



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

June 2014

MARY IS SORELY MISSED

by Barbara Ladwig

It's time to send out a huge Thank-You to a woman who gave her all—and then some—to Brother Benno's for many years. **Mary Robinson** was one of the most recognizable faces of the Foundation as **Harold Kutler's** Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator, Board Member and liaison to the Women's Houses. She formally resigned from all her duties in March of this year.

Even after she and her husband moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, several years ago, Mary continued to serve by way of email, phone, Skype, and occasional car trips for Board meetings. In fact, if you didn't know she had moved, you would have thought she was still in her office at the Center, doing what she always did.

And what Mary always did was to care deeply about every single person with whom she came in contact. Volunteers loved her (we still do!), and those in need knew they were in good hands when Mary took them under her wing. Community members learned about Brother Benno's because she often met with them to promote our services and to ask for help.

Mary was pleasant even when she was tired, gracious when people were difficult, and sensitive to the needs of those who were unable to express their pain. For everyone, she was a cheerleader when things looked bleak, and a mother-hen for anyone who needed a shoulder to cry on. For me personally, she was a friend, and a wealth of information about who does what, and where to go for information for the newsletter.

Tom von Betticher, a former Operations Manager, likened Brother Benno's to a train: people get on, and people get off, but the train keeps running. Yes, the train keeps running; but

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PAY IT FORWARD

by a Volunteer

There has been a lot in the news lately about how people have been "paying it forward." Most of the examples have involved people paying for strangers in line at a fast-food restaurant or coffee house, but my story seems more in line with what we do at Brother Benno's.

About a year ago, I was alone in the case-work side of the building, when a woman in her 20's came in with her young daughter. They were living on the street and had no place to go. We gave her a motel voucher for a few days, and a list of places where she could go for additional help.

She came back recently, and I happened to be there again. She told me that one of the agencies we had suggested she contact allowed her into a program that was "very strict, but very productive." She did everything they required; and as a result she had her arrest history expunged, she was living in subsidized housing, active in her church and AA; and most importantly, her daughter was doing very well.

The reason she came back to Brother Benno's that day was that, even though she had just gotten a job with a government agency, she didn't have money for bus fare to and from work. She asked if we could put money on her transit card for a month. We were able to provide the money and sent her off to the Transit Center.

Last week she came in and handed us a fully charged Transit Card in the amount of \$60. "Thank you," she said, "and Pay It Forward."

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in the case of someone like Mary Robinson, some of the people who get off are sorely missed.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Tons of Food! Just when you think people couldn't be more generous when it comes to food drives, they are! This year's Annual Postal Carriers Food Drive brought us about 30 tons of food (a conservative estimate, said **Darryl Harris**, the staff member who coordinates the drive). Last year, it was about 21 tons.

For the past several years, it's been the La Costa Post Office that designates all their donations for Brother Benno's. Most of this food is used to supplement the food boxes we give to our Guests, and some is used for meals at the Center and our various Houses. And because we simply don't have room to store that much food, we give a portion of it to other organizations that feed the poor. The bottom line is that the Brother Benno Foundation saves a lot of money by not having to buy food, and other worthy groups can do the same.

Moving tons of food items from postal trucks to Brother Benno trucks, and then into our warehouse, takes many helping hands. All 32 men in our Recovery Program, plus Phase 3 men and some former Program members, were on hand—many working from noon until 8 p.m. Other volunteers were recruited by Auxiliary member **Janetha Bailey-Long**—Auxiliary members and their husbands, North County African Women's Association and their husbands, and other family members and friends of both groups. Teens from local high schools and from Teens Care (a subsidiary of Girlfriends Care) also participated.

In addition to food, two La Costa residents donated checks totaling \$75.

The warehouse on Production Avenue is bursting at the seams, and many volunteers are now sorting and organizing cans, boxes, and bags and putting the items on shelves. You can be sure that everyone at Brother Benno's—both workers and Guests—are also bursting with gratitude for the generosity of so many of our friends and neighbors.

Women-to-Women Outreach. The Brother Benno Auxiliary once again celebrated Mother's Day by giving out gift bags to our female Guests—at least a hundred bags! This is one of the many ways the women in the Auxiliary let others less fortunate know that they are loved and cared for.



In addition to the gift bags they give to Guests, they provide gifts for the women in our Houses, and they prepare and eat meals with them on a regular basis. These acts of kindness over the years have made a difference in the lives of women who otherwise might feel that no one cares about them.



CHILDREN CELEBRATE EASTER BY REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

St. Pat's Angels is a new group at St. Patrick School in Carlsbad that promotes community service opportunities for their students. Their most recent project was putting together more than two hundred Easter baskets to be given to the children and their families who are served by Brother Benno's.

Ramsey Barcik-Weissman, co-chair of this group, reported that in addition to the baskets, they were able to donate two large bags of extra toys that couldn't fit into the baskets. "I'm using the word 'baskets' loosely," she said, "because there were other containers, too, like buckets, bags, and boxes. We also ran a clothing drive for new or gently used jeans, and new socks and undergarments."

Each bag was unique, not only relating to the container, but also because of the items put into it: small stuffed toys, crayons, pens, colored pencils, markers, books, plastic eggs, and candy.



As Ramsey was collecting items from the classrooms, she heard comments from the students about the drive, for example: Two third grade girls told her how they took their moms shopping to buy crayons for the baskets. (They took their moms shopping!) One explained that she looked through all the crayon packs and chose the one with the most colors in it. She said she realized the child who received the basket might not have anything else to color with, and she wanted the child to have "all the colors."

Some of the students wrote messages to be enclosed in plastic Easter eggs, for example: 'I love

you' and 'Happy Easter.' "We called them 'hope eggs' or 'prayer eggs,' because some of them chose to write Bible verses, offer a prayer on behalf of the recipient, or write heart-felt messages of kindness," Ramsey said.

Two girls expressed a concern that the younger children at St. Pat's might ask why the Easter Bunny wasn't making baskets for these children. When the question was put back to the girls, asking how they would explain it, they both thought for a moment, then said they would say we were helping the Easter Bunny, and it was important to make sure all of the children received a special gift on Easter.

The Easter basket project caused the adults—parents and teachers—to consider why people give at Easter. Several parents said it changed their view of what has become a commercial holiday, realizing it is the act of giving that is important. We give in order to honor the sacrifices made on our behalf by Jesus, and to show gratitude for the many gifts we've been given.

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"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."

~Maya Angelou

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>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

Our next event will be the **Outback Steakhouse Lunch** on Wednesday, July 30. Thanks to **Judy Calegari** and **Carol Sanford**, we now have chairpersons for this fundraiser. More information will be available at our June meeting.

Save September 28 for our **Broadway Theater outing**, where we'll see the play, "Shaken Not Stirred." More details as it gets closer.

Of course, we are already preparing for our **Annual Luncheon on Saturday, November 1**. Our chairpersons will need lots of help. It is so important to sell tickets for this event, so start early and mention it to your friends and relatives. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year. If you have coupons for Michael's that you won't be using, please save them for us to buy materials for our table decorations.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 25. See you all there.

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Brother Benno Auxiliary and friends at Prince of Peace Abby, May 1, 2014

Brother Benno's Groaners

(Editor's Note: Brother Benno always had corny jokes ready to spring on unsuspecting listeners.)

Joe went to the doctor because his leg was very sore. The doc told him it was old age. "But Doc, my other leg is the same age, and it's not sore!"

There was a young monk in search of wisdom, and he heard about this guru on a mountaintop. So he climbed the mountain, and there sat a wrinkled, shriveled man with a long white beard. "What are you here for?" said the guru.

"I came seeking the wisdom of your way of life", the young monk said.

"Oh, that's quite simple" said the guru. "I drink whiskey all day, and eat only sugary and fatty foods."

"That's incredible," said the young monk. "Exactly how old are you?"

"23", said the guru.

Did you hear about the fire in the shoe store? Not a sole survived.

Women live longer than men. Paint is a great preservative.

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Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 **[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)**

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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	Ron Alexander	Helen Lucas	William & Vennita
Pope John Paul II	Mary Peterson	Bill & Joan Maloney	Flanagan
Mother Teresa	Frank Barnet	Dora Ramirez	Gilbert Brown
Kay Kutler	Frank S. Dolley	Dick & Terry Riley	Bobby King
Ann Sauer	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Buckner	Alex Williman
Joe & Ida Friend	Monty Nares	Mary Shankle	Bernie Weiler
Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Rossini	Walter Ulloa	Mike Stendahl
Myron Eichen	Dorothy M. Donahue	Fred Williamson	Cecilia Weimer
Alice Jordan	Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	John Ciganko
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Will Skinner	Bill Combs
Richard Farhquar	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Abbot Claude	Nysewander Family
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Edith Blaiser	Ehringer, OSB	Squirrel Family
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Dancy & Zeferino
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Nares
Kathryn D. Pent	Bernice, Samuel &	Rosemary Tucker	William Wolfe
Mary Pullman	Milton Silver	Ben E. Lewis	Rose & Floyd
Joan Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Roland Bond	Caldwell
Agnus Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Anna Correia	
Harold Thompson	Bill Boster	Geraldine Howard	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Louise Foussat	Helene McGill	
Bob Gleason	Tom Hayward	Andrea Boersma	
Jane Pfau	Richard Kurtz	Ben Osgrove	

Needs

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Gently used furniture | Bags of rice and beans |
| Razors...disposable | Coffee...regular grind not instant |
| Water bottles for individual drinking | Women's personal hygiene items |
| Diapers | Tarps...9x12 is our usual size but appreciate all |
| Men's Boxer Shorts, sizes 32 to 38 | |

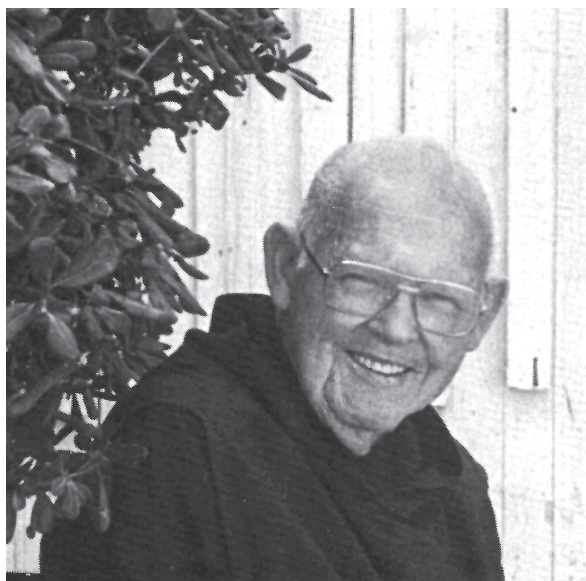
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	2	3	4	5	6	7
2014	St. Elizabeth Seton #1	St. John The Evangelist	Brother Benno's Auxiliary	Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	San Luis Rey Mission	St. Thomas More
Monthly	9	10	11	12	13	14
Serving	North Coast Methodist	Hawkes Home	Stew's Crew	Oceanside Civitans	St. Patrick's	Mira Costa CLC
Team	16	17	18	19	20	21
Schedule	Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	Christ the King Lutheran	Grace Anglican	Carlsbad Rotary	St. Elizabeth Seton #2	Girlfriend's Care
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	St. Mark's San Marcos	San Luis Rey Methodist	Pilgrim Creek	Sonrise Christian Fellowship	Catholic Daughters
	30					
	Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis					

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

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

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



Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

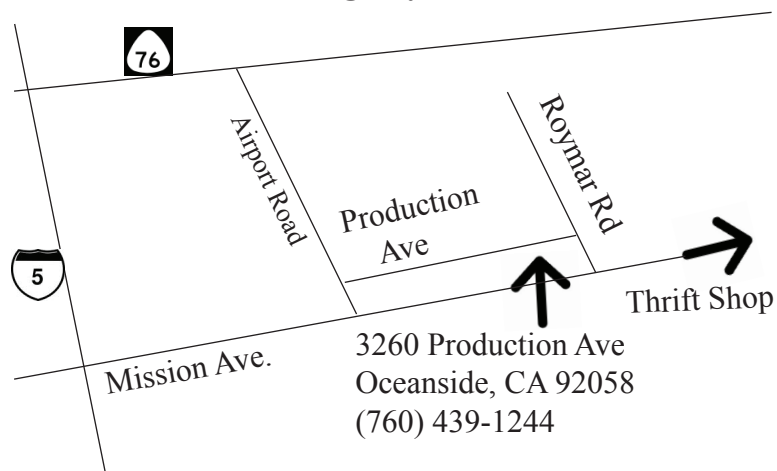
Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 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:

	April 2014	Our 30th Year		April 2014	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,357	3,566,946	Loads of laundry	27	26,720
Nights of lodging	963	249,452	Food packs	2,185	252,207
Articles of clothing	5,393	1,058,032	Blankets	174	36,515
Showers	1,032	191,229	Prescriptions	7	7,215
Haircuts	92	16,903	ID Vouchers	10	8,550
Bus passes	90	77,977	HUGS	1,800	872,194