



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2022



Going all Out for our Guests – Two stories

A disabled elderly couple were renting one bedroom of an apartment on a month-to-month basis. Faced with financial hardship, they were behind in their rent and the couple received a notice of eviction. They contacted Brother Benno's **Mary Holguin**, an experienced volunteer managing our rental and utility assistance program, and asked for rental assistance. In meeting with the senior couple, Mary quickly realized the couple faced serious challenges, particularly the wife's recent blindness condition and her struggle to live with this severe handicap. Mary brought in **Dennis Pinnick**, our Community Outreach Coordinator, who provided the couple a motel voucher to prevent them from becoming homeless. Dennis also contacted San Diego County social workers working at Brother Benno's Hub Center in Oceanside and briefed them on the couple's situation. The County's social workers jumped in to assist in finding additional temporary housing. Dennis provided needed groceries and other items to the couple to support their stay in temporary housing including needed transportation. Unfortunately, the elderly husband suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. He has since recovered and was released from the hospital. Through the efforts of the County's social workers, the couple is in line to shortly receive long term housing assistance. Both the County's social workers and Brother Benno's caseworkers are looking forward to supporting

the elderly couple in moving into their new residence.

In the summer of 2021, a disabled elderly woman lost her truck and trailer to theft and vandalism which caused additional financial hardship and her homelessness to begin. Later in 2021, she was injured in a hit and run accident and Brother Benno's assisted her recovery by providing temporary housing in the form of a motel voucher. Following the use of a motel voucher, the woman was temporarily housed for six months after being issued a San Diego County Housing Voucher. After the six months, she lived, for a short time, in a rental car until she lost the keys to the rental car and the car was towed leaving her homeless on the street. All through this ordeal she stayed vigilant and followed up to find an apartment that would accept her San Diego County Housing Voucher. Brother Benno's caseworkers helped her secure her new residence by paying a holding fee, the costs of background checks and prorated rent for the remaining portion of May. She and her dog are now safely living in an apartment in Escondido. Our caseworkers spoke to her recently and she is doing fine, still in a bit of a financial struggle but very grateful for the timely assistance.

Helen Parsons, a Volunteer Extraordinaire

By MaryLynn Dato-Bryce

Our spotlight this month is on **Helen Parsons**, a long-time volunteer at Brother Benno's. She has been volunteering unselfishly for 17 to 18 years at the Center, thrift shop, as well as speaking at local organizations, schools and businesses. Helen loves meeting with the guests, listening to them, and intervening with whatever they need.



It all started one day when she knocked at the back door of the thrift shop to volunteer. The manager of the thrift shop asked her to iron clothes. Having had to iron work shirts and uniforms for 30 years, she did not return. She went to the Center instead. That is where she met **Harold Kutler** and his assistant, **Mary Robinson**. They started a "Children's Reading Room" on Saturday mornings where they read to the children and listened as the children read. Some of the children had special needs. Each child received a book each Saturday to take home.

One day when Helen was sitting with Harold at the Center, a group of employees and volunteers who worked at the thrift shop came running to Harold. They said that they needed new leadership at the shop or they were resigning! So, Harold turned to Helen and said "Fix it." Helen then started managing the small thrift shop. Harold always wanted her to sell furniture for the needy

but the space would not allow it. Then one day, the building next door to the shop had a fire that gutted the inside. The building was re-built into two buildings and the thrift shop occupied one building. Harold was so pleased to see furniture available to those in need! He signed the lease to this 10,000 sq ft building and came in faithfully once a week to sit in the "Furniture" room. Moving from the original over-crowded thrift shop was one of Helen's greatest joy. Having a happy staff and an amazing manager, **Michelle Hoppe**, was also joyous!

Helen, along with **Suzy Martinek**, came up with a plan to host tours once a month at the Center. "Not only did that give our community a better understanding of our Foundation's purpose but it brought forth much needed volunteers to help with food serving, the thrift shop, our sober living program, accounting etc." Helen commented. "As this evolved, colleges and businesses became interested in our mission. We were asked to speak about the Foundation at many schools, businesses, churches and auxiliaries! **Ron Lamb**, a program graduate and now employee, became my partner at these events. He would talk from the heart and show a picture of himself "before" coming into our sober living program. **Dennis Pinnick** also helped with tours and public speaking!"

"We used to have local adults with special needs come into the Center and do placemat art work etc." Just before the COVID pandemic, Helen experimented with two new projects for them; preparing donated shoes for sale and sorting the hundreds of greeting cards donated. They thrived doing both these tasks, according to Helen. She hopes to reintroduce this project again soon.

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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 Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or jim.napier@cox.net.

GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Tournament fundraising activities are in full swing. We are happy to report that the following businesses have pledged to sponsor our tournament, provide auction items or prizes for our golf contests. this year: Kelly Slater Wave Co, Outerknown, Endorfins, C3Bank, The Fire Pit Collective, Linksoul, Firewire Surfboards, Goat Hill Park, Omni Resorts, Scotty Cameron, Taylor Made, El Camino Country Club, Titleist, Vista Valley Country Club, Aviara Golf Club, ADP, True Links Wear and Callaway.

We truly appreciate the enthusiasm from these businesses and look forward to a great event on October 4, 2022.

If you would like to join us, either as a golfer, a sponsor or both, just visit www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2022 to sponsor, register to golf or donate online. We thank you all for helping us make this fundraiser a success.



AMAZON WISH LIST

Amazon Wish Lists are a registry service that allows a person or organization to create a list of all their greatest needs and wants to then share online so others may select and purchase items from that list on their behalf.

By purchasing items from Brother Benno's Amazon Wish List, you will help ensure that the most pressing needs of the Brother Benno Foundation, the guests we serve, and individuals in recovery we support are being met. Simply go to <https://amzn.to/3zvnPYT> to get started, browse the items we need most, click on an item and follow the instructions.



Are you Social Media Savvy (Or willing to learn?)

We're recruiting Social Media Ambassadors and Assistant Page Managers/Contributors to help us get the word out about Brother Benno's and the work we do to support our community's unsheltered, hungry, and those in recovery from addiction. As our services have grown, so has our need to better recognize our supporting business and partner organizations, our terrific volunteers and our generous donors.

Interested? Contact **Renee**, our Volunteer Coordinator via email: volunteers@brotherbenno.org for more information.



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FIREWIRE
SURFBOARDS

ADP
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SCOTTY CAMERON

Titleist

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Helen was born in Weymouth, MA. She is married to **David Parsons**, also from Massachusetts. David worked for a ship building company until it went bankrupt. So, they moved to Colorado where David worked in the space industry. When David retired, they moved to the Carlsbad area. Helen worked as a school nurse and a nurse educator in Colorado. In Southern California, she worked for Scripps Hospital. This June, Helen and David will be celebrating their 56th Anniversary! They have a son, **Darren**, who lives here in Southern California, and a daughter, **Lisa** who lives in Massachusetts. They have a granddaughter and a grandson. Helen called them the "Loves of our Lives"

"The good Lord has allowed me to work with amazing people. Together, we've been able to create opportunities for our guests and the community. My time in our auxiliary and serving our foundation's board have been priceless. There I learned about the true meaning of loving those in need."

Helen Parsons

Ω

Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Encourage me, and I will never forget you.

~ Author Unknown

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

Printable version: <https://bit.ly/3PvfNET>
Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

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
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 facebook.com/brotherbenno

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...

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Memorials

Ron Alexander	Tom & Louise	Catherine L. Quinlan	Barbara Olish
Dixie & Lou Bales	Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Amy Boone
Frank Barnet	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Bill Pry
Brother Benno	John Jarvie	Margaret Rossini	Ben & Ozelle Lewis
Edith Blaiser	Dorothy and Walter	Ann Sauer	Ruth Johnson
Andrea Boersma	Jellig	Nick Sauer	Gina Braun
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Mary Shankle	Molly Best
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	H. Edward Smith
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Bernice, Samuel &	Family
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Milton Silver	Elizabeth Parrish
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Harold & Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Patricia Hoines
Anna Correia	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Ann Grier Smith	Ream Braegger
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Alva & Frances	Peggy & Beverly
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helen Lucas	Snider	Miville
Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Squirrel Family	Frank Beeson
Anita H. Donahue	Helene McGill	Mike Stendahl	Francis J. Wojcieszak
Dorothy M. Donahue	Monty, Natalie, &	Margaret Stephan	Ron Beckman
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Michael Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Irmagard Wagner
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Zeferino & Dancy	Harold Thompson	Joseph Schubert
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares	Carol & Herb	Adrew & Jane Yandura
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Nordstrom	Thornberg	Will H. Daley
Myron Eichen	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	Barbara LaMothe
Richard Farhquar	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	Dan LaVine
William & Vennita	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	
Flanagan	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson	Happy Birthday
Louise Foussat	Mary Peterson	Dick E. Ellis	Carol Brown
Joe & Ida Friend	Jane Pfau	Floyd & Marie	Emily Mead
Mary Gerrity	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Atkinson	
Bob Gleason	Alan Port	Molly Willbur	
Chance Hales	Mary Pullman	Toni Keane	

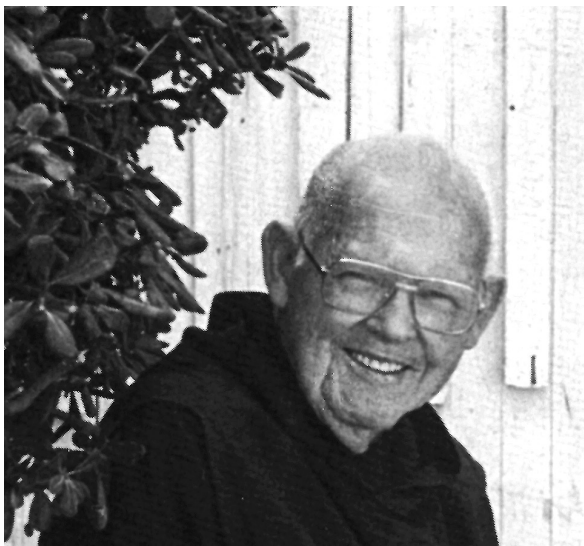
Needs

Gently used furniture Blankets Baseball caps
 Diapers size 5 and 6 Adult Unisex Diapers Women's underwear, sizes 4 and 5
 Men's 2x and 3x t-shirts

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas Moore
2022						
Monthly	4 Closed for 4th of July Holiday	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Juanita's Team	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 St. Vincent De Paul Society
Serving	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 Rotary Clubs of Carlsbad	14 Open	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Team	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ The King Church	20 Friends of Brother Benno	21 Ernest Packaging	22 Grace North County Church	23 Catholic Daughters & Ahee Group
Schedule	25 Servers R Us	26 Rotary Club of Vista	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Open	29 King of Kings Church	30 Shiloh Church of God

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

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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon

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 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 seven recovery and sober living 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.

Please Note Our Mailing address:

The Brother Benno Foundation
Post Office Box 308
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

If you wish to drop off donations or deliver donations in person, our physical address is:

3260 Production Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno's Services:

	May 2022	Our 38th Year		May 2022	Our 38th Year
Meals	10,190	4,718,891	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	966	339,627	Food packs	989	369,822
Articles of clothing	2,756	1,480,003	Blankets	84	50,943
Showers	840	275,409	Tarps	51	7,002
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	24	10,454
Bus passes	255	87,860	HUGS	0	1,011,244
