Something happened at Brother Benno’s recently that affected many volunteers in powerful ways, even those who weren’t present to witness the event. The following was written by Diana Shields, a Servant of the Poor, who works in the Intake Office:

“For as long as I’ve been at Brother Benno’s, I have never seen or experienced anything like I did two days ago. “Clarence” is his name—a homeless man who was picked up off the street and brought here to the Center by a caring Christian man. Of all the homeless individuals I’ve seen, Mr. Clarence tops them all.

He looked like he had not had a bath in years. After receiving his Brother Benno card, he was offered a sack lunch and some clean clothes and shoes. He turned down the clothes but did accept lunch and shoes. He was truly clothed and fed. (“I was hungry and you gave Me food, thirsty and you gave me drink.... I was a stranger and you took Me in, naked and you clothed me, in prison and you came to Me...” Matthew 25).

Clarence was taken out to the warehouse for a pair of shoes by two men (who had met Clarence previously—see their story further on in this article). Fifteen minutes later, I went to the warehouse myself to see how things were going, and Lo and Behold!—these two men were performing a task that Jesus had done with his disciples. They had sat Clarence in a wheelchair, taken off his shoes and socks, poured water into a bucket, and were washing his feet. (“He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” John 13).

Seeing these men doing this hit me in the deepest inner part of my soul and brought tears to my eyes. They were true servants, performing exactly what Brother Benno’s was founded on. I never thought I’d say this, but it was a beautiful sight.

As I began to speak to Clarence, he never made eye contact; but after a bit, when I shared that he was so loved—enough to have his feet washed—he looked up at me and I looked him right in the eye and gave him a smile as he tried to return it. I can only believe that it had been so long since he’d smiled, he’d forgotten how. But I know that day was an open door to that smile hidden deep inside of him, lost, but soon to be found.”

Jeff Davis, who volunteers at Brother Benno’s as a truck driver, and his friend Brian Smith, were the two men who washed Clarence’s feet and fitted him with a new pair of shoes. This is what Jeff reported:

He always carries food and water in his truck, in case he sees a homeless person in need. He saw “Clarence” one day on his way home from church, and he immediately knew he was “supposed to” stop and help him. Even though he’d helped many others before, he found that he couldn’t get Clarence out of his mind. He kept...
watching for him as he drove around town, and he told his friend Brian about him. They both spotted the homeless man several times, but he always managed to disappear before they could get to him.

One morning, Jeff walked into the Center, and who did he run into but Brian and Clarence! Together, the two friends helped Clarence get registered with Brother Benno’s and offered to help him find a pair of shoes.

It was obvious that the homeless man was having trouble walking, so they found a wheelchair and took him into the warehouse. His boots were falling apart, with holes everywhere. Very gently, they removed the boots and socks and discovered that Clarence’s feet were caked with layer after layer of dirt and were full of sores.

Jeff and Brian asked for a pail of warm water and a bar of soap, and they spent an hour ministering to a homeless man who could hardly believe what was happening to him. “We soaked each foot for at least 15 minutes,” Jeff said, “then very carefully wiped away the dirt. We did this over and over, until his feet were clean.” They also located nail clippers and again, with the utmost gentleness, cut away the thick encrusted nails that were embedded in flesh. At one point, Jeff noticed that Clarence had put his head back and was saying almost in a whisper, “I’m not worthy of this.”

Jeff said of this experience: “I have to say that the day I washed Clarence’s feet is the happiest day of my life.”

(Editor’s Note: A week later, Clarence came back to the Center to take a shower and get a set of new clothes.)

DRIVE PROVIDES ABUNDANCE

The annual food drive put on by postal workers was another huge boon for Brother Benno’s. The La Costa post office in Carlsbad has made us the recipients of the donations collected by their mail carriers for many years; and this year’s collection, totaling 487 full banana boxes, probably surpassed any in the past.

The Staff estimates that 487 boxfuls add up to about eight tons of food. Included were canned goods of all kinds, boxed dinners, cereal, bulk beans and rice, and many others.

The first group of about 40 volunteers—Auxiliary members, two youth groups, Knights of Columbus from St. John’s, Southern California Edison employees, and Mariposa Adult Group—were at the post office from 3-7 p.m, where they removed the items from the mail trucks, put them into banana boxes, then loaded the boxes into Brother Benno trucks. When the trucks arrived at the Center, eleven first-phase Program Members unloaded them and stacked them up in the warehouse.

In the days following, various groups sorted the items into groups—canned corn in one pile, cereal in another, soup here, Mac and Cheese there, etc. One such group were employees from Pala Casino, who wore yellow tee shirts that said G.L.V.S. on the back, and they specifically asked to work on this project.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, and to the many generous people who put bags of food by their mailboxes for the carriers to pick up. It was truly a beautiful community effort!

Auxiliary News

Gift bags were given to 70 female Guests at the Center on May 12 in honor of Mother’s Day by members Claire Carter, Terri Keyes, and Alicia Sullivan. On May 16, in lieu of a regular meeting, more than 70 members and others gathered at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside for lunch, a talk by Abbot Charles, and a tour. The response was so overwhelming that we’ll be doing it again.

The Outback Luncheon Fundraiser on July 14 will benefit our Back-to-School Backpacks program. We invite military personnel to join us, so if you’d like to sponsor one or more service persons, please indicate that on the form on page 3. Contact Vicky Squires for more information (760-724-7371), or send your reservation form to her at 681 Matagual Dr., Vista, CA 92081.

The HOW (Helping Other Women) Quilt Committee is making quilt blocks for our first quilt fundraising event. The quilt will be 75” by 83” and is called “Enchanted Evening.” Raffle tickets will be available starting in August. For more information, contact Penny Sallee (760-912-8566).

Be sure to put December 1, 2012, on your calendar for our Annual Luncheon.
Brother Benno’s Auxiliary
Invites You to Join Us for Lunch at the

Outback Steakhouse
2485 Vista Way, Oceanside, CA 92054
Saturday July 14, 2012

Once again, thanks to the generosity of Janice Koehler, proprietor of the Oceanside Outback Steakhouse, Brother Benno’s Auxiliary will be able to sponsor a fund-raiser to provide school backpacks and supplies for needy children.

Janice Koehler provides the facility and food; the employees donate their services; therefore, a generous tip would be greatly appreciated.

This year you will again have the opportunity to sponsor a Marine to thank him/her for their service to our country.

Two seatings for lunch are offered:
First seating at 11:30 a.m., must be out by 12:45.
Second seating at 1:00 p.m., must be out by 2:15.
Each seating is limited to 100 people; therefore, please mail your reservation by Friday, July 6. The cost of lunch is $20 for adults and $10 for children ten and under.

The lunch selections for adults consist of either a 9 oz. Sirloin Steak, Chicken on the Barbecue, or Grilled Salmon. Each meal is served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Caesar Salad, and a beverage (coffee, tea or soda). The child’s plate consists of Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes, and a beverage.

Questions? Contact Vicky Squires (760) 724-7371.

Please enclose the form below with your check.

Check your seating selection and fill in the number of adults and children attending.

_____11:30 a.m. _____1:00 p.m. _____ Adults @ $20 each. _____ Children @ $10 each.

I would like to buy lunch for a Marine(s) ______ Total enclosed $____________

Make checks payable to: BROTHER BENNO’S AUXILIARY.

Name:_______________________________________Phone______________________
Address: ______________________________________City/Zip______________________

Mail to Vicky Squires, 681 Matagual Dr., Vista, CA 92081
GREAT STAFF RESULTS IN SUCCESSFUL THRIFT SHOP

by Helen Parsons

The Brother Benno Thrift Shop in Oceanside is consistently able to provide the Center with a steady income, and with substantial increases each year. We have dedicated, hard-working volunteers who put in many hours so that those less fortunate can receive what they need.

Our low prices reflect the hearts of the staff. Michelle, Mary, Christie, Tom, and Denise make sure each customer is treated with dignity and fairness. The spirit of giving is apparent the second you walk in the door. Some of our volunteers have been with us 18 years! It’s hard work day in and day out, yet they lovingly check out each item to make sure it is worthy for our customers to buy. And they do it with a smile.

Thursdays are our 20 percent off days. On the last Friday and Saturday of every month we have a $5 a bag sale. On the last Friday of April, 35 people were lined up before we opened!

Hours at the Thrift Shop are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We accept donations in our truck parked out front from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations can also be left at the Brother Benno Center on Production Avenue from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We need gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, household goods, books, jewelry, and small appliances. Furniture and recyclables should be brought to the Center; pickups can be arranged by calling 760-439-1244, ext. 119.

We are in the process of forming sorting teams, similar to the serving teams we have in the dining room at the Center. Church groups, organizations, and individuals who are interested in signing up for two-hour shifts may email me at parsons7016@sbcglobal.net.

(The Thrift Shop is located at 3965 Mission Ave. in Oceanside, east of Albertson’s. The Center is at 3260 Production Avenue.)

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Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

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

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___________________
Memorials

Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Kay Kutler
Ann Sauer
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Nordstrom
Myron Eichen
Alice Jordan
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Richard Farquhar
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Catherine L. Quinlan
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Pullman
Joan Boyd
Agnus Boyd
Harold Thompson
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Bob Gleason
Jane Pfau
Ron Alexander
Mary Peterson
Frank Barnet
Frank S. Dolley
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Monty Nares
Margaret Rossini
Dorothy M. Donahue
Mary Teresa Carr
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Elizabeth Holmes
Edith Blaiser
Ben Kouns
Bill Lakoff
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Anita H. Donahue
Margaret Stephan
Bill Boster
Louise Foussat
Tom Hayward
Richard Kurtz
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler
Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Naomi Shelton
Rosemary Tucker
Ben E. Lewis
Roland Bond
Anna Correia
Geraldine Howard
Helene McGill
Dancy & Zeferino Nares
Floyd & Rose Caldwell
Mike Stendahl
Tarr Clark
Gilbert Bilouk
Terence Murphy
James O’Keefe
William Flanagan
Stanley LaMonte
Preston McCauley
J.C. Fikes

Needs

Diapers (All sizes, especially 4 & 5)  Disposable Razors  Canned Soup
Men’s and Women’s Deodorants  Toothbrushes  Mouthwash
Men’s Shoes and Socks (suitable for lots of walking)

June

Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday
2012

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St. Elizabeth Seton #1
St. John The Evangelist
Brother Benno’s Auxiliary
Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis
St. Patrick’s
Mira Costa College
North Coast Methodist
Friends from Vista
Naval Hospital
Oceanside Civitans
St. Elizabeth Seton #2
Girlfriends Care
Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista
Christ the King Lutheran
Grace Anglican
Carlsbad Rotary
Fallbrook Presbyterian
Catholic Daughters
Christ Anglican
St. Mark’s San Marcos
San Luis Rey Methodist
Pilgrim Creek
King of Kings Lutheran
Shiloh Church of God In Christ

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.
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, shelter for women and small children, men’s drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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

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<th>Brother Benno’s Services:</th>
<th>March 2012</th>
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<th>March 2012</th>
<th>Our 28th Year</th>
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Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, religion, 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 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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