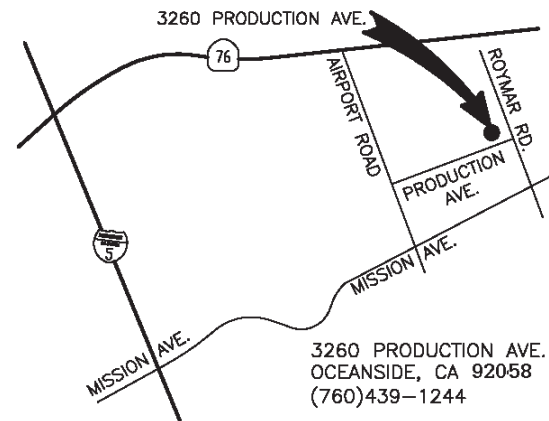


**Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation**

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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)



3260 PRODUCTION AVE.  
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058  
(760)439-1244

# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

June 2011



## UNUSUAL DAYS, USUAL KINDNESSES

There's no such thing as a typical day at Brother Benno's. Some regular volunteers have gone so far as to say they don't plan ahead anymore, because just when they think they have a good schedule mapped out, something unexpected happens and they have to abandon all their plans. But that's not a bad thing. It's usually the unexpected that brings the most joy and satisfaction to their work.

**Kathy Christensen**, who's been volunteering three days a week for almost a year, shared her perspective of what happens on those "unusual" days. She's mainly a receptionist, but she fills in the Clothing Room, or anywhere else she's asked to serve.

"I would say the first thing that comes to my mind about working at Brother Benno's is the warm and friendly atmosphere," Kathy said. "It's the volunteers *and* the Guests—we're almost like a family."

"First-timers have huge difficulty asking for help with food, utilities, or rent," she added, "but they're at the end of their rope—they don't want to ask, but they have to. And then they let us know how happy they are to be treated with respect."

Part of that respect comes from the Program Guys, who carry stuff out to the Guests' cars. And **Pelon**, the head of the kitchen crew, gives the women flowers, and also food. "He's especially caring when he finds out a woman is the victim of abuse," Kathy said. "He can't stand the thought that men batter women."

Kathy said that when she works in the Clothing Room, she often experiences the kindness of Guests to each other. A man came in one winter day asking for clothes, because he'd been

beaten and robbed the night before and had nothing to wear. He asked especially for a jacket, but there were none to be had. Another man, waiting his turn for clothes, told the first man that he had an extra jacket in his car, and he'd be glad to share it. "He went right out and got it," Kathy said. "He lives in his car, so I'm sure he has little to spare, but he didn't give it a second thought."

Since the Clothing Room has limits on the number of items that can be taken each month, mothers often forego something for themselves and take their limit in clothes for their children instead.

Another example of Guest helping Guest occurred one morning when a man brought in a woman he'd seen at McDonalds. She looked awful, Kathy said—skinny, disheveled, with sores on her legs. The man bought her a muffin at McDonalds, then drove her to Brother Benno's, where she was given a meal. Someone is also trying to work out something that will help her in the long term.

Kathy has also seen a few of the famous Brother Benno Miracles. One cold winter day after the regular shelters had already closed, several people came in for warm clothes. All the knit caps had been handed out by then, and the volunteers felt especially bad that they were unable to provide them for these people. "That same day, a bagful of knit caps showed up at the front desk—no note or anything. Someone had just dropped them off," she said.

Another "too good to be true" event happened on the Saturday that the North Coast Church was painting the dining room and sprucing up the bathrooms. A homeless man, who'd never been at the Center before, mentioned that he did

**continued on page 2....**

### Brother Benno's Services:

	April 2011	Our 28th Year		April 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,316	3,095,225	Loads of laundry	37	25,745
Nights of lodging	1,207	210,904	Food packs	2,375	161,670
Articles of clothing	4,135	865,314	Blankets	73	31,703
Showers	775	155,972	Prescriptions	57	6,430
Haircuts	89	12,464	ID Vouchers	11	8,132
Bus passes	158	74,382	HUGS	2,250	802,444

*Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.*

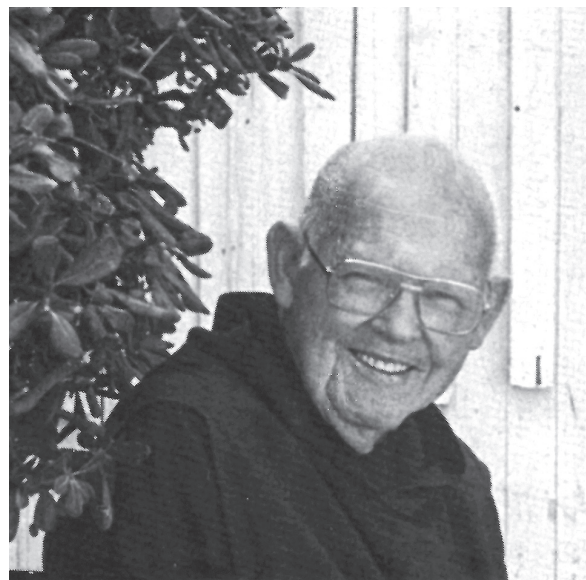
### The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Virtual Tours.** We have two videos on our web page, one recently added. If you'd like to view them, go to brotherbenno.org and click on "View Videos." Both videos show up, along with a link to our book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope: The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, by Harold Kutler. Whether you're an old-timer with Brother Benno's or are just becoming acquainted with us, the videos and the book will offer you an inside look as to why so many of us are thrilled to be part of the Brother Benno Family.

**Church "Service."** About 50 members of North Coast Church in Vista spent a recent Saturday and Sunday at the Brother Benno Center and our two women's houses as part of their program called "The church has left the building," which refers to the fact that weekend services are temporarily set aside in favor of reaching out to the community.

"We want the community to know that we support them; we bring Christ to them," said **Nancy**, one of the volunteers and the wife of the Project Manager, **Tom Manassero**. She told me that their congregation, which numbers between six and seven thousand, are doing 200 projects at schools, hospitals, and organizations like Brother Benno's that serve those in need.

At the Center, the group painted the dining room and installed new toilets and shower heads in the Guests' bathrooms. At MAMI, they put in all new landscaping in the back yard and did some cleanup in front. At DBRJ, they painted part of the exterior of the house.

**Teens Get Involved.** Two sophomore boys who have been friends since kindergarten, **Alex Sweat** and **Jameson Burke**, spearheaded a drive to collect media materials such as books, CD's, and movies, which were donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and to Brother Benno's. The boys are members of the Youth Ministry at St. John's Church in Encinitas, and they said it was easy to collect more than one thousand items by passing out flyers and using email.

"We are gathered together as a church," Alex said. "With 150 kids in the Youth Ministry, it was easy to get the word out, and people just gave us stuff."

"It's good to give back to the community," said Jameson. "We incorporate religion with service. I'd like to do another project, maybe something different next time."

The boys' mothers, **Jola Prosceno-Sweat** and **Jane Burke**, joined their sons in delivering the materials to the Center on Saturday, May 14.

**Passing the Torch.** The giving spirit never ends at Brother Benno's! As they have done for three years, **Lisa Burdette** and her children **Max** (16) and **Samantha** (14) put together Easter bags for our guests. They filled them with toiletries and candy, as well as toys for the kids.

"We took over the project from two girls in our neighborhood, **Christina** and **Elizabeth Fox**," Lisa said. "When they left for college, we decided to continue what they had done."

**God Bless You!** We know we always miss reporting on many of the good deeds that come our way at Brother Benno's. Please know that every effort, large and small, is very much appreciated. May your rewards spill over from the hands of our loving God who knows the goodness of your hearts!

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....continued from page 1

tile work but had been unable to find jobs. He was immediately put to work with the church crew, and several volunteers are working to help him get back on his feet.

Kathy summed up her feelings about volunteering at Brother Bennos: "It's more the spirit (of what we do) than the things (we give away.) We see the saddest, but also the best. Every day here is just a joy."

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## Memorials

Brother Benno	Jane Pfau	Louise Foussat	James O'Keefe
Pope John Paul II	Ron Alexander	Tom Hayward	Rosalie Cooper
Mother Teresa	Mary Peterson	Richard Kurtz	Nysewander Family
Ann Sauer	Frank Barnet	Helen Lucas	Squirrell Family
Joe & Ida Friend	Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Larry Davidson
Mary Nordstrom	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Dora Ramirez	Carter Sanford
Myron Eichen	Monty Nares	Dick & Terry Riley	William Flanagan
Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Bill Buckner	Leo Reuder
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Shankle	Josh Metzler
Richard Farhquar	Mary Teresa Carr	Walter Ulloa	Kathleen Foley
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson	Bea Kremer
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Elizabeth Holms	Carole Kutler	Ann & Tom Witherow
Catherine L. Quinlan	Edith Blaiser	Will Skinner	Stanley LaMonte
Kathryn D. Pent	Ben Kouns	Fr. Abbot Claude	Thomas McCall
Mary Pullman	Bill Lakoff	Ehringer, OSB	Margaret Zachan
Joan Boyd	Bernice, Samuel &	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Kenneth
Agnus Boyd	Milton Silver	Naomi Shelton	Lorraine Hennessey
Harold Thompson	Anita H. Donahue	Rosemary Tucker	Mabel & Arne
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Margaret Stephan	Ben E. Lewis	Suominen
Bob Gleason	Bill Boster	Al Basteri	Jay Pry

## Needs

Motel-size hygiene items  
Aluminum cans for recycling

Men's clothing- socks, underwear, pants & jackets  
Used plastic bags for clothing room

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 2011</b>			<b>1</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>6</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>7</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>8</b> Naval Hospital	<b>9</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>10</b> St. Patrick's	<b>11</b> St. Vincent de Paul
<b>Serving</b>	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Friends from Vista	<b>15</b> Grace Anglican	<b>16</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>24</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>25</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>27</b> 5/11 Marines	<b>28</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>29</b> Soroptimists International	<b>30</b> Grace Anglican		

## Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**  
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.



## NURSING HOME OUTREACH LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

The new Brother Benno outreach to men and women at the Life Care Center in Vista is moving right along with volunteers who are passionate about helping people who have little or no contact with family members. It all started when **Harold Kutler** asked Servant of the Poor **Dennis Pinnick** to deliver flowers to nursing home residents, an old outreach program that had fallen by the wayside. **Heather Pine**, who now heads an expanded program, says she'd love to be able to serve in other nursing homes if she had more volunteers.

"It takes so little to make a senior's day," she said. "They need someone to tell their stories to, someone to read to them, hug them, take them out for patio walks. The more people can be touched, the more loved they feel."

If you'd like to join Heather and her helpers—**Dennis, Regina, Adriana, Trinh, Diane, Monique, Nita, Monica, and Marie**—please contact Heather (heatherpine@yahoo.com or 760-433-8623). Even one hour a week can be important to someone who needs a little loving concern.

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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>

## Kay's Birthday Celebration Photos



Kay Kutler



Sean Smith, Richard Shlemmer, Harold Kutler,  
Jim Shlemmer and Terry Presnall.



Liz Windle, Tom Kennedy, Kay & Harold Kutler

## AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

Our Claim Jumper Restaurant fundraiser in April netted \$203.85. Thanks to all who participated.

Mother's Day bags were distributed on May 7 at the Center. All women present were given a bag of goodies. Thanks to **Rosie McDaniel, Caroline Richards, Victoria Jackson, and Alicia Sullivan** for distributing the bags.

The National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive was on May 14, and La Costa Post Office designated Brother Benno's to be this year's recipient. We had a wonderful turnout of Auxiliary members and other volunteers who came to box the canned goods and other items as they were coming in. Thanks to **Leticia Haro** from Community Housing Works for bringing her youth group, to the "Tooni Girls" and others from Southern California Edison, **Debbie Knight, Linda Misuela, Helene McGill, Ed & Isobel Haring, Sue Derby, Greg** from La Costa Post Office, and many, many others. Special thanks to all the Brother Benno helpers, **Greg, Darryl, Glen, and Jim.**



Make sure you get your Outback Fund-raiser reservations in soon; the deadline is June 27 for the July 9 event. Please contact **Vicky Squires** (760-727-7371).

We still need a theme for this year's luncheon; give your ideas to **Vera Bayliss**. Winner will receive a prize. Also, don't forget to come to the meetings and be eligible to take part in the taste-testing for the luncheon. For every meeting you attend, your name will be placed in the "fish bowl." Two lucky members be announced at the August meeting and will partake in the tasting of several menu items at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa in September.

Opportunity baskets and money trees/ frames are needed for the annual luncheon on December 3, 2011. If you or a group are getting a basket together or donation money for the trees/ frames, please let **Sharon Tasker** know the basket theme and amount donated.

### SAVE THE DATES

June 18 – Father's Day bags distribution

June 22 – Auxiliary Meeting.

July 9 – Outback Fundraiser (Back to School),  
Oceanside

Dec 3 – Annual Luncheon, Sheraton Carlsbad  
Resort & Spa

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**Information & Online donations**

**brotherbenno.org**

### Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:

The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

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