



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2018



ONE DAY AT A TIME

"One day at a time" is a well-known phrase connected with Alcohol Anonymous. "Don," who's been clean and sober for eight years, says he sometimes has to tell himself, "One hour at a time," or even "One minute at a time." Still. After eight years.

Don started drinking when he was 13, even though his father, also an alcoholic, tried to keep him from it. "I just had to have it in order to deal with anything," he said. "I don't know why."

When he was 21, he started what would become a career as a chef at high-end hotels, both in the U.S. and overseas. His services were sought after, but he often lost jobs because of his drinking, as well as his added addiction to meth. He spent a lot of time in prison for various drug-related offenses, and there was an eight-year period when he was homeless.

"I collected cans and other stuff I could sell by rummaging through dumpsters, and that's how I had money to buy drugs," he said. He was also able to find decent food there, because he had figured out when the "really good stuff" would be thrown out. He added that being drunk and high made it easy for him to think this kind of life was just fine.

Over the years, Don was able to get clean and sober long enough to get good jobs, build up a cash reserve, and find a nice place to live. But at some point, he'd go back to booze and drugs and homelessness.

In 2010, one of Don's "dumpster buddies" reappeared in his life. This man had successfully completed Brother Benno's Recovery Program, and he was able to convince Don that it was time for him to enter the Program.

With constant support from this friend, he graduated from the Program and was finally able to get off the alcohol and drugs that had dominated his life for so many years. He again got a great job as a chef and retired this year at age 67. He attends AA meetings every day and goes to church once or twice a week.

Don says it's still "One day at a time," and he credits his decision to continue to be involved at Brother Benno's as a volunteer that makes his sobriety easier to maintain. He comes in every day to mentor current Program members or to work with the homeless, especially those facing the most dire challenges. He's been there, so he understands their needs and wants to give back for what he's been given.

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HAROLD WAS MY SAVING GRACE

By a Recovery Program Graduate

Most of my life has been filled with addiction and all the inherent destruction it causes. This included three times through the Brother Benno Recovery Program, beginning in 1999. I knew when I showed up the last time in 2010 that I needed someone who was kind and gentle, and who embodied the spirit of unconditional love, and I knew that someone was Harold. I asked if he would mentor me, and he said yes.

Harold was over 80 years old at the time and was still involved in the day-to-day operations of the Brother Benno Foundation. I let him know that I would be baring my soul with all of its attendant sickness and selfishness. He said he was okay with that.

continued on page 3....

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

We Need Teams! I had to smile when one of our volunteers reported that three of our morning serving teams have “aged out!” That means we have three openings for new serving teams: the fourth Monday, Tuesday, or Friday. Each team includes seven to ten people who are at the Center from 6:30 to 8 a.m. one day a month (unless they opt for other volunteer jobs as well). If you'd like more information or are ready to sign on, please call **Suzy** (760-941-1876).

A Helping Attitude. The employees of Medtronic in Carlsbad have been supporting Brother Benno's for several years by collecting items, adopting families, and providing financial support. Their most recent project involved collecting items for 100 “safety kits” to be given to our homeless Guests. Included in each bag were Band-Aids, sun screen, antibiotic ointment, nail clippers, can openers, bottled water, and snack bars.

Groups of employees also came to the Center on two Saturdays to sort food donations from our recent postal drive collection. On one of those days, the group sorted about eight tons of food!

This kind of partnering with local businesses is much appreciated!



About Those Gift Cards. We sometimes ask for donations of gift cards to stores like Walmart and Target. These cards are not given directly to Guests or Program Members; they are used by staff members to purchase items that are not usually donated, must be suited to a particular person, or are needed immediately. Examples might include underwear, or makeup for a woman going to a job interview.

Hey Kids, Let's Read! St. Thomas More Church in Oceanside recently ran a campaign to collect children's books. A full truckload of beautiful books were delivered to the Center by **Deacon Tom Goeltz**, who was greeted by our volunteer, **Brother Kevin**.



Brother Kevin and Deacon Tom Goeltz

Our Children's Reading Room is open every Saturday, where children can read or be read to by volunteers. They are also invited to take home and keep a book of their choice. Sometimes a volunteer helps the children with a craft project; for example, they were able to make a bracelet for their moms for Mother's Day.

This special place provides a caring environment for children of homeless or needy parents, and we appreciate the help we receive to keep it well stocked.

A Loving Gesture. A young boy came to the Center one morning to donate money. He'd been saving it for a long time, just so he could help Brother Benno's. When we counted the bills and coins, it amounted to \$40.93.

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THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS GET CREATIVE

By Michelle Hoppe, Manager

The Shop recently participated in a charity event benefitting the Oceanside Public Library. The Friends of the Library sponsored "A Royal Tea," and the Shop entered the table-decorating contest. Many of our decorations were donations from the Shop, and we ended up winning Best Table Decoration! Stop in and see all the china and tea cups that we have for sale, and you can have your own special event!

The Shop now has a Pantry! We've been giving out bread on Saturdays for some time, and we realized that maybe our customers need other food, too. I went to volunteer **Jim Napier** with the idea, and he brought the plan to life. He made the sign, built the Pantry, and filled it with food. It's been a success, and it's usually bare by the end of the day. We ask people to limit themselves to two items so there's something for others.



Jim Napier

The Thrift Shop held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 22. Approximately 50 men and women enjoyed a BBQ dinner and some

country line dancing! We cherish our volunteers and appreciate their service!

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When I would bring my issues to Harold, he'd listen and then suggest ways to react or respond with love and compassion instead of fear and selfishness. Over the period of the next few years, my respect and admiration for him grew with each experience and challenge that we faced together. He began to give me tasks that allowed me to understand how to have a relationship with people I perceived as "difficult" with compassion instead of judgment. I still work on this lesson today.

I was so honored that Harold allowed me into his personal life. He invited me to go to events with him that he enjoyed. I was able to see a side of him that most people did not get to experience. I believe he eventually trusted me as a friend; I am proud to say he was mine.

I continue to stay involved with the Brother Benno Foundation for many reasons. One of the most important is to continue to show the same type of unconditional love and charity that Harold taught me. I will always be grateful that he was my mentor and my friend.

(Editor's Note: As many readers know, our Founder, Harold Kutler, died in March.)

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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 Nita Rodriguez

On June 16 during the Saturday spaghetti brunch at the Center, 50 of our Guests received a special treat—a **Father's Day Gift Bag**. **Teresa Keith** and her worker bees created these gift bags from donations. We thank her and the many members who participated in this wonderful activity.

Richard Giroux, Brother Benno Foundation Board President, spoke to our group at our June meeting. He shared with us the goals that the Board is working toward to help the homeless and working poor. Members had an opportunity to ask him questions. We all very much enjoyed meeting and speaking with him.

It's Christmas in July! To support our Children's Christmas Party in December, we are holding our annual "Gift Card Drive." We will be collecting **\$25 gift cards from Target and Walmart**. We've found this is the best way to put a world of fun together for children in need. Our goal is to collect 200 gift cards this year. If you can help us, please send an email to auxiliary@brotherbenno.org and we'll email the donation form to you. You can then send us your gift cards; or if you prefer to give us a check (payable to Brother Benno's Auxiliary), we'll purchase the cards. Our address is: Brother Benno's Auxiliary, Christmas in July, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068.

You're invited to join us at our **next Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, July 25**, in the Center Dining Room. Social time and snacks start at 1 p.m., followed by the meeting at 1:30. Why

don't you check us out? We welcome all to join in and give input.

Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? Download our membership application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>. Copy and paste, or just type the link in your computer browser and it will take you directly to our membership application on our Google drive account. You can download the application from there.

Save the date: December 1, 2018. Watch this space. More to come!

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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 Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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	Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Carol & Herb
Dixie & Lou Bales	Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Thornberg
Frank Barnet	Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Rosemary Tucker
Brother Benno	Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	Walter Ulloa
Edith Blaiser	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	June Williams
Andrea Boersma	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson
Roland Bond	Tom Hayward	Alan Port	Jack Gillen
Bill Boster	Elizabeth Holms	Mary Pullman	Molly Wilbur
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Catherine L. Quinlan	Gilbert Brown
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Dora Ramirez	Marv Weekly
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Dick & Terry Riley	May & Robert
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Margaret Rossini	Sturges
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Ann Sauer	Robert Buchach
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Mary Shankle	Al & Fran Snider
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Naomi Shelton	Andrew & Jane
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Bernice, Samuel &	Yandura
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Milton Silver	Bill Daley
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Will Skinner	Bob Strawbridge
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Michael & Monty	Ann Grier Smith	Donald Deffenbaugh
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares	Squirrel Family	Steve Gallagher
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Mike Stendahl	
Myron Eichen	Nares	Margaret Stephan	IN HONOR OF
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Barbara Papa-
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Harold Thompson	Driscoll

Needs

Gently used furniture

Walmart & Target gift cards

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Riverview Church	11 Fairwinds	12 Oceanside Civitans	13 St. Patrick's	14 Medtronics
	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	19 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
	23 Looking for a team	24 Looking for a team	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	28 Catholic Daughters
	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Welk Resort				

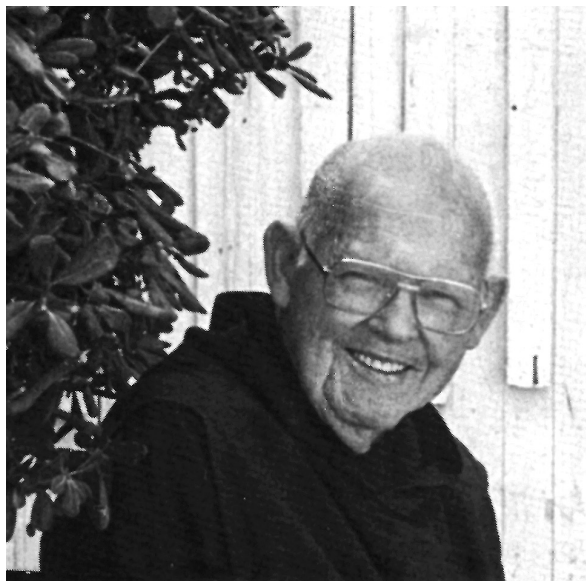
Furniture Sales at the Center

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.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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 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 Services:

	May 2018	Our 34th Year		May 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	12,852	4,214,090	Loads of laundry	26	28,037
Nights of lodging	1,012	296,636	Food packs	1,126	332,153
Articles of clothing	5,528	1,320,926	Blankets	164	44,836
Showers	1,223	248,113	Tarps	130	3,631
Haircuts	23	22,276	ID Vouchers	31	9,129
Bus passes	115	83,482	HUGS	1,800	968,044