



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

June 2021



## GOLF TOURNAMENT PLANS MOVING RIGHT ALONG

by Amy Selich

Brother Benno's Auxiliary is thrilled to officially kick off our 3rd Annual "Pay It Forward" Charity Golf Fundraiser at Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, October 5, at [brotherbenno.org/golf-2021](http://brotherbenno.org/golf-2021).

Last year's event was limited due to the pandemic, but this year we are bringing back sponsorships for civilian golfers to join with our active-duty military golfers for a fun day at this top-rated military golf course.

We have sponsorship levels for everyone, including branded sponsorships that are ideal for local businesses that want to grow their business with offers that will gain new customers. Donations of any amount will be happily accepted, with all sponsors and donors being recognized on our fundraiser website (see above), and on the day of the event signage.

The Auxiliary launched the Charity Golf Tournament in 2019 as our largest fundraiser that supports Brother Benno's work with the poor and homeless of North San Diego County. We are a nondenominational 501(c)(3) organization with a Four-Star rating by Charity Navigator. **All sponsorships and donations are tax deductible.** We will also have an online silent auction in September.

To learn more, become a sponsor, provide an item for the silent auction, or just want to get involved in this amazing event, please contact **Amy Selich** at [amy@selich.com](mailto:amy@selich.com) or visit [brotherbenno.org/golf-2021](http://brotherbenno.org/golf-2021).

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT HOT TEAM WORKS WITH BROTHER BENNO'S

By Joe McDevitt

The Brother Benno Center is visited almost every day by Officers **Josh Ferry** and **Jose Perez** of the Oceanside Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). These visits are part of the Team's efforts to work closely with the homeless to aid them in finding a path out of homelessness.



**Josh Ferry, Jan Roberts and Darryl Harris**

Officer Ferry, who has been a member of the HOT Team since its inception in 2014, stated that they combine their efforts with Brother Benno's case workers and a number of other service providers to determine the actions that are needed to help each homeless person. Some of these actions include medical and/or mental health assistance and entry into detox centers and substance abuse recovery programs. At Brother Benno's, our Recovery Program includes at least six months of living in one of our Recovery Houses.

**Darryl Harris**, Brother Benno's Operations Manager, added that Brother Benno's responds to the immediate needs of the homeless by locating and funding temporary housing and  
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providing urgent services such as food, clothing, showers, and transportation. Officer Ferry added that household items are provided by the Brother Benno Thrift Shop to assist the move of the homeless persons into a residence.

**Kathleen Diehlmann**, President of the Board of Directors, commented that the COVID-19 vaccination program offered by the HOT Team has been of particular benefit to the homeless. The HOT Team also brings nurses from the County Health Office to the Brother Benno Center and to other service providers for the vaccines. Without these services, many of the homeless would not have an opportunity to receive the vaccine.

By working together, the Oceanside HOT team, Brother Benno's, and other service providers are meeting the common objective of "breaking the cycle of homelessness."

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### YOUNG WOMAN RECEIVES HELP WITH SCHOLARSHIP

By Barbara Ladwig

Every year, Brother Benno's offers scholarships to local college students who often would not be able to prepare for a career without financial help. Such was the case with **Ashley Gerdo**. "Scholarships can really make or break a person's ability to pursue their educational dreams . . ." she said, in a recent article published by Mira Costa College in Oceanside.

Ten years ago, when Ashley was 25, she decided to get help for her drug addiction and checked herself into a rehab program. Her teen-age parents had also been addicts; and when she was only two years old, they were sent to jail. From then on, Ashley lived in abusive homes or was part of the foster care system. Now, she says she wants to help others who find themselves in similar situations and who want to avoid the trauma she experienced.

Ashley is married, with three children. She attends Mira Costa College, where she is working on an associate degree in sociology; and she hopes

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### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

Hello everyone! Our El Pollo Loco fundraiser went fairly well. We made \$124, a very good start!

Our Pay-It-Forward golf event is on track for Tuesday, October 5. This year we are happy to invite back civilian golfers. **Amy Selich** and her golf committee have been hard at work, and everything is on schedule. They are even planning an online silent auction for those of us who don't play golf. The website for this event is up and running, and I encourage you to look at it and see what's happening and how you can join in or donate to the event. [www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021](http://www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2021).

On a serious note, **Juanita Hughes**, a long-time Auxiliary member who is a very active worker, recently lost her daughter, **Judy Katherine Hughes**. She asked me to thank the Foundation for the lovely flowers and card they sent in memory of her daughter.

Again, we hope you are all staying safe, and we look forward to meeting those of you who are new members in the very near future at one of our regular meetings. Be well.

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to get a master's degree in Counseling. She says she continues to be supported by her relationships with others in Narcotics Anonymous and RAFFY (Resources & Assistance for Former Foster Youth), as well as mentors at Mira Costa College.

In the Mira Costa article, Ashley said "she shares her story in hopes that she can serve as a beacon of light for those who might be struggling just as she was." She had decided ten years ago that she "didn't want to be defined by her past, and she opted for hope and resilience over despair."

Brother Benno's is honored to be a small part of helping Ashley to fulfill her dreams.

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**SPOTLIGHT:**

**MEET MARCO GONZALEZ**

by Joe McDevitt

What makes a great attorney? Zealous advocacy on behalf of a client, for a start. Thoughtful strategy and thorough research to understand the client's needs, and the objective assessment of issues are critical as well. **Marco Gonzalez** provides all of this as a volunteer legal counsel for the Brother Benno Foundation.



**Marco with Aika**

Brother Benno's recently relied on Marco's representation to support an extended process conducted by the City of Oceanside's Planning Commission to review and issue an approved conditional use permit for the Brother Benno Center. This process required the work of three Planning Commissioners to plan and coordinate communications with the Planning Commission, City Attorney, and Oceanside Police Department to thoroughly address all issues and to initiate reasonable measures that were included in the conditional use permit. We are thankful for Marco's dedicated and professional support throughout the process.

Born at Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, Marco's youth activities had their start in

Oceanside; and he has maintained a deep interest in the Oceanside community. For many years, his family operated several Oceanside restaurants and other businesses, and Marco attended Oceanside schools. The family businesses were located close to the Brother Benno Center, and his younger sister **Lorena** worked as a volunteer on Brother Benno's food-serving line; consequently, Marco became aware of the needs of the homeless at a young age.

Living in Oceanside attracted him to surfing; and this led to his interest in ocean studies, biology, and particularly environmental studies. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a B.A. degree in biology and environmental studies, followed by graduate studies in conservation biology and a Juris Doctor degree and admission to the California Bar.

Marco is founder of the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation (CERF) which, under Marco's leadership, has sought collaborative land use and development in coastal communities, particularly the management of growth that contributes to diversity, aid to homeless and low-income households, and protection of the environment. He is cofounder and Managing Partner of Coast Law Group LLP. Marco and his wife and their two children reside in Encinitas.

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**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) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Brother Benno Foundation**  
**PO Box 308**  
**Oceanside CA 92049**

**Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>**

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**Richard Shlemmer**, a member of the Brother Benno's Board of Directors, commented on how Marco became involved three years ago with Brother Benno's. In a presentation to the Board, Marco was the sole attorney to offer his services on a pro-bono basis; and this offer included the services of his entire law firm. Richard stated that Marco has fully lived up to this commitment, and his efforts to provide well-researched legal and business advice has exceeded all expectations.

**Kathleen Diehlmann**, President of the Board, said that Marco was active in supporting the implementation of a new central database, Mission Tracker, that will more efficiently track the services provided by Brother Benno's. She added that he initiated fundraising efforts for this database, which is now undergoing an onboarding process and will be operational in the near term for use by Brother Benno personnel and volunteers.

Richard summed up the significance of Marco's contributions by quoting a sentence from Brother Benno's Mission Statement: "We place our Foundation in God's hands and rely on His divine providence to provide the people and the wherewithal to accomplish our mission." Marco and our many other volunteers unselfishly respond to the need for their talents and commitment to uplift the dignity of those we serve.

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## WE STILL NEED GRANT WRITERS

If you are looking for a way to make a difference in terms of helping the poor, grant writing may be one possibility for you. Getting a grant approved can be a great source of satisfaction. Our grant writers raised over \$90,000 last year, which made a significant difference in our ability to serve those who come to us for help, especially in the area of rent and utility assistance.

No special skills are required. We train you, and you can work at home. If you are interested, please call **Kaye Kelly**, our Grant Writing Team Leader (619-933-0339).

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**We appreciate every single one of our donors, whether you give money or goods—and we want to make sure that all donations are safely received. So—if you are sending a check, be sure you use our P.O. address as follows:**

**Brother Benno Foundation  
P.O. Box 308  
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308.**

**THANK YOU!**

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**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorials

Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Ronald Turner
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Alan Port	Pat Kouns
Brother Benno	Hayward	Mary Pullman	Andrew & Jane
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Catherine L. Quinlan	Yandura
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Dora Ramirez	Bill Daley
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Dick & Terry Riley	John Opatkiewicz
Bill Boster	Jellig	Margaret Rossini	Jim Bruynell
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Ben Osgrove
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Nick Sauer	Peggy & Beverly
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Miville
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	David Lorbat
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	John, Helen, & Matt
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Hagen
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	Bernie Weiler
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	Max Fackter
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Alva & Frances	Ruth Johnson
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Snider	Todzelle Lewis
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty, Natalie, &	Squirrell Family	Elena Henry-Carrion
Fr. Abbot Claude	Michael Nares	Mike Stendahl	
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	
Myron Eichen	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	<b>IN HONOR OF</b>
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Helen Parsons
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb	
Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Thornberg	
Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	
Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	June Williams	

### NEEDS

small bags of chips  
fruit cups  
protein bars  
crackers  
bottled water  
small juices  
Gatorade

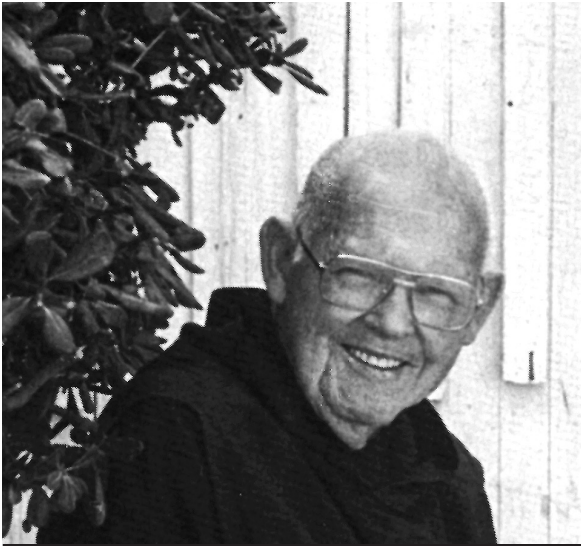
Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or jim.napier@cox.net.

### Brother Benno Foundation Recovery Program for Men and Women

760 439 1244 ext. 101  
Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps  
of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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

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



**Brother Benno's Thrift Shop**

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

**Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture**

**Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2**

**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**

**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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	April 2021	Our 37th Year		April 2021	Our 37th Year
Meals	9,803	4,605,555	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	613	327,832	Food packs	562	360,268
Articles of clothing	2,319	1,440,691	Blankets	92	49,538
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	27	6,388
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	33	10,134
Bus passes	51	86,372	HUGS	0	1,011,244