Residents of Solamar Senior Community in Carlsbad came up with a way to help others; and in the process, they helped themselves as well.

Richard Toohey delivered a flyer to all of the 105 units in the complex, asking if people would like to clean out their homes in order to donate unused items to Brother Benno’s. He quoted a favorite saying: “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” Then he asked Mary Holguin, a resident and a volunteer at our Center, if she could arrange to have these items picked up.

The residents got caught up in the spirit of the event and were happy to be part of this outreach. Some even expressed thanks that someone finally got them to get rid of items they not only didn’t use any more but often didn’t even remember they had. They were asked to set everything out in front of their home on February 4, and one of Brother Benno’s large trucks came by to load everything up. It turned out there was so much stuff that a second collection had to be made a few days later.

The donations ran the gamut: furniture, clothing, golf clubs, kitchen items, books, Christmas decorations, lawn chairs, surfing gear, and more. “Everybody said they were really motivated to give away things they knew someone else could use,” Mary said.

Once again we have seen that banding together is often a great incentive when it comes to helping others.

Ω

Smoke poured out of a vent on the side of the Brother Benno Center on Friday morning, January 23. Roger*, who happened to be walking across the parking lot between buildings, noticed it, ran into the building, and started what became a chain of events that probably saved Brother Benno’s from a major disaster.

Knowing that the outside vent came from a wall in the warehouse where the industrial-sized clothes dryer sat, Roger ran toward the dryer, calling to Morgan* to pull the fire extinguisher off the wall. Even before Morgan handed it to him, Roger had turned off the gas and electricity switches near the dryer.

He directed the extinguisher first to the back of the dryer where he saw flames behind a small grill. Then he opened the dryer, which allowed fresh air to rush in and re-ignite flames curling around the towels inside. Whoosh, whoosh, flames doused.

At this point, he yelled to Darren*: “I need another fire extinguisher!” Using a pole, he pulled the wad of burning towels out of the dryer and was able to finish off the flames.

“It was all teamwork,” Roger said. “Darren got me the second extinguisher, and Morgan kept everybody out of harms’s way. I just happened to be the first one who saw the smoke and knew where to find the source.”

When the firemen arrived on the scene, they went right to work checking over every inch of the area, including looking for the possibility of noxious substances. “They were very thorough,” Roger said–a sentiment that was echoed by Operations Manager Dennis Martinek.

continued on page 4....
Appreciation. This newsletter is the result of the work of many hands and hearts—volunteers and staff members who never seem to waver in their commitment to Brother Benno’s.

John McCaffrey has been so faithful in putting everything together on the computer, sending it out to the printer, connecting with all our email readers, and seeing that it gets posted on our Brother Benno website.

Mike Streicher at Tis Speedy Printing in San Marcos is Mr. Dependable, month after month and year after year. He delivers the finished copies to the mailing house and gets a batch ready for us to give out at the Center.

Dorothy Richardson, who also volunteers at Brother Benno’s in other ways, picks up the Center copies from Tis Speedy Printing, along with any other printing jobs that have been ordered by B.B. personnel.

Jan Reinicke at Action Mail in Escondido takes care of having the newsletter delivered in a timely fashion to the approximately 5,000 homes and businesses on our mailing list, and she checks in with me whenever there are any changes to be made.

D. P. takes most of the pictures that appear in the newsletter.

Too numerous to mention by name are the many Brother Benno people who send me information, write articles, and generally keep me informed about the daily goings-on throughout the Foundation.

And last, but really first, is Harold Kutler, who—ten years ago—entrusted me with this “baby” that he created way back when the Foundation was new. For me, it’s a cherished gift.

Greeters. About a dozen volunteers take turns manning the front desk at the Center every morning, Monday through Saturday. Their duties include greeting everyone who walks in the door, guiding them to the right person based on their needs, and answering the phone. One person added, “To smile, and make them feel welcome.” When answering the phone, they are often able to refer the caller to other agencies if Brother Benno’s doesn’t offer the service they require.

In addition to the run-of-the-mill requests they deal with, three of the volunteers shared special experiences:

Tom Kirk said, “An older lady came in crying. I asked what we could do for her and she said, ‘Right now I need a hug.’ I gave her a hug and she cried until she was finally able to tell me she needed a place to stay. We managed to get her a place, and she was so appreciative. It was heart-warming.”

Barbara Driscoll gets special joy from seeing the smiles on Guests’ faces when we are able to help them. “I truly receive much more than I give,” she said. “This is the highlight of my week!”

Marcia Kawahara said one of the best things she’s experienced is when she takes a phone call from relatives who are looking for a loved one. “I refer them to Julie (Petrie) in the intake office,” she said, “and we find out that Julie knows them and has info about them. These relatives are greatly relieved.”

Options. Every once in a while, we like to remind our supporters of some options regarding newsletter delivery and donations.

Regarding this newsletter: you can receive it as snail mail, get it as an email, or simply read it online. To change from snail mail to email, send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com and please include your name and mailing address so we’re sure we have the right person.

About donations: we will soon have a new donation envelope that will include the opportunity to donate using a credit card. You can continue sending a check if you wish, or you can donate online using PayPal. We also have donors who prefer walking in the door at the Center and giving us cash! Whatever works for you, works for us.

If your donation is being made in memory of someone, or to mark a special day like a birthday or anniversary, please print the information carefully so we can be sure to spell names correctly in the newsletter.

As always, we thank you for your donations and for your help in keeping our records.

Ω
Brother Benno’s has been able to pair up with local businesses over the past few years as a way of receiving much-needed donations. Some of these connections have included the opportunity to get the word out about all the services we provide, and even to add to our volunteer staff.

The most recent business to team up with Brother Benno’s was Whole Foods in Encinitas. They sponsored a fund-raiser for the month of November, 2014, where shoppers could make a donation to Brother Benno’s at the cash register if they wished. A check in the amount of $1,900 was presented to Harold Kutler in February as a result of this collection, and the store donated four pallets of food.

Also in February, the employees were given a presentation about Brother Benno’s during a regular store team meeting. They were invited to come to the Center on a Saturday morning for a tour, and—if they wished—to meet and chat with Guests by standing in the food line with them and then eating together. A number of the employees did sign up for this experience.

Frank Doherty, a volunteer who had a part in setting up the events at Whole Foods, had this to say: “This fundraiser enabled Brother Benno’s to receive greatly needed donations, while providing an opportunity for Whole Foods employees to experience the poor and (learn) what we do at Brother Benno’s—a win-win for all. We hope to duplicate this experience with other supermarkets and companies in the future.”

In November 1995, twelve years after its founding, Brother Benno’s served its millionth meal. The press was very kind to us, publishing articles and pictures to mark the event. One article in particular captured the essence of Brother Benno’s, and Harold Kutler used an excerpt of it at the beginning of his book, Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen. The article was written by John Gaines for the San Diego Union-Tribune.* Here is the excerpt:

“Brother Benno’s was never about ‘tough love,’ as are some of the service providers for the homeless and needy today. Brother Benno’s is about unconditional love. The down-and-out can walk in today, be fed, get a hug, hear the one kind word they might hear all day, and be welcomed back tomorrow.

“Maybe after enough of that, they’ll be ready for tough love, and to try to get their affairs in order. But after being beaten down for who knows how long, it takes a little caring to get the homeless ready for tough love. That has been the philosophy at Brother Benno’s.”

(*Complete article on pages 178-180.)

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
Well, after a whirlwind start, I think we are moving right along with the smooth transition into the new year and many fun events ahead of us!

Our VP, Penny Sallee, dove right into the Annual Membership Drive/Tour event, which was held on Saturday, February 28, at Coco’s in Oceanside. We welcome the new members who are joining us as a result of all the efforts of so many to put this event together and publicize it so widely. Our special thanks go to Isobel Haring, who donated all the costs of the restaurant refreshments, making it free to all who attended with their prospective members. The Coco’s location allowed us to offer complete tours of our facilities nearby, and this was a new and wonderful experience for us. Let us know your thoughts about how it went and if we should do it there again next year.

Our first fundraising event will be the Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 28, from 8-10 a.m., at the Oceanside location, 2146 Vista Way. Contact Vera Bayliss (760-295-0059) or Terri Keyes (760-305-7510) for tickets: $10 per person. This is a fun event to volunteer to serve at, too, if you haven’t tried it. Don’t miss the good food and the fun! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join in to eat while helping a good cause.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Wednesday, April 22, and I hope to see you all there. Lots to do in 2015! How do you want to help?

And our Safety Officer, who’s in charge of Cal OSHA requirements, also stepped in to be sure everyone was safe. Between 9:30 a.m. on Friday, and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Roger removed a portable wall next to the dryer, moved storage shelves and containers, and supervised the removal of the damaged dryer. He cleaned up the residual mess and repainted nearby walls and shelving.

Dennis Martinek went on the Internet and was surprised that a good used dryer sold for more than $2,000. “I called Ezekiel at GTO appliance, our neighbor on Airport Road, who has helped us in the past.” he said. “It was unusual that he had a commercial dryer, but he did. He sold it to us for $400 and agreed to service it if we had any problems. Sometimes things just work out.”

When your reporter was shown the area in question on the following Wednesday, the new dryer was spinning a load of towels; and the work of Brother Benno’s was humming along as usual.

(* Names have been changed in order to respect AA anonymity.)

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
Facebook.com/BrotherBennos
Twitter.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

Ron Alexander
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Mary Teresa Carr
Anna Correa
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
Anita H. Donahue
Dorothy M. Donahue
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Myron Eichen
Richard Farhquar
William & Vennita Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Tom Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Ben E. Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Monty Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Pope John Paul II
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pfau
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Mary Pullman
Catherine L. Quinlan
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Margaret Rossini
Ann Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Mother Teresa
Harold Thompson
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Tyler James Pinnick
Nyswander Family
Squirrell Family
Amy Becker Rudd
Sarah McPherson
Dorothy Barnell
Gilbert Brown
Bobby King
Terri Shapiro
John Wagner
Jack Brown
Zeferino & Dancy Nares
Bernie Weiler
Rose & Floyd Caldwell

IN HONOR OF
Jan and Brittany

Needs
Gently used furniture
Diapers (all sizes)
Ground coffee
Reading glasses
Hotel size hygiene items

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>3 St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>4 Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>6 San Luis Rey Mission</td>
<td>7 St. Thomas More</td>
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<td>9 North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>10 Hawkes Home</td>
<td>11 Stew’s Crew</td>
<td>12 Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>13 St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>14 Men of Nativity</td>
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<td>16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>17 Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>18 Grace Anglican</td>
<td>19 Carlsbad Rotary</td>
<td>20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>21 Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td>23 Christ Church &amp; Zion Lutheran</td>
<td>24 St. Mark’s San Marcos</td>
<td>25 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>26 Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>27 Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>28 Catholic Daughters</td>
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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.
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 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

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 Services:

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