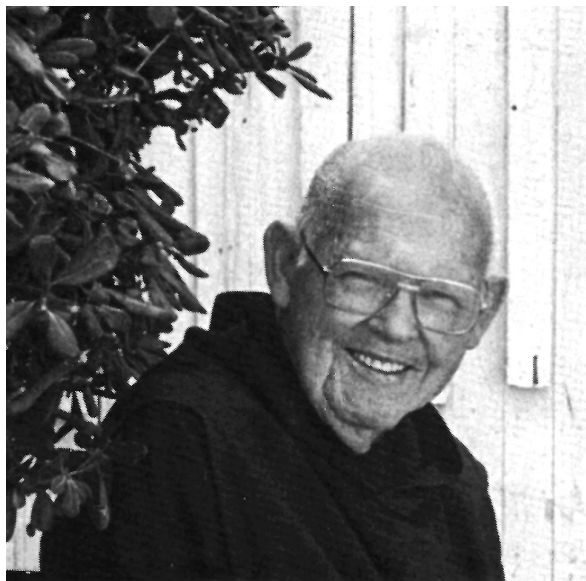
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July</b>					<b>1</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>2</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2016</b>						
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>4</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>5</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>6</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>7</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>8</b> St. Patrick's	<b>9</b> Vietnamese Com- munity St. Francis
<b>Serving</b>	<b>11</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>12</b> Team Wyndham	<b>13</b> 1st MLG FCPOA	<b>14</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>15</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>16</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>18</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>19</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>20</b> Grace Anglican	<b>21</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>22</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>23</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>25</b> Christ Church	<b>26</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>27</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>28</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>29</b> King of Kings Lutheran	<b>30</b> Shiloh Church of God In Christ

### 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.

**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 Daily Specials!!**

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



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	May 2016	Our 32nd Year		May 2016	Our 32nd Year
Meals	12,421	3,900,224	Loads of laundry	27	27,359
Nights of lodging	923	275,210	Food packs	1,453	299,546
Articles of clothing	5,905	1,190,665	Blankets	119	40,315
Showers	1,089	219,620	Tarps	98	1,228
Haircuts	139	20,210	ID Vouchers	3	8,842
Bus passes	101	80,749	HUGS	1,800	920,794