



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

June 2018



SERVING OTHERS IS KEY TO SUCCESS

The success of the men and women who change their lives by way of Brother Benno's Recovery Program is a sign of hope for anyone who thinks their situation is hopeless. Its strength lies in its adherence to the principles of AA, but there's more.

"**Laurie**" said she hit bottom when she had to spend six months in jail for selling drugs. "Jail was horrible, just horrible," she said. "I think I had to go through that to finally come to the point where I was ready to make changes in my life."

When she was released from jail at age 40, she'd been clean and sober for eight months, and she felt she needed some kind of support system to stay that way. She'd heard about Brother Benno's and made an appointment to come in and meet with the mentors. At first they told her they didn't take anyone who wasn't just starting out on the path to sobriety, but something about her determination apparently made them change their minds. And for Laurie, it was the best thing that ever happened to her. She graduated from the Program in June of 2017, and her life continues on the new path she set for herself.

A big part of our Recovery Program involves the requirement that the men and women work at the Center and/or Thrift Shop in exchange for room and board. "That's how I learned what a joy it is to be of service," she said. "Before, I was a snob—I couldn't be bothered with other people's problems. But here at Brother Benno's, everyone cares about everyone else, and I just did what I saw everyone else doing."

Her first assignment at the Center was to help in the Clothing Room. Because **Carol Muehe**, who's in charge of clothing, hugged everyone who came in, Laurie did the same. "I just stood in the doorway and hugged!" she said. "And that's how it all started."

Now, she can't imagine not being part of Brother Benno's and continuing to reach out to others. "I am a Brother Benno Family Member!" she said. She comes in at least once a week, just to be there for any Guests who need a kind word—and a hug. She's changed her whole attitude toward other people, and an unexpected benefit is the change in her teenage son, who was struggling in school due to his unstable family life. Now he's getting very good grades and is thriving in other ways as well. She has two other children, plus a baby granddaughter, and they've become a family again.

After graduating from the Program, Laurie and her son were able to get housing with Solutions for Change, where she was also hired for a temporary job in their fund-raising department. She found that she really enjoyed that kind of work and is looking for permanent employment, hopefully with another non-profit agency, because she is so thrilled with being of service to others.

The changes in Laurie's life attest to the truth of a saying attributed to the Dalai Lama: "Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects." She imitated what she saw in others at Brother Benno's, and she now passes that on to those who are still struggling.

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Many Thanks! The Woman's Club of Vista has been giving a monetary donation to Brother Benno's since 2009, for which we are grateful. Staff members **Jan Roberts** and **Carol Muehe** attended a luncheon on May 9 to receive a check for this year's gift. Included in the printed luncheon program was a short recap of the services we provide, highlighting our Men's and Women's Recovery Program. We thank this kind group for their continuing support.

Come on Down! Are you ready to take a tour of the Brother Benno Center? It happens on the first Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. No strings attached—just a fun hour or so with one of our fabulous tour guides!

Let Us Know. Would you prefer not receiving a thank-you card or letter for your donations? Just put a note on your check, write out a short note, or call the Center to let us know, and we'll honor of your request.

Serving Teams Needed. We still need serving teams for the fourth Monday and fourth Tuesday. If you have a group of 7 to 10 people who are available from 6:15 to 8 a.m. on either of those days, please contact **Suzy** (760-941-1876).

Brother Kevin, one of our more creative volunteers, has taken it upon himself to write letters once a month to pastors of churches in Oceanside, Vista, and Carlsbad, highlighting various facets of our work, and asking them to help in any way they can. These letters are personalized and new each month, he said. No form letters for him! The response he's received has been very rewarding.

As a side note, Brother Kevin worked with **Father Greg Boyle, SJ**, of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. You can read about Father Boyle's amazing success with members of street gangs in several of his books and some by other authors.

Skills Needed. If you're retired (or even if you're not) and would like to continue using the skills you've acquired over the years, why not get in touch with **Denise Seymour**, our Volunteer

Coordinator. You'd be surprised how many times someone has walked into the Center or made a phone call, and it turned out that we had a need for exactly the skills being offered! You can reach Denise at 760-231-1613 or denise@artistofyourmind.com

Rest in Peace. Brother Benno's lost a good friend when **Carl Streicher** died in April. I first met Carl and his wife **Sally** many years ago when I was on the all-volunteer newsletter staff at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad. Sally ran Tis Speedy Printing in Oceanside; and Carl, a retired Navy dentist, was often at the shop helping out. They printed the parish newsletter; and when I first got involved with the Brother Benno newsletter, I was happy to learn that it, too, was being printed at Tis Speedy. During all those years of being connected with the two newsletters, I saw Carl and Sally at least once a month and came to see them as good friends.

When Sally finally joined Carl in retirement, their son **Michael** and his wife **Sonya** took over the business, which is now located in San Marcos. In addition to the newsletter, Tis Speedy does almost all the other printing required by Brother Benno's.

Besides giving us excellent and reasonably priced printing services, Carl and Sally have been monthly donors for a long time.

Carl struggled in recent years with cancer, so his friends cheered when we learned that a new treatment seemed to be stemming the cancerous growths. It was with great sadness that we learned of his death. We offer Sally and all their family our most sincere condolences.

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Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

MORE MEMORIES OF HAROLD AND KAY

Nick Sauer. I joined the Board more than 30 years ago. . . . I heard that meals were being served at Brother Benno's in Oceanside, (so) I drove down to Minnesota and Cleveland one evening to check it out. I met Harold and Kay at that time and was totally impressed. They put me on the serving line right away.

My family and I came down to serve meals soon afterward. A short time later, Harold asked me to be on the Board. I had no special areas of responsibility; I did everything. (When) Harold had to leave town, I acted as President and Manager while he was away. The BBF (Brother Benno Foundation) was not very structured. The Board would sit around the kitchen table with Harold and Kay and work on ways to serve the poor.

Special experiences as a Board member usually involved direct services for the poor. Harold used to call it "service where the rubber meets the road." Several times I would go to court for the poor. Many times they were facing possible jail sentences. I am not a criminal attorney, but I worked without charge. I used to tell them before we went to court to "bring your toothbrush." Somehow they never needed it. I would tell the court that they were serving BBF and doing a great job. I would also tell the court that I was on the Board, and we would monitor their future community service if given a chance. The courts always approved. My "clients" were over-joyed. Several of them successfully completed our Recovery Program.

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A GEM FROM HAROLD

"I have found volunteer work to be the most fulfilling thing I've ever done. Being successful in business was challenging and rewarding for my ego, and it provided for the material needs of my family. Now, using the gifts God has given me to serve others without thought of payment has brought the same results for my spiritual well-being."

(Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen, by Harold Kutler, page 38)

HISTORIC EVENT TOUCHES BROTHER BENNO'S

Board Member **Nick Sauer** and his siblings witnessed the posthumous presentation of the Silver Star to their brother, First Lieutenant **Philip Sauer**, USMCR, at Camp Pendleton on April 24, 2018, for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with 1st Battalion, 9th Marines in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 April 1967."

A chance meeting between Philip's brother **Tom** and retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. **David Little** in 2015 on the beach in La Jolla started a long search by Little that ended with the decision by the Secretary of the Navy to recognize Philip's bravery. Only one man survived the attack, **William Marks**, who said that thanks to Philip, he became the father of two and grandfather of four.

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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

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 Nita Rodriguez

The Auxiliary participated in two special projects on May 12: Mother's Day gift bags, and the Letter Carriers food drive.

During the Saturday brunch at the Center, **Teresa Keith** passed out 52 Mother's Day gift bags to our Guests. They were very much appreciated. We'll be giving gift bags to men for Father's Day on June 16. Thanks again to Teresa and to all our members who donated items and assembled the bags.



Teresa and Bob Keith

On the same day, 35 volunteers packed up 270 banana boxes at the La Costa Post Office and loaded them into Brother Benno trucks. We thank **Robert Walker and all letter carriers**, plus the many **high school students, Naval Hospital volunteers, and community volunteers** who were involved. The event wouldn't have been successful without the leadership of **Eileen Ciganko**, and **Joyce and Frank Cerimele**, who organized this project.



Eileen Ciganko & Frank Cerimele



Food Drive Volunteers, La Costa Post Office

Thank you to **Mary Holguin**, case worker at the Center, who spoke to the Auxiliary about her volunteer work—how she became involved, and the process that is used to bring much needed services like rent and utilities assistance to our Guests.

You're invited to join us at our next Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting, in the Center Dining Room. Our speaker will be **Richard Giroux**, Brother Benno Foundation Board President. Why don't you check us out? We welcome all to join us and give input. Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? Download our application here: <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>.

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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

Ron Alexander	Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Carol & Herb
Dixie & Lou Bales	Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Thornberg
Frank Barnet	Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Rosemary Tucker
Brother Benno	Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	Walter Ulloa
Edith Blaiser	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	June Williams
Andrea Boersma	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson
Roland Bond	Tom Hayward	Alan Port	Mary Opatkiewicz
Bill Boster	Elizabeth Holms	Mary Pullman	Donald Deffenbaugh
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Catherine L. Quinlan	Carl Streicher
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Dora Ramirez	Bob Strawbridge
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Dick & Terry Riley	Alice Carlson
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Margaret Rossini	Robert Buchach
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Ann Sauer	John & Shirley Frier
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Mary Shankle	Judy Dusak
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Naomi Shelton	Max Fackler
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	David Lorbat
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Will Skinner	Doris Day
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Ann Grier Smith	Rose Harnier
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Michael & Monty Nares	Squirrel Family	Joseph Opatkiewicz
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Mike Stendahl	
Myron Eichen	Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Stephan	
Richard Farhquar	Nysewander Family	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
William & Vennita		Harold Thompson	

Needs

Gently used furniture
Reading glasses 2.0, 3.5

Underwear -- Men's sizes 30 - 36, Women's sizes 4 - 5

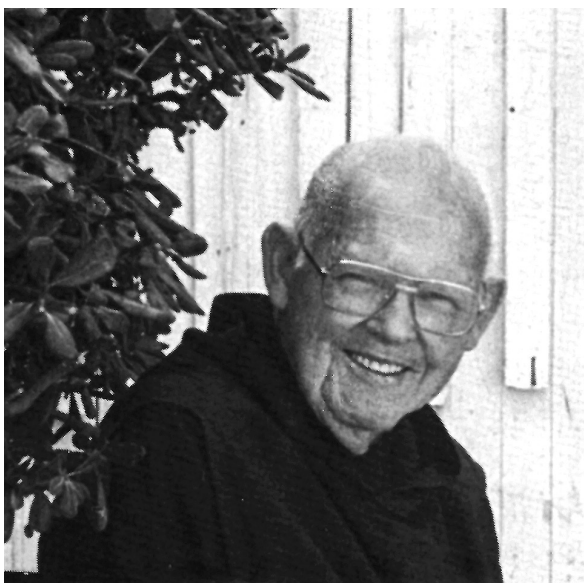
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 San Rafael
	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 Fairwinds	14 Oceanside Civitans	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	21 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	22 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	23 Catholic Daughters
	25 Christ Church	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

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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

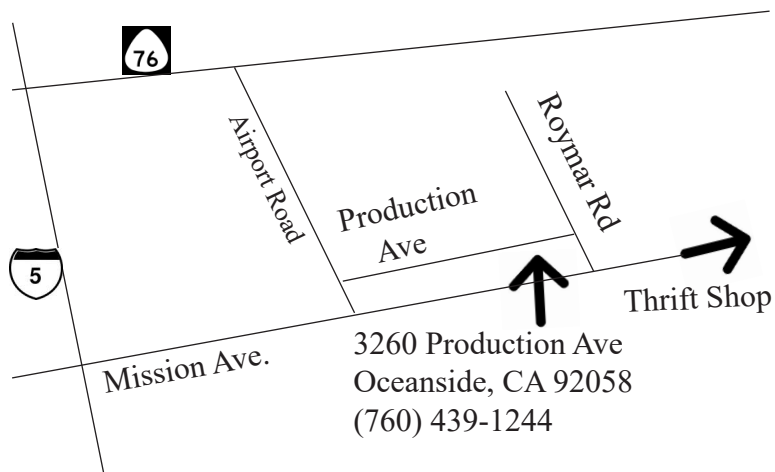
Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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 2018	Our 34th Year		April 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	12,603	4,201,238	Loads of laundry	21	28,011
Nights of lodging	933	295,624	Food packs	1,085	331,027
Articles of clothing	5,079	1,315,398	Blankets	145	44,672
Showers	1,077	246,890	Tarps	109	3,501
Haircuts	35	22,253	ID Vouchers	11	9,098
Bus passes	109	83,367	HUGS	1,800	966,244