



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

March 2014

BROTHER BENNO'S THRIFT SHOP IS ONE-OF-A-KIND

Nearly two dozen dolls and their accessories were donated to the Brother Benno Thrift Shop by Girlfriends Care (GFC), a group of women who have banded together to provide help for women and children in difficult situations. Their motto is: "No One Can Do Everything, But Everyone Can Do Something." *

The dolls were donated by GFC members **Kristi Brooks** and **Susie Songe**. Kristi's grandmother **Elizabeth** had saved dolls for her over the years, and they decided to donate them so children could enjoy them. Susie was given dolls left over from an estate sale that the owner wanted to donate. These beautiful collectibles were artfully displayed at the Thrift Shop starting on February 7; and **Michelle Hoppe**, Thrift Shop Manager, reported that as of late February, most of them had been sold.

Other items seen recently in the Shop were a never-worn Carter baby dress for \$1; paperback books for 50 cents and hard covers by well-known authors for \$1; a Cuisinart coffee maker (tested to make sure it works) for \$18. There were also basketballs, skis, like-new glass plates and bowls and vases, floor and table fans, and a sweet little girl's trike with lots of decorative touches on it. And the deals in the furniture section have to be seen to be appreciated.

Brother Benno's Thrift Shop is like no other thrift shop—check it out!

* See article about GFC on page 3.

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A GARDEN IS CREATED AT MAMI

On a Saturday morning in February, a few energetic men and women gathered at the House of Martha Ann Mary and Ida (MAMI) to create a "salsa garden." It was the joint effort of Girlfriends Care, Guys Care, and Brother Benno's.

Diana Hanes, a Girlfriend who acts as liaison with the Women's Houses, said the garden was the brainchild of **Jan Roberts** and **Elana Bagley**, the House Manager and Assistant House Leader, respectively. "The garden will provide food, and it's a social activity for the women, too," Diana said.

The garden is actually two 4 x 8 boxes with wire bottoms to guard against gopher feasts. The boxes were built by **Trevor Hanes** and **Rey Canseco**, members of Guys Care; and the dirt, mulch, and nutrients were donated by Agri Service in Oceanside. After all the ingredients were mixed together in the boxes and raked smooth, the women put in the plants—tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, and cilantro.

One of the major players on that morning was **LaVonne Mussman**, Elana's sister, who lives in Escondido and does a great deal of gardening of all kinds in her own back yard. When she wasn't offering advice and pitching in with the physical labor, she could be seen helping two women who currently live at MAMI pull huge ripe oranges from a tree in the corner of the yard. Also on hand doing some of the heavy work were **Bob Ladwig**, **Dennis Pinnick**, and **Darryl Harris**, the latter two on staff at Brother Benno's.

On that sunny February day, a look of satisfaction could be seen on the faces of those who helped to create a garden—and maybe a new lease on life for those who will tend it.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

A Windfall. Canned tuna is one of the staples that goes into every food box given to our Guests. Imagine our shock and delight when Chicken of the Sea International in San Diego donated a huge number of four-pound cans in January! It was **Darren Parsons**, son of Board member **Helen Parsons**, who made this happen; and Helen estimates that Guests will enjoy this windfall for at least six months.

Far and Wide. While **John McCaffrey** and I were putting the finishing touches on the February newsletter in Brother Benno's computer room, an email popped up on John's screen. "Someone in the U.K. just sent a request to be on the email list for the newsletter," John said. We were taken aback. The U.K.? Wow!

A Child's Perspective. A young girl who volunteers with her family once a week had this to say about one of our more colorful Guests: "When I started going to Brother Benno's, all I could see were (his) tattoos. Now I don't see them anymore."

Gratitude. A man recently released from prison found his way to Brother Benno's. Due to a glitch in the system, he did not receive the customary financial help usually given upon release, so he was penniless. He came in every day for a week and a half for food, showers, and clothes; and with the help of our intake office, he was able to get in touch with his sister, who sent him money to tide him over until he can get his life back on track.

He wrote the following note: "*To all of the staff at Brother Benno's— Brother Benno's is truly an overwhelming blessing and a godsend to all of the needy of the Oceanside community! John 15:13—'Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for their friends.'* Words are not enough. L.G."

Getting It Right. Every month, some donors note that their donation is being made in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event such as a birthday or anniversary for a family

member or friend. We try faithfully to print these names on page 5 of the newsletter, but occasionally we slip up, and for that we apologize. We also ask for help from our donors by clearly printing the person's name either on the check or on a separate note, and being sure to indicate when it's in memory of someone deceased. When the notation says "In honor of," we're not sure what is meant; and we don't want to make the mistake of putting that person's name in the Memorial column when it should be somewhere else. We have discovered that these listings are very meaningful to our donors, and we want to get it right.

Such a Deal! On a recent Saturday, 18 volunteers from Callaway Golf in Carlsbad ran a sidewalk sale at the Thrift Shop and gave out free root beer floats to customers. Kmart donated brand new clothes and toys from their nearby store that had closed in January. All items were \$2 each! You just never know what perks you'll get, along with the great values in the Shop!

Someone Special. The staff and volunteers at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop are like a family who work well together and obviously care deeply for each other. It is with that in mind that we share with you the reflections of Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe** on the death of one of their volunteers:

"**Mary Mastropierro** passed away in December while on vacation in Hawaii. Affectionately known to staff, volunteers, and customers as "Little Mary," she was diligent in her work, always had a smile on her face, and sang hymns while she worked. . . . She embodied the true giving spirit of the volunteers who serve Brother Benno's."

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"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."

~ Mother Teresa

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND BROTHER BENNO'S

In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, **Harold Kutler** spelled out the philosophy that guided every decision he made as the fledgling Foundation became a reality. The following is Harold's introduction to this philosophy:

"Mother Teresa stated that the need to feel human and worthwhile far exceeds the physical need for food and shelter. I was determined to open a kitchen that served this need—a high fence for privacy, tables and chairs where the guests could eat and socialize, and decorations to give the place warmth.

"We owned some property downtown (Oceanside) that included a 700-square-foot house built in 1923, with a 400-square-foot garage and a large yard. We added a six-foot fence around the property. . . .

"We decided to refer to those we served as guests rather than clients. A guest is someone we invite to join us, someone we treat with respect.

"People often ask us: 'Do you screen the people who come into your Kitchen to make sure you keep the freeloaders out?'

"We looked to Jesus for our answer. When He fed 5,000 people with the miracle of the loaves and fishes, He didn't tell His disciples to screen the people first. Being ripped off or taken advantage of didn't concern Him. Anyone who appeared to be an opportunist was needy in some way. He had come to heal those who were hurting for whatever reason."

(For more on this topic, see Chapter 6, Setting Up Shop, page 32.)



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>

"CARE" GROUPS PROVIDE GREAT SUPPORT TO BROTHER BENNO'S

Girlfriends Care has been helping Brother Benno's for years with a great variety of projects. According to their website (girlfriendscare.org), GFC was started in 2005 by **Gini Craig** and **Ellen Clark**; and with the addition of Kidsz Care, Teens Care, and Guys Care, it has grown to include hundreds of members who reach out to many organizations that help those who need to know that someone cares about them.

Over the years, some of GFC's projects at Brother Benno's have included:

- * Annual Christmas Volunteer Blitz—eighty-plus volunteers in various projects on the second Saturday in December.
- * Got Socks!—a collection project.
- * Prayer Pillow Cases—flannel pillowcases sewn by Girlfriends and decorated by children in Kidsz Care who also pray for the recipient.
- * Gift Bags decorated and filled for the women in Brother Benno's Women's Houses.
- * Santa's Closet—providing and wrapping Christmas gifts for the men in our Recovery Program to give to their loved ones.

Among other projects, Kidsz Care has decorated placemats for special occasions; and Teens Care held a Jeans Sidewalk Sale at the Thrift Shop last July.

Gini shared how she came to know **Harold** and **Kay Kutler** and subsequently got involved with Brother Benno's: "They were customers at the banking branch I managed. . . . When Girlfriends Care was born in 2005, Brother Benno's was one of the first non-profit organizations where we volunteered. I still believe in and promote Brother Benno's as the purest form of love and giving unto others, because it all comes from the heart."



AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

Our next important event will be our Membership Drive on Saturday, March 1, at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. Remember, Auxiliary dues are still only \$10 a year.

Again, a reminder to save the date for Applebee's Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser on Saturday, March 22, from 8 to 9:30. The price is only \$10 for a great breakfast! It's a fun event, and you'll be helping the Auxiliary to help the Foundation.

The chairpersons for the Annual Luncheon will be meeting shortly to set a date for this fall event and to get our committees in order. We will let you know as soon as everything is set.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 26, at 1p.m.

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....continued from page 1

Editor's Note: MAMI is for homeless women and their children. DBRJ (Dorothy Barbara Rosemary and Joan) is a sober-living house for women who have completed a recovery program. Brother Benno's has a live-in recovery program for men, but women who come to DBRJ have completed a program elsewhere.

**Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org**

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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

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

Garden at MAMI



Trevor Hanes, Diana Hanes & Rey Canseco



Elana Bagley

Jan Roberts



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

Brother Benno	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	Dianne Agrell
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Joanne Sauer
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Dancy & Zeferino Nares
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Rose & Floyd Caldwell
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Myron Mooney III
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Bernie Weiler
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Charles Poorman
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Ray Doll
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Bill Pollock
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Luke Dougherty	David Lorbati
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Naomi Shelton	Donna Doherty
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Rosemary Tucker	Hartley Lowe
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Ben E. Lewis	Jeanne Nickel
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Special Intention
Kathryn D. Pent	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Marie Pry
Mary Pullman	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	In Honor Of
Joan Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	Disabled students
Agnus Boyd	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	Programs & Services
Harold Thompson	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	at Mira Costa College
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Richard Kurtz	William & Vennita Flanagan	
Bob Gleason	Helen Lucas	Matt Hagan	
Jane Pfau	Bill & Joan Maloney		
Ron Alexander			

Needs

Gently used furniture Diapers Disposable razors

For the Thrift Shop:

1--a stackable washer and dryer. We receive so many nice clothes that just need to be laundered.
 2--a small portable dishwasher for the numerous dishes, glasses, and silverware we receive.

Please call Michelle (760-967-7505) if you can donate any of these items.

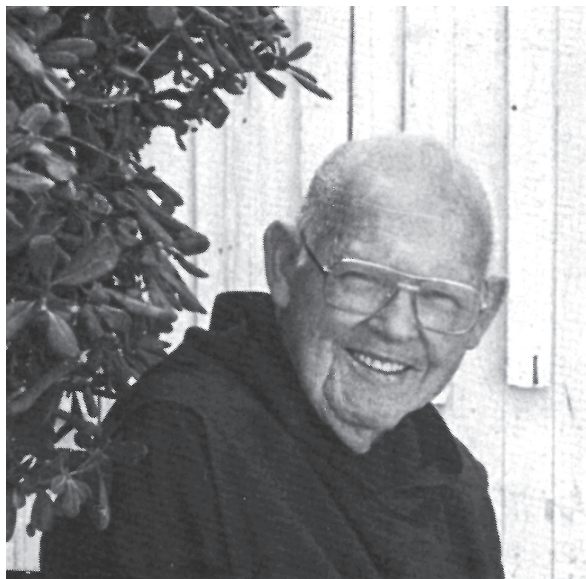
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March						1 St. Thomas More
2014	3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 TVIA
Monthly	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Hawkes Home	12 Stew's Crew	13 Oceanside Civitans	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 Christ the King Lutheran	19 Grace Anglican	20 Carlsbad Rotary	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Catholic Daughters
Team	24 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran 31 O'side Pacific Kiwanis	25 St. Mark's San Marcos	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Pilgrim Creek	28 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	29 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - 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:

	January 2014	Our 30th Year		January 2014	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,550	3,527,920	Loads of laundry	25	26,641
Nights of lodging	854	246,784	Food packs	2,536	244,298
Articles of clothing	5,722	1,042,391	Blankets	210	35,994
Showers	976	188,219	Prescriptions	6	7,198
Haircuts	128	16,521	ID Vouchers	13	8,516
Bus passes	124	77,735	HUGS	1,800	866,344