



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

June 2015

STUDENTS PROVIDE AMAZING SERVICE

by Debbie Knight

Too often, we hear only about the "bad" things students do. But on April 27, it was my absolute pleasure to meet a group of **25 students from Oceanside High School**, along with staff members **Paul PaoPao** and **Vu Nguyen**, who came to volunteer for two hours after school at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

These students were amazing—polite, helpful, and eager to work. It was astounding what they accomplished in that short amount of time, doing the end-of-month pulls (pulling out the previous month's merchandise to be put on clearance in order to keep the stock new and fresh.)

The students are part of a group called "Pirates with SWAG," students with a goal of promoting Pirates core values of pride, integrity, relationship, achievement, teamwork, excellence, and service.

Bravo, students! You exhibited your Pirates core values and you helped us with our mission and goal of feeding the hungry and supporting the services provided at the Brother Benno Foundation. **THANK YOU!**

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"Be kind! Be the loving expression of God's kindness: kindness in your eyes, kindness in your face, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greetings. I believe that the way in which an act of kindness is done is as important as the action itself."

~Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

NORTH COAST CHURCH PAINTS, CLEANS, AND PLANTS!

by Dennis Martinek

Brother Benno's wants to give a BIG **THANK YOU** to North Coast Church of Vista. More than one hundred volunteers came to the Center on April 25 and 26 for their "Weekend of Service." They all wore green t-shirts and came armed with shovels, paint, brushes and rollers, hammers, mulch, fencing—and big smiles.



The work was performed at the Center and also two of our Program houses. At the Center, they painted the dining room, scullery, reception area, and hallway, and replaced ceiling light covers and shower curtains. On the outside, they gave the Center a needed face-lift.

At one Program house, they painted and put up a new wooden fence with a nice cap. The other house received front-yard landscaping and back-yard cleanup.

We appreciate all these volunteers who gave up their weekend to improve Brother Benno's—a service they provide to other non-profits as well.

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FROM "NO CHOICES" TO A NEW LIFE

by Barbara Ladwig

For the first 40 years of her life, "**Kris**" lived in what she calls a dark world, where drugs, gangs, poverty, and violence were the norm. At home, she suffered at the hands of her father, an addict whose abuse was a regular experience.

"I was in prison a lot, always on drug charges," she said. "It was the only way I knew how to get money."

Kris felt she had no choices in life. She didn't think there was anything good out there for her, so she just kept doing what she always did. And then she got pregnant.

All of a sudden, she felt a shift. Someone else was now in the picture.

Looking around at where she lived, who she associated with, and what the future prospects were, Kris decided she had to get out. She had to move somewhere else, find a different way of living. She knew someone in Oceanside, and hoping for the best, that's where she went.

Her first decision was to find AA meetings. At the beginning, she didn't feel that she could trust anyone—a common experience for people who live with addictions and have faced the duplicity of those with whom they associate. But gradually she was won over by the warmth of the men and women at the meetings, and she was able to accept the help they were offering her.

Kris's son was born almost one year ago. Her life now is so different from anything she's ever known that her words just tumble over each other when she talks about it. And she can't say enough about how Brother Benno's has been—and still is—a big part of that change.

Many of the men and women she met at AA meetings are graduates of Brother Benno's Recovery Programs. They not only supported her in her quest to accomplish the Twelve Steps, but they also encouraged her to come to the Center, where she's been able to receive many of the services she needs.

"They're my family now—AA and Brother Benno's," Kris said. "And I mean, really, my family! I love all of them! They see what I need, and they help me get it!"

Another AA member, not from Brother Benno's, knew Kris and her son needed a safe place to live, so they offered to convert their pool house into living quarters. Previously she'd been "camping out" on AA members' couches, and she even spent a short time at one of Brother Benno's Women's Houses.

The Program Guys delivered a few pieces of basic furniture, including a crib and changing table, to Kris and her baby's new home. They continue to come to the Center for food, and to stay in touch with everyone who has helped them along the way. One of the volunteers who knows Kris quite well said it's definitely her little boy who has changed her life. It was his imminent birth that woke Kris up to the need to find a better life.

(On a personal note: All the while I interviewed Kris, she held her son in her arms, sometimes standing up to rock him when he got fussy. "He's so tired," she said toward the end of our talk. But whenever I looked at him and smiled, he was still able to reward me with a grin and a wiggle!)

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Welcome Back, Carol! The Brother Benno family is happy to see **Carol Muehe** (Mee) "back where she belongs!" Carol, a Servant of the Poor, underwent successful heart surgery; and she said her recovery took way too long. "I just couldn't wait to get back here," she said. Everyone who knows Carol appreciates her quiet, efficient ways in the Clothing Room, and her overseeing of all clothing donations that come into the Center. She also interacts with Guests, Program Members, and other volunteers. Seeing her back is a real joy.

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MAIL CARRIERS HELP "STAMP OUT HUNGER"

The U.S. Post Office Letter Carrier's drive was a big success for Brother Benno's. **Darryl** and his crew at the Center—along with many volunteers from other organizations—unloaded donations of more than 35,000 pounds of canned goods and other staples from the letter carriers' trucks into Brother Benno trucks: 27,000 pounds from Oceanside, 7,000 from La Costa in Carlsbad, and a last-minute contribution from Del Mar of 1,000 pounds. We give a huge shout-out to all the mail carriers, volunteers, and residents who made this drive so successful!

According to the U.S. Postal Service, every second Saturday in May letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America collect "goodness and compassion" from their postal customers—the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Led by letter carriers who are represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), with help from rural letter carriers, other postal employees, and other volunteers, the drive has delivered more than one billion pounds of food over the past 22 years to community food banks, pantries, shelters, and organizations like Brother Benno's.

Last year alone, Brother Benno's gave out more than 290,000 pounds of food to individuals and families in need.

Anyone interested in holding a food drive for Brother Benno's, please contact **Denise** (760-439-1244, ext. 104).



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CHANGES?

Print information is no longer the favorite way for people to communicate with one another (except for many of us "older folk"), so we want to accommodate everyone's preference.

Here's the deal:

- 1—If you want to switch from getting the newsletter in your mailbox to receiving it as an email, send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com and include your name and mailing address so we're sure we have the right person.
- 2—If you just want to read the newsletter online, log on to: brotherbenno.org and click on Newsletter. Past issues are available there as well.
- 3—If you want to be removed from our mailing list altogether, send us a note to that effect, again with your name and address (or email address if that's how you get it now).

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Heard from a volunteer when she was praised for the work she does at Brother Benno's: "I'm just a split pea in a pot of soup."

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 Carol Sanford

The Auxiliary will celebrate the fathers in our Brother Benno community on Saturday, June 20, by handing out gift bags to every man in attendance at our regular Saturday spaghetti meal. **Claire Carter** and her helpers will be on hand, and we thank all our members who donated the thoughtful items contained in those bags!

One little-known fact may be that the Auxiliary supplies nearly all the delicious cheese that is sprinkled over that Saturday spaghetti! **Edith Jones** is our impresario who hawks the tickets for a monthly raffle of items donated by members, the proceeds of which are used to buy the cheese for our Guests' enjoyment. We are a multi-faceted, multi-talented, and hard-working group!

Tickets go on sale this month for our "Christmas in July" fundraiser at the Outback Steakhouse on Vista Way in Oceanside, near Walmart. It will be held on Wednesday, July 15, from 11:30 to 12:45, \$20 for adults, \$10 for children ten and under. To reserve, mail checks payable to Brother Benno's Auxiliary to **Joan O'Connell**, 2841 Andover Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010, or call her at 760-730-9125 for additional details. In addition to helping us raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party at the Center, this is your opportunity to pay for a ticket to host a member of our Military, who are such an integral part of our Brother Benno community. (Many helped with the recent Postal Workers food drive).

If you haven't yet marked your calendar for our Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, which will be held on Saturday, November 7, at the lovely Sheraton Carlsbad, do it now! You won't want to miss this, our most important fund-

raising event of the year. Volunteers are needed for this and other fun events we are still planning for 2015.

The next Auxiliary meeting will be on Wednesday, June 24, at 1 p.m. in the dining room at the Center. Guests are always welcome; come and see if we are the group you want to join as a volunteer!

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From the Book

"Brother Benno's celebrated an unusual milestone in 2000 when we collected our 500,000th pair of socks (one million socks!) It all started in 1994 when **Brian**, a prospective Servant of the Poor, helped out in our Clothing Room. . . . 'Where are the socks?' he asked. 'People don't donate socks,' (he was told).

"Brian became a man with a mission. He said he'd like to join us if he could be in charge of special projects, and project number one would be a 'Second-Hand Sock Drive.' (He ended up staying at Brother Benno's for four years. . . ."

(See *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, pages 181-183 for more!)

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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

[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)

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

Ron Alexander	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Gilbert Brown
Frank Barnet	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	James O'Keefe
Brother Benno	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Joseph Opatkiewicz
Edith Blaiser	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Lloyd Volker
Andrea Boersma	Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Sarah McPherson
Roland Bond	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Nyswander Family
Bill Boster	Tom Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Squirrell Family
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Floyd & Rose
Bill Buckner	Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Caldwell
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Ann Sauer	Andrew & Jane
Mary Teresa Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Yandura
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Norb Bold
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Dianne Cawood
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Richard Mather
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	Dancy & Zeferino
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Mike Stendahl	Nares
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Margaret Stephan	Evelyn Stahelin
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Hugo Carlos
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty Nares	Mother Teresa	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Happy Birthday
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Jack Port
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Maria Murphy
Richard Farhquar	Pope John Paul II	Fred Williamson	Catherine George

Needs

Diapers
Men's jeans, belts & underwear
Bottled water
Motel-size hygiene items

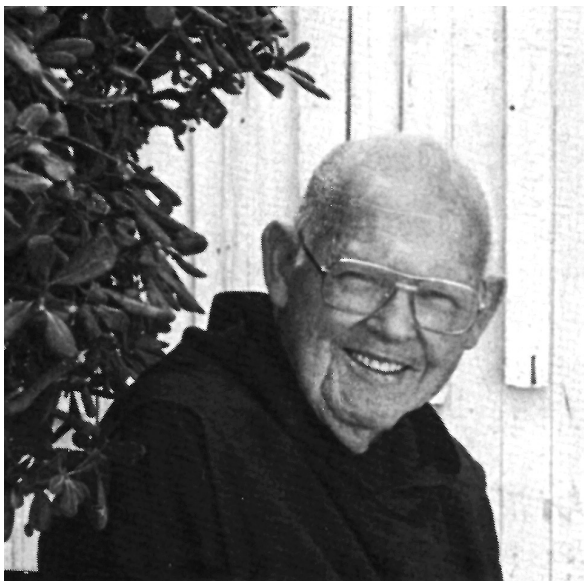
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas Moore
2015	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Hawkes Home	10 Sisters in Sobriety	11 Oceanside Civitanis	12 St. Patrick's	13 Mira Costa Adult Learning Center
Monthly	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Grace Anglican	18 Carlsbad Rotary	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	22 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	23 St. Mark's San Marcos	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	27 Catholic Daughters
Team	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Welk Resort				
Schedule						

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Tues. - 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 2015	Our 31st Year		April 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	13,633	3,726,701	Loads of laundry	27	27,034
Nights of lodging	1,052	261,676	Food packs	1,758	276,973
Articles of clothing	4,984	1,118,401	Blankets	139	38,482
Showers	1,041	204,485	Prescriptions	3	7,259
Haircuts	104	18,546	ID Vouchers	13	8,705
Bus passes	95	79,163	HUGS	1,800	895,594