



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

June 2023



An Angel During Difficult Times: Mary Holguin

By Kathleen Diehlmann, Manager of Volunteer Programs

After 19 years of donating her time caring for the Guests of the Brother Benno Foundation, **Mary Holguin** has decided to retire from volunteer service at the Brother Benno Foundation. She is a true gift to Brother Benno's and she will be missed.



Mary Holguin first came to Brother Benno's to drop off clothing donations after her beloved husband, Ben, passed away. She kept coming back and volunteered in many roles at Brother Benno's including answering phones, helping at the front door, serving on the Board of Directors, and for many years assisting families with rental and utility assistance. As most know, Brother Benno's refers to the people we serve as our Guests; and Mary is exceptional at offering comfort and a warm welcome. Mary is a fluent Spanish speaker and that, along with her bright smile and easy laugh, led to her popularity as a case worker at Brother Benno's.

“Mary is a holy angel,” says **Rich Miro** a longtime friend of Mary's. “I've known her since she and I started around the same time volunteer-

ing at Brother Benno's. Whatever she did, she did really, really well and in a righteous manner.” Mary was able to provide guidance to hundreds of families in dire situations needing rental and utility assistance. She has a patient touch. Her loving demeanor helped calm guests dealing with overwhelming stress. Mary even created a section of the office for children to relax and color while she met with the parents to ensure their experience was as pleasant as possible.

Her strong Catholic faith and belief in Brother Benno's efforts, guided her in her work. “I believed in the mission of Brother Benno's totally,” Mary says. Brother Benno's mission is based upon Matthew 25.31.

Mary was chosen to be the Volunteer of the Year for Brother Benno's at the North County Philanthropy Council's Volunteer Awards Celebration on October 28, 2022.



“She is very kind,” said **Ron Lamb** who works in Facilities maintenance at Brother Benno's. “She always has a good ear. She is a good listener. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help someone.” Ω

Don't miss your opportunity to golf in our 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament this September 1st at Goat Hill Park!



Special Thanks to our "Early Bird" Sponsors

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Registration for individual golfers and sponsored military is \$200/\$800 for a foursome.

Registration includes: VIP Golf bag drop off – Shared golf cart – Green fee – Boxed lunch – Snacks – Refreshments – Buffet-style dinner – Swag bag with apparel from Outerknown - Contests - Silent and Live Auction access.

Register online at brotherbenno.org/golf-2023.

Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available at all levels. Contact Chuy.Reyna@firewiresurfboards.com or reach out to us at golf23@brotherbenno.org.

MIRACOSTA EOPS BRUNCH FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Last month, Suzy and Dennis Martinek attended Mira Costa EOPS' Scholarship Recipient Celebration to meet this spring's scholarship recipients and distribute their scholarship checks. Twenty students were chosen out of 137 applicants to receive these \$500 scholarships.

When asked about the event, they shared, "We had a very gratifying interaction with the students receiving the Brother Benno Foundation Scholarships. It gave faces to essays that were part of the application process. Everyone enjoyed the lovely brunch, and then we got down to business! Handing out the checks, hugs, and handshakes. The most rewarding part was hearing what each one had to say. They always started with a "thank you" to Brother Benno's."

Yesenia Balcazar, EOPS Faculty Director, and her wonderful department put in a lot of work vetting the applications before sending them to the Scholarship Committee. The Brother Benno Foundation recognizes this and wants to say "thank you," too.

The Brother Benno Foundation funds scholarships each semester for Mira Costa's EOPS students. Including this spring's awards, 129 scholarships have been awarded to MiraCosta College EOPS students since fall semester 2020.



Suzy and Dennis Martinek (far left), Yesenia Balcazar (crouching) and eleven of the twenty Spring '23 scholarship recipients

A Status Update from The Brother Benno Foundation

By Kathleen Diehlmann, Manager of Volunteer Programs

Among the Brother Benno Foundation's many priorities is being a good neighbor! Leadership from Brother Benno's met with the City of Oceanside, the Oceanside Police Department (OPD), and our business park neighbors to understand their concerns. From those meetings, Brother Benno's has refined our operations to ensure that our Guests get the necessary provisions they need from 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. During that time our Guests may experience a warm meal, a hug, some clean items of clothing, a shower, mail service, food to take away and other services or items they may need. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Brother Benno's now operates by appointment-only for our Guests in need of additional community outreach from our Hub Center.

The Brother Benno Center has also added a second security shift from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This ensures the neighborhood stays safe and clean during Brother Benno's off hours. We are bringing a balanced approach to the concerns expressed by business owners in the area. Brother Benno's has not cut any services, but rather the Foundation is attempting to adhere to our hours of operation in the conditional use permit, mitigate the impact of our services on surrounding businesses, and together with our Guests' participation there has been a dramatic impact on the neighborhood.

Brother Benno's strives to keep our neighborhood clean by asking participants in our substance abuse recovery program, our security guards, and volunteer groups to go out and pick up trash. Our most recent large group of over 15 individuals from Messengers of Peace picked up trash on Saturday, May 13th . We are grateful for their help. Since our last update, a specific concern came up when Brother Benno's met with the Oceanside

Police Department in April. The OPD wanted Brother Benno's assistance addressing the number of RVs in the business park that were staying overnight, taking up much needed parking space. The Brother Benno Foundation offered to try to address this issue by temporarily suspending services to individuals who camped overnight. These suspensions were given only after several warnings were given by Brother Benno's security to relocate. Due to these efforts, Brother Benno's has seen a reduction in the number of RVs in the area.

The Foundation has also purchased a golf cart to increase mobility for our security. Having a vehicle provides a faster response time. It also helps security staff meet with neighbors to address their concerns. In addition, the golf cart helps us to haul larger amounts of trash from locations that are further away in the business park from where the Brother Benno Center is located. We would like to thank our two staff members, **David** and **Sean** for their extraordinary work providing security on behalf of Brother Benno's. Since implementing these extra efforts, Brother

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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

Printable version: <https://bit.ly/3PvfNET>
Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

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.

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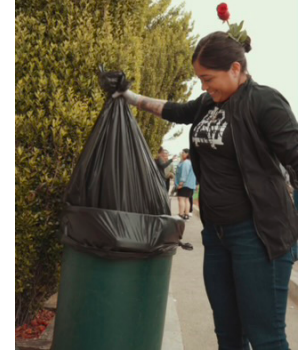
Benno's has not received additional concerns from the City of Oceanside or the Oceanside Police Department. In addition, there has been a notable decrease in complaints from neighboring businesses.

The Brother Benno Foundation is proud to be approaching its 40th anniversary in October. We look forward to continuing our mission to serve the poor based upon Matthew 25.31. We are grateful for Oceanside's community support. We are looking forward to an ongoing partnership for many years to come with the City of Oceanside and the Oceanside Police Department that hopefully will lead to more long-term solutions for our homeless population.

Homelessness and poverty are on the rise throughout California, especially in coastal communities like Oceanside. Without service providers like Brother Benno's, the situation will only get worse. In addition, a huge number of local grocery stores are required by state law to donate edible food and Brother Benno's is the largest food rescue organization in North San Diego County. Our trucks go out six days a week to pick up the food that then is distributed to our Guests and other smaller nonprofits. Without Brother Benno's, local municipalities would face significant challenges complying with this legislation.

"We've worked with the City and OPD to come up with a suite of reasonable conditions for operations at the Oceanside facility," says Brother Benno's attorney, **Marco Gonzalez**. "We're committed to compliance with our conditional use permit and regularly seek to engage with our neighbors to respond to concerns. There will always be circumstances that arise beyond our

reasonable operational and legal control, but we'll continue to work with City officials to minimize impacts however possible."



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<https://amzn.to/3MHFGSD>

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brotherbenno.org
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**Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program**
760 439 1244 ext. 101
Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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- 1) email: unsubscribe@brotherbenno.org; or
- 2) Call (760) 231-1619; or
- 3) Use the enclosed donation envelope and mail it with your name, mailing address, and phone. Please indicate that you no longer wish to receive the Brother Benno newsletter.

If you would like to subscribe to the online version of the newsletter, please go to our website: www.brotherbenno.org

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Jane Pfau	Andrew & Jane
Brother Benno	Hayward	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Yandura
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Alan Port	Ream & Erik
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Mary Pullman	Braegger
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Catherine L. Quinlan	Michael Collins
Bill Boster	Jellig	Dora Ramirez	David Easterbrooks
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Ervin Poka
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Matt Ryan
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Ann Sauer	Timothy Diem
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Nick Sauer	Judy Deffenbaugh
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Mary Shankle	Wayne Patterson
Don & Lael Dewhurst	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Ron Beckman
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Bernice, Samuel &	Virginia Vandermel
Frank S. Dolley	Helen Lucas	Milton Silver	John, Helen & Matt
Anita H. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Will Skinner	Hagan
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helene McGill	Ann Grier Smith	Donna J. & Gilbert
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Douglas E Milovicz	Alva & Frances	Brown
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Peggy & Beverly	Snider	Tanya Stapp
Fr. Abbot Claude	Miville	Squirrell Family	H Edward Smith
Ehringer, OSB	Monty, Natalie, &	Mike Stendahl	Family
Myron Eichen	Michael Nares	Margaret Stephan	Josi Opatkiewicz
Richard Farhquar	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Elizabeth Parish
William & Vennita	Nares	Harold Thompson	Maria Elena Gonzalez
Flanagan	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	Bill Luksetich
Louise Foussat	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	
Joe & Ida Friend	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	
Mary Gerrity	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	

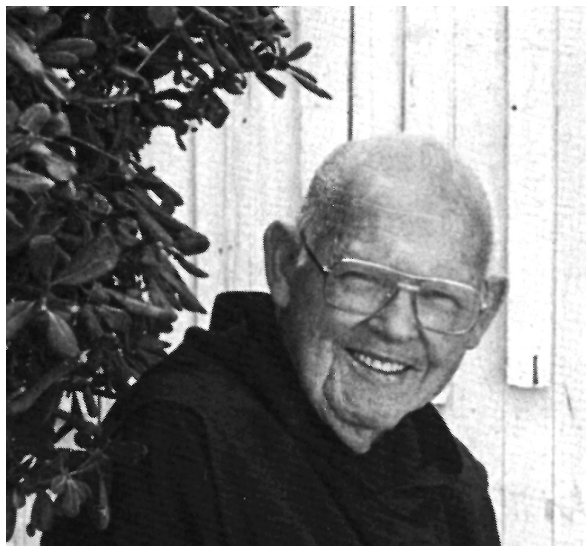
Needs

(Gently used furniture (Thrift Shop) Blankets Baseball caps
 Men's Tennis Shoes (size 9-13) Adult Unisex Diapers Women's underwear, sizes 4 & 5
 Travel-size toothpaste & deodorant Travel-size conditioner Towels
 Bottled waters, sodas, & juices Women's ankle socks

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2023 Monthly Serving Team Schedule				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Juanita's Team	8 Servers R Us	9 St. Patrick's	10 St. Vincent De Paul
	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	15 Ernest Packaging	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ The King Church	21 Friends of Brother Benno	22 Open	23 Oceanside Sanctuary	24 NMRTC Camp Pendleton Orthopedics Dept
	26 Open	27 Rotary Club of Vista	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Brother Benno Thrift Shop	30 King of Kings	

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

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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon

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 and click on "Ways You Can Help". We've expanded your donation options to include bank transfers, Venmo, Apple Pay, and Google Pay in addition to PayPal. You can scan this QR code to make an online donation too.



Your donation is used each month at our main center and seven recovery and sober living 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.

Please Note Our Mailing address:

The Brother Benno Foundation
Post Office Box 308
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

If you wish to drop off donations or deliver donations in person, our physical address is:

3260 Production Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno's Services:

	April 2023	Our 39th Year		April 2023	Our 39th Year
Meals	12,134	4,847,160	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1,150	351,643	Food packs	1,048	382,016
Articles of clothing	3,260	1,514,008	Blankets	114	52,051
Showers	650	286,053	Tarps	71	7,762
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	13	10,710
Bus passes	52	88,941	HUGS	1,000	1,016,244
