



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2021



## VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE CHECK IN

Now that most of the COVID restrictions have been lifted, Brother Benno's is in the process of updating our volunteer lists. One area in particular that needs accurate information is that of the men and women who man the reception desk. If you have already volunteered there, please send us the following information, along with your name and contact info.

Days and times you volunteered--

Did you work alone or with someone else--

Do you plan to return in August--

Do you have any suggestions for the guidelines at the desk--

Do you have an interest in helping in the Intake Office in addition to—or as an alternate job--

We are also looking for volunteers to help with data entry for our new data base.

To respond to any of the above, or to get information about other volunteer opportunities, please send an email to [volunteersatBB@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersatBB@gmail.com)

And thank you!

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## OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN IN EARLY AUGUST!

by Kathleen Diehlmann

The Brother Benno Center will reopen in-person, sit-down dining for our Guests on Monday, August 2. To our serving teams, sandwich makers, and other volunteers, we look forward to welcoming you back, too! If you have not received a call or email, please reach out to [kathleen.diehlmann@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.diehlmann@gmail.com) or [volunteersatBB@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersatBB@gmail.com).

Since the pandemic shut-down began in March 2020, food has been given out “to-go.” Our staff, Recovery Program members, and a limited number of volunteers provided love, outreach, and nourishment. In addition, the Center had a vaccine event in April. The Oceanside HOT team from the police department has also come to vaccinate those we serve.

Plans are coming together for the demolition of the old serving line and the construction of a new one later this year. Stay tuned for more details about this upgrade in a future newsletter.

We would like to thank our staff, Recovery Program members, and volunteers for all their hard work during these challenging times. To our volunteers who had to stay away, we have missed you! We look forward to continuing to uplift the dignity of those we serve. Now we can do this work inside the Center instead of outside!

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## UNEXPECTED WINDFALL FROM ARIZONA BOYS

by Barbara Ladwig

How did it happen that a high school football team from Arizona brought a donation of freshly caught fish—all fileted and wrapped for the freezer—to Brother Benno's?

The team from the American Leadership Academy in Gilbert, Arizona, played in a tournament in North San Diego County and “won the whole thing.” As a bonus, they were treated to a day of deep-sea fishing and were successful on that front, too. The boys and their coaches decided to donate their catch to a non-profit in our area, and an Internet search led them to choose Brother Benno's.

When the team brought the fish to the Brother Benno Center, they were greeted by staff member **Ron Lamb** and Board member **Helen Parsons**. “We treated them to pizza,” Helen said, “and then we gave them an overview of our mission and answered many questions.”

Who knows how that unplanned coming together of boys from Arizona and members of the Brother Benno family might result in a new awareness for them of the needs of the less fortunate.



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## FROM THE BOOK

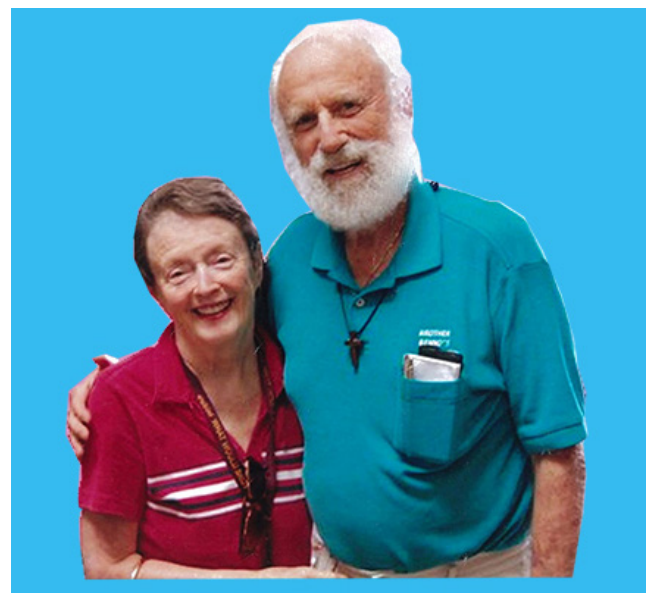
In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, **Harold Kutler** included a chapter titled “Personal Growth.” His wife **Kay's** story follows.

“Because of my perceived deficiencies, I thought I could never do anything seriously important. Sure, I could belt out a song before a big crowd, but that's entertainment. Yes, I could carry on a conversation with anyone. But if we ventured out beyond small talk—OUCH! So I judged myself a lightweight—until Brother Benno's entered my life.

Finally my gifts of hospitality, entertainment, and empathy for the underdog gave meaning and fulfillment to my life that I never experienced before. Soon I realized God did have something important for me to do, beyond marriage and motherhood. I became an instrument of love and hope to His needy ones.

Each special occasion at Brother Benno's has been a gift to me. I experience such joy seeing our guests' faces when we celebrate a holiday. Hugging the little ones and feeling their excitement is a precious gift to me.

In October 2003, we celebrate our 20th anniversary at Brother Benno's, our two millionth meal, and our 40th wedding anniversary. Have I ever got milestones!”



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### GIRL SCOUTS PITCH IN TO HELP THE HOMELESS

by Barbara Ladwig

Three Girl Scouts were upset when they saw homeless men and women along the freeway, and they wondered what they could do to help. The girls, aged ten and eleven, discussed it with their mothers, who share the duties as Scout leaders, and they came up with an ambitious plan to raise money in order to buy food.

Rachel Mach and her daughter Stella, and Viri Perez, with daughters Daniella and Karina, decided to walk around their neighborhood in Vista, collecting discarded cans for recycling. After many hours, they had only enough cans to earn just a few dollars. Not to be discouraged, they began asking family members, friends, and neighbors to save their recyclables for them, and their total earnings quickly reached \$376. A man who saw them out collecting, asked them what they were doing. When they explained their project, he reached into his pocket and pulled a \$20 bill out of his wallet to add to their stash.

Next they had to decide how to get the food to those in need, so they did an Internet search. With the information they gleaned, plus the fact that one of the dads happens to know one of Brother Benno's staff members, there was no problem making the choice.

On Saturday, June 5, the girls and their mothers brought a load of food items to the Center. One of our staff members gave them a grand tour of the Center, and one of the girls said she thought he looked just like Brother Benno, whose image can be seen throughout the building. Board President Kathleen Diehlmann, who was also there, quipped: "We all start looking like Brother Benno, the longer we are here!"

In addition to bringing the donated food on that Saturday, the girls decorated more than a hundred lunch bags with colorful pictures and uplifting messages. These bags, filled with non-perishable items, are given out every day in addition to the food boxes for families, the elderly, and others.

This first experience of the three girls made them want to continue their relationship with Broth-

er Benno's. They were especially interested in doing something in the Children's Reading Room, and they liked the idea of contributing used clothes for our Clothing Room. Preliminary plans are already in place for them to help in both areas.



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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) \_\_\_\_\_

The Brother Benno Foundation  
PO Box 308  
Oceanside CA 92049

Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

Some new things are happening with the Auxiliary.

First of all, we are going to meet in person this month! It'll be on Wednesday, July 28, at the Brother Benno Center, 3260 Production Avenue, in Oceanside. Social time starts at 1 p.m. followed by the meeting at 1:30. If you are a member, or you just want to check us out, please join us.

I had a book give-away on my driveway on May 14 and 15. Books were free, but a donation to the Auxiliary was requested. It was a fun two days, and a lot of books were distributed to avid readers.



Our Pay-It-Forward Golf Event is on track for October 5. This year, we are happy to invite back civilian golfers to this great day at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. Amy Selich and her committee have been hard at work, and everything is on schedule. I encourage you to look at our website to see what is happening and

how to join or donate to the event: [www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021](http://www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021)

The Auxiliary is also looking at two possible events in the near future: lunch in a local restaurant, and a theater party—both in either November or December. Keep watching for more information, and how you can join the fun.

Again, we hope you are all staying safe. We will meet those of you who are not yet members at one of our regular monthly meetings in the near future. Be well.

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#### Grant Writers Needed

We Train You  
Work At Home  
Great Source of Satisfaction  
Please contact  
Kaye Kelly  
619-933-0339

#### Brother Benno Foundation Recovery Program for Men and Women

760 439 1244 ext. 101  
Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps  
of Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### Information & Online donations: [brotherbenno.org](http://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	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Alan Port	
Brother Benno	Hayward	Mary Pullman	
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Catherine L. Quinlan	
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Dora Ramirez	
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Dick & Terry Riley	
Bill Boster	Jellig	Margaret Rossini	
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Nick Sauer	
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Alva & Frances	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Snider	
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty, Natalie, &	Squirrell Family	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Michael Nares	Mike Stendahl	
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	
Myron Eichen	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb	
Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Thornberg	
Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	
Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	June Williams	

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, this past month's Memorials  
will be published in the August newsletter.**

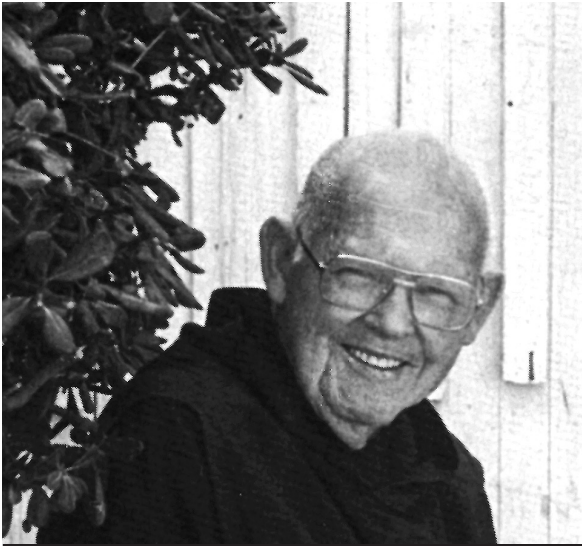
Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or [jim.napier@cox.net](mailto:jim.napier@cox.net).

### NEEDS

Diapers, especially sizes 3 through 6  
small bags of chips  
fruit cups  
protein bars  
crackers  
bottled water  
small juices  
Gatorade

**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**

**Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2**

**We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up**

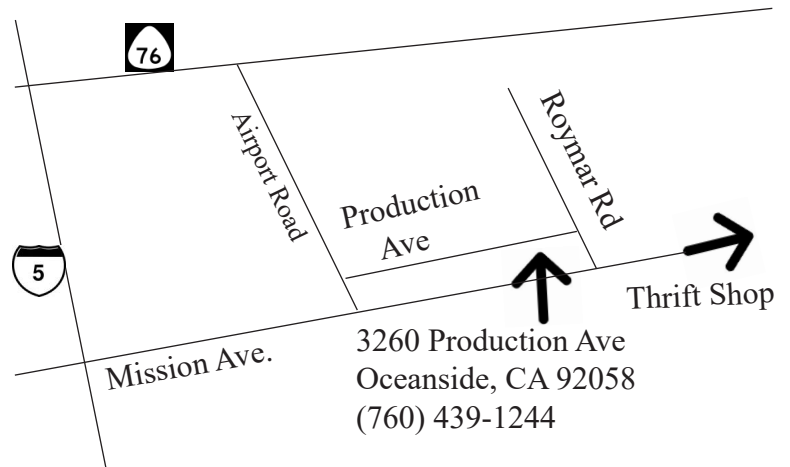
**Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!**

**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 2021	Our 37th Year		May 2021	Our 37th Year
Meals	9,256	4,623,711	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	756	328,588	Food packs	370	360,638
Articles of clothing	2,898	1,443,589	Blankets	49	49,587
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	27	6,415
Haircuts	35	22,862	ID Vouchers	16	10,150
Bus passes	62	86,434	HUGS	0	1,011,244