



Brother Benno's Newsletter

Interdenominational Volunteers Making a Difference in This World

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

June 2012

“JESUS POURED WATER INTO A BASIN . . .”

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.”



“Clarence” - Jeff - Brian

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

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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.)

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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.I.V.E.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!

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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.

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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 _____

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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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

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

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)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2012 Monthly Serving Team Schedule					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Mira Costa College
	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Friends from Vista	13 Naval Hospital	14 Oceanside Civitan	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriends Care
	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Grace Anglican	21 Carlsbad Rotary	22 Fallbrook Presbyterian	23 Catholic Daughters
	25 Christ Anglican	26 St. Mark's San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Pilgrim Creek	29 King of Kings Lutheran	30 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

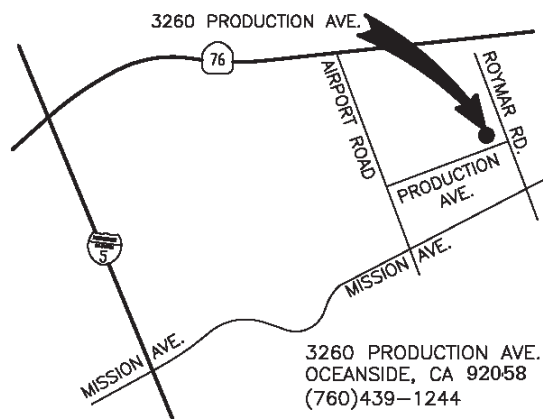
Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

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



Brother Benno's Services:

	March 2012	Our 28th Year		March 2012	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,448	3,247,653	Loads of laundry	32	26,069
Nights of lodging	1,065	224,931	Food packs	2,395	192,474
Articles of clothing	4,016	916,039	Blankets	107	32,942
Showers	952	166,636	Prescriptions	40	6,985
Haircuts	115	14,003	ID Vouchers	13	8,261
Bus passes	64	75,526	HUGS	1,800	825,394

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**

Non-Profit Organization
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166

