Join us on the links to support the mission of Brother Benno!
Brother Benno’s Auxiliary Inaugural Golf Tournament on Friday, September 27th, will be held at the Memorial Golf Course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton!

Registration includes lunch, golf, VIP bag drop off and cart.
Early Bird, NOW thru July 1 - $150; After July 1 - $175
Yardsticks and Mulligans available for purchase; Silent Auction will be held.
Email auxiliary@brotherbenno.org for a registration form. Space is limited.
All confirmed golfers will be provided separate directions to the Golf Course and instructions for base entry.

Tournament starts at 10:00 AM with a shotgun start and will be played with best ball format at each ensuing 18 holes. Tournament play will conclude at 3:00 P.M. with an awards ceremony.

A variety of Sponsorship Opportunities and Levels, including sponsoring a Military Member, are available for businesses, organizations and individuals.
Contact Nita Rodriguez via email at auxiliary@brotherbenno.org for more information.

(THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST-MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, AND MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES DO NOT SUPPORT OR ENDORSE THIS EVENT)
Macy’s in Carlsbad chose Brother Benno’s to benefit from their “Customer Round Up” event March 15 to 31, in which shoppers can round up their purchase price to the nearest dollar in order to donate to a good cause. Helen Parsons and Ron Lamb from Brother Benno’s spoke to the entire Macy’s staff before the event, then they—along with Adam Croft—spent several days at the store talking with customers and sharing information about the services we offer to the poor and homeless.

The grand total raised at the register was $3,351, plus another $1,176 donated by Macy’s staff members.

As so often happens when businesses get involved with Brother Benno’s in this way, the employees want to have a hands-on experience at the Center and/or Thrift Shop as well, and Macy’s was no exception. The management team came to the Center one morning for our “immersion experience,” where they got a tour of the Center with our staff member Dennis Pinnick, then joined Guests for the meal. Three different groups of employees also volunteered at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

Brenda Gilmore, Sales Supervisor at Macy’s and contact person with Brother Benno’s, had this to say about the group’s experience: “We wanted to say how we appreciate you and all you do. We had a wonderful morning with you all, interacting with the Guests; and (we) loved seeing what great work is being done in our community. We did leave with a warm feeling in our hearts, Dennis! Our staff at the store are very excited to be fundraising for your organization. Many thanks.”

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
FINDING A MEANINGFUL LIFE

by Frank Doherty

Volunteering at Brother Benno’s enables many of us to live a meaningful life. We experience people who radiate joy, who know why they were put on earth, who are there simply to give of themselves. Their smiles say it all regarding the love and kindness in their hearts. Many of our volunteers say their lives have been transformed and that they have found true meaning and joy through serving the poor. That sentiment is not reserved just for people in their golden years, but for the younger generation as well.

Many people find, as they progress in their lives, that they want to experience more meaning. They have achieved a certain degree of happiness but not fulfillment. A recently published book by David Brooks, The Second Mountain, the Quest for a Moral Life, addresses the differences between happiness and joy. He says the mainstream culture seems to focus on achieving happiness through goals such as getting an education, having a good job, being well thought of by others, being able to buy a home, having a nice family and good friends, etc. This life is about building up the ego and defining the self. But at some point, many of us wonder if that’s all there is. Is this all God is asking me to do? We sense there may be a deeper journey we can take.

Happiness is a goal we often strive for, but it’s really the joy of service that moves us from self-centeredness to selflessness. I often lead the tour of the Brother Benno Center on the first Saturday of the month, and I discover that many of the men and women on the tour are searching for ways they can serve others in order to find more meaning in their lives.

After we have the things our culture tells us to want, we learn that selflessness applies to more precious aspects of life such as our family, vocation, faith or philosophy, and community. It involves letting go of ego, loving and serving others, devoting one’s life to the less fortunate.

David Brooks says that people who embark on a meaningful life live for others, not themselves. They are not perfect. This way of living is not necessarily easy, but it is a life that is aligned with some ultimate good, a life God has intended us to lead and is more rewarding.

My experience with many people who serve at Brother Benno’s is that they seem to glow with an inner light. They surrender to a life of commitment. Our staff, volunteers, auxiliary, and donors have the opportunity to touch people at their depths and leave a permanent mark. They not only serve the poor but can sometimes save lives that would otherwise be lost. We are a family.

We invite you to experience the joy our volunteers feel by joining us in the midst of the poor where you can experience the love that is there. Our tours are held on the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Brother Center, 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside. No reservation is needed; just come.
The Brother Benno Scholarship Committee has awarded six $1,500 scholarships to local high school seniors. In March, applications were sent to 14 high schools in Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista, to Mira Costa College’s high school diploma program, and to Vista’s adult education program.

Our aim is to help those students who have been affected by homelessness, poverty, or alcohol and drug abuse in their families to continue their education at a two-year or four-year college or a California-accredited vocational, trade, or technical school. Our hope is that education will help these students rise above their past circumstances and become happy and productive individuals with a positive outlook for them and their families.

We also consider for scholarships those students who have devoted many hours volunteering to help the poor and homeless. These individual display a sense of humanity which we feel will continue through their adulthood and will continue to help those in need in their communities.

This year’s recipients include a young woman whose alcoholic, emotionally abusive father abandoned his family. She hopes to pursue a medical career so she can help people, and she is currently volunteering at a local hospital. Another recipient’s father has been incarcerated for most of her life, and her goal is to be a civil rights attorney advocate for the homeless and seek social justice for all people.

The other scholarship recipients have similar stories and in every instance have fought back by concentrating on their school work and hoping to attend college to become a person who will make their family and community proud.

We hope the Brother Benno Scholarship will help them on their journey!

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LOVE’S MIRACLE

One of our Recovery Program mentors said something that sort of sums up the heart and soul of Brother Benno’s: “I tell our Program Members, ‘We are going to love you until you can love yourself.’”

Often those who are in the grips of an addiction have such a loathing for themselves that they don’t believe anyone could ever love them again. Having been there themselves, the mentors know that experiencing love from someone else can eventually bring another person to the point where self-love is again possible. And this truism doesn’t relate only to addicts; our homeless Guests can, and often do, experience the same life-changing miracle.

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

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Facebook.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___________________________________      Donation $______________
Address_________________________________           Number of copies__________
City, State, Zip Code________________________
Memorials


Happy 50th Birthday
Frances

Needs
Gently used furniture  P-38 can openers  Adult diapers (small, medium, large)

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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.

Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop
(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)
Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture
Shop open Tue-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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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