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.

Ω
Helen Parsons, a Volunteer Extraordinaire

By MaryLynn Datoc-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 joys. 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.

continued on page 4...

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, Endorphins, 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.

Ω

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.

Ω

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.

Ω
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

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...

Name ___________________________ Donation $ __________
Address __________________________ Number of copies ________
City, State, Zip Code ________________

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
Or, donate online at http://brotherbenno.org
Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie & Lou Bales
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary 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 Farquhar
William & Vennita
Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales
Tom & Louise
Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
John Jarvie
Dorothy and Walter
Jellig
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Harold & Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben & Ozelle Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Monty, Natalie, &
Michael Nares
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Nysewander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
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
Nick Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel &
Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Ann Grier Smith
Alva & Frances
Snider
Squirrel Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb
Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Dick E. Ellis
Floyd & Marie
Atkinson
Molly Willbur
Toni Keane
Barbara Olish
Amy Boone
Bill Pry
Ben & Ozelle Lewis
Ruth Johnson
Gina Braun
Molly Best
H. Edward Smith
Family
Elizabeth Parrish
Patricia Hoines
Ream Braegger
Peggy & Beverly
Miville
Frank Beeson
Francis J. Wojcieszak
Ron Beckman
Irmagard Wagner
Joseph Schubert
Adrew & Jane Yandura
Will H. Daley
Barbara LaMothe
Dan LaVine

Happy Birthday
Carol Brown
Emily Mead

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

<table>
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<th>July</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>4 Closed for 4th of July Holiday</td>
<td>5 St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>6 Juanita’s Team</td>
<td>7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>1 San Luis Rey Mission</td>
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<td>11 North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>12 Riverview Church</td>
<td>13 Rotary Clubs of Carlsbad</td>
<td>14 Open</td>
<td>8 St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>9 St. Vincent De Paul Society</td>
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<td>18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
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<td>21 Ernest Packaging</td>
<td>15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
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<td>25 Servers R Us</td>
<td>26 Rotary Club of Vista</td>
<td>27 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>28 Open</td>
<td>22 Grace North County Church</td>
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<td>23 Catholic Daughters &amp; Ahee Group</td>
<td>29 King of Kings Church</td>
<td>30 Shiloh Church of God</td>
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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

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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

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<tr>
<th>Brother Benno’s Services:</th>
<th>May 2022</th>
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