Brother Benno’s Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

March 2016

THE YEAR 2015 IN REVIEW
by Dennis Martinek, President/Volunteer

Brother Benno’s was blessed in 2015 and was able to provide increased services to our Guests, make improvements to our facilities, and gather enough money through donations to update our kitchen and dining hall. A big factor in our increased donations was our Four-Star Rating by Charity Navigator. www.charitynavigator.org

As you can see by the following list, the demands for our SERVICES continued during 2015.

FOOD BOXES 20,602
BREAKFASTS 56,290
SACK LUNCHES 41,639
SHOWERS 11,883
CLOTHING ITEMS 57,665
HAIRCUTS 1,376
BUS PASSES 1,259
BLANKETS 1,631
TARPS 760
LAUNDRY LOADS 279
I.D. VOUCHERS 151
ASSISTANCE:
Rental - Families 240
Utilities - Families 320
Prescriptions 340

Brother Benno’s also provided over 11,800 meals and over 12,000 nights of shelter for our Recovery Program members.

The above services would not be possible without our VOLUNTEERS. From making up food boxes, sorting clothes, working in intake and reception, to cutting hair, driving trucks, and serving on the line each morning—more than 250

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VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO BE OUR PRIME RESOURCE

Brother Benno’s has always had the unique distinction among charitable organizations in our area of being almost completely run by volunteers. Even though we were recently required by federal law to pay some of our volunteers instead of giving them stipends and free housing, it is still true that the vast majority of those who perform the everyday tasks are receiving no remuneration.

Where this distinction is most unusual is in regard to the men and women in top leadership roles: Board members and the President/CEO, who are not paid. Also, the administrative costs are paid with the revenues from our Thrift Shop. Therefore, we can continue to promise our donors that 100 percent of their donations go directly to those we serve.

Because of all these factors, plus good governance and the fiscally responsible way that we execute our mission, the Brother Benno Foundation was chosen by Charity Navigator to be a Four-Star Charity, their highest rating. Their Chairman of the Board said, “Approximately a quarter of the charities we evaluate have received our highest rating, indicating that the Brother Benno Foundation outperforms most other charities in America.”

If you’d like to know more about Brother Benno’s, please consider taking our tour on the first Saturday of every month at 9:30. No reservations needed; just show up at the Center on Production Avenue. And if you have any questions about volunteering, contact Denise Seymour, our Volunteer Coordinator (760-434-1244, ext. 104).
**EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE**

by Barbara Ladwig

**Person to Person.** The Christmas stories keep coming in! Medtronic employees of Carlsbad and Costa Mesa provided sheets and blankets, jackets, shoes, bicycles and helmets, a dollhouse, and gift cards for much needed furniture such as beds, to two families being served by Brother Benno’s.

According to Carol McClelland, Community Liaison, “Medtronic Carlsbad decorated a tree with wish-tags for employees to fill, (and) Medtronic Costa Mesa collected funds toward gift cards. One morning prior to Christmas, our adopted families visited Medtronic for breakfast. Both the families and the many employees shared emotional exchanges as gifts and gift cards were presented.”

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**Alert!** Dan Boone in our Accounting Office asks that donors who use a credit card to make a donation include their email address and home phone number. This data is required.

**All Those Names.** Several people have asked how we “choose” the names on page 5 of the newsletter—Memorials, Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc. These names are given to us when a donor sends in a donation in that person’s honor. For example, someone sends us a check and says, “In Memory of John Smith,” or “In honor of Jane Brown’s birthday.” In regard to the Memorials, the names on the first part of the list are there permanently, as they were people who had a long and extraordinary connection to Brother Benno’s.

**Hope and Gratitude.** Staff and volunteers know I’m always on the lookout for a story, so they often stop me when I’m at the Center to share something. That happened one Wednesday morning as I was leaving a meeting. Gwen in the furniture warehouse said there was a man outside who just couldn’t say enough about how wonderful Brother Benno’s has been to him.

I found Todd, leaning on his bicycle out in the parking lot. He told me he owes his life to Brother Benno’s, because we gave him a bus pass to go to a doctor’s appointment for a badly injured eye. The doctor sent him to the hospital immediately for surgery, which resulted in saving the eye; and Todd said his vision is slowly improving.

He was really on a roll, and he told me he’d been orphaned at age three, spent the rest of his childhood and teens “in the system,” where he was sometimes abused. He’s been homeless and has had other serious difficulties. He’s writing a book about his experiences in the hope of helping others who’ve had similar traumas.

“It’s awesome what you do here at Brother Benno’s!” he said. “You give us hope! You inspire us to change! I come here to help you now, to pay back!”

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volunteers donate their time each month.

NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURES during the year included the purchase of a new refrigerator truck and a gently used van for the Women’s Recovery Program. After a successful fund-raising campaign for KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT, plans are being put in place for new equipment, lighting, and fire suppression. New dining room fans and lights have already been added.

2015 saw the addition of Oceanside’s HOT COPS (Homeless Outreach Team) who try to assist the homeless with the greatest needs, including the mentally ill and disabled.

We have also begun collaboration with INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES SERVICES who come to our Center to help our Guests obtain other services including food stamps, medical insurance, and housing.

PLANS FOR 2016 INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Complete the installation of kitchen equipment
- Install new water heater for the Center
- Acquisition of a new fork lift
- Painting the exterior of the Center building

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GLASS HALF-FULL MARKS AUXILIARY’S CAN-DO SPIRIT
by Helen Parsons

Being a member of the Brother Benno Auxiliary is life-changing. One learns quickly how to work as a group, the art of selfless giving, and the rewards of helping those in need.

Auxiliary members have been offering support to the Brother Benno Foundation for almost 20 years! They meet monthly but work many hours on their own to raise money for our Recovery Programs and to make layettes so our new moms or moms-to-be have baby clothing and diapers.

They put together gift bags for the women in the Program, and they are planning to start up HOW (Helping Other Women) again, where they bring a home-cooked meal to the Women’s House and stay to share the meal with them.

Children and teens also benefit from the work done by the Auxiliary, especially at Christmas time, when they provide gifts, as well as set up and participate in many of the activities at the Center’s annual party.

For years, members of the Auxiliary have provided a serving team for the morning meal. In fact, they are the group that comes running when the Foundation needs help in any way!

When I hear that some people see a glass half-full and others see it half-empty, it occurs to me that Auxiliary members see the glass and immediately think, “Who is thirsty?”

If you are looking for a way to give back and be part of Brother Benno’s mission to help those most in need call Membership Chair Nita Rodriguez (760-994-0355) for more information.

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THANK YOU!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the donations you have provided Brother Benno’s over the past year. Overall contributions were up in 2015, which enabled us to do more to serve the poor. Contributions over the holiday season were also the best ever. This is a tribute to you, our loyal base of donors, who support our mission of serving the poor and also those in need of recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

Receiving a Four-Star rating (the highest) from Charity Navigator, the premier charity-rating organization, also helped to assure our donors that the money they donate is being well spent.

We are continuing to serve more and more people, including providing emergency services such as one-time help with rent and utilities.

The number of homeless and families with children we serve continues to grow. Every donation, no matter the amount, helps toward our mission. As we continue to say, without your donations, we could not do what we do.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Harold Kutler

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LEAVING A LEGACY TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF BROTHER BENNO’S

A significant part of the financial support for Brother Benno’s comes from planned giving from our donors. “Planned Giving” is a generic term that covers the many ways an individual or couple can give to a charity, while—in many cases—avoiding taxes. A few examples of planned giving are: Wills, Living Trusts, Designated Beneficiary Accounts, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, and Real Estate.

There are some occasions where donors have donated real estate to Brother Benno’s, or included the donation of property in their will. Presently there is a need for a sober-living home for those who have completed our Recovery Program and are in the process of finding a job and living accommodations. This is a very sensitive time in their lives when having a temporary place

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by Carol Sanford

Spring is upon us already, and our Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast event will be on Saturday, March 26, from 8 to 9:30, at 2146 Vista Way (Jefferson/78) in Oceanside. Our own volunteers will be greeting, seating, and serving everyone hearty plates of Applebee’s freshly scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, toast, coffee, juice, and milk—all for only $10 per person!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to eat breakfast out for a good cause! Contact Vera Bayliss (760-295-0059) for reservations. And Terri Keyes is rounding up all the necessary volunteers. Call her (760-305-7510) to work and be part of the fun.

This is our first fundraiser of the year—every year—and we hope to make it as successful as it was last year.

Following right on the heels of our Applebee’s breakfast will be our next fundraiser, a theatre buyout on Wednesday, April 13, at the Broadway Theatre in Vista, to see the hilarious country musical parody, “The Doyle and Debbie Show.” Munchies and beverages can be enjoyed before the show. So circle the date on your calendar now!

During May and June, we always devote our time and efforts to preparing and giving something to the Center Guests for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. We also work on the US Postal Service food drive, where we gather and sort the food that is donated to the Center for our food packs.

Many thanks to Nita Rodriguez, our Vice President of Membership, and her great crew of helpers, for creating the wonderful Membership Drive Brunch at Shadowridge in Vista in February, at which time we presented our check for $22,000 to the Brother Benno Foundation, which represents our fundraising proceeds from 2015. New members are the lifeblood of any organization, and we welcome each new member!

With many hands to do the work, more worthy deeds can be done for those in need in our community. The next Auxiliary meeting will be on Wednesday, March 23 (4th Wednesday) in the Center Dining Room, 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting. Hope you’ll be there!

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to live can make a crucial difference in helping them successfully maintain their sobriety. This type of giving would provide a substantial legacy, helping people who are in the midst of rebuilding their lives.

For more information, please contact Frank Doherty (760-439-1244, ext. 119, or 760-804-1948, or email dohertyfe@aol.com.)

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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)__________________________________

Or, donate online at http://brotherbenno.org

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Alexander</td>
<td>Louise Foussat</td>
<td>Ruth Hazel Pierson</td>
<td>Casperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Barnet</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Ida Friend</td>
<td>Mary Pullman</td>
<td>Jan Mooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brother Benno</td>
<td>Mary Gerrity</td>
<td>Catherine L. Quinlan</td>
<td>John &amp; Helen Hagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Blaiser</td>
<td>Bob Gleason</td>
<td>Dora Ramirez</td>
<td>Clay Pardee</td>
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<td>Andrea Boersma</td>
<td>Tom Hayward</td>
<td>Dick &amp; Terry Riley</td>
<td>Bernie Weiler</td>
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<td>Roland Bond</td>
<td>Elizabeth Holmes</td>
<td>Margaret Rossini</td>
<td>Rose &amp; Floyd</td>
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<td>Bill Boster</td>
<td>Alice Jordan</td>
<td>Ann Sauer</td>
<td>Caldwell</td>
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<td>Agnus &amp; Joan Boyd</td>
<td>Ben Kouns</td>
<td>Mary Shankle</td>
<td>Cathie Gelhaar</td>
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<td>Bill Buckner</td>
<td>Richard Kurtz</td>
<td>Naomi Shelton</td>
<td>June Williams</td>
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<td>Deacon Art &amp; Mary Carr</td>
<td>Carole Kutler</td>
<td>Bernice, Samuel &amp; Milton</td>
<td>Braden Massey</td>
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<td>Mary Teresa Carr</td>
<td>Kay Kutler</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Floyd &amp; Marie</td>
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<td>Anna Correia</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Louise Lakoff</td>
<td>Will Skinner</td>
<td>Atkinson</td>
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<td>Don &amp; Dorothea Daybell</td>
<td>Ben E. Lewis</td>
<td>Mike Stendahl</td>
<td>Bill Severy</td>
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<td>Phyllis H. Dierlam</td>
<td>Helen Lucas</td>
<td>Margaret Stephan</td>
<td>Bruno Acosta</td>
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<td>Frank S. Dolley</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Joan Maloney</td>
<td>Virginia Sylvestrak</td>
<td>Agatha Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita H. Donahue</td>
<td>Helene McGill</td>
<td>Mother Teresa</td>
<td>Ann &amp; Tom</td>
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<td>Dorothy M. Donahue</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Monty</td>
<td>Harold Thompson</td>
<td>Witherow</td>
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<td>Roseanne Dreibelbis</td>
<td>Mary Nordstrom</td>
<td>Walter Ulloa</td>
<td>Ed Holden</td>
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<td>Fr. Abbot Claude</td>
<td>Bud &amp; Blanche Ogle</td>
<td>Fred Williamson</td>
<td>Richard Bruinsma</td>
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<td>Ehringer, OSB</td>
<td>Ben Osgrove</td>
<td>Zeferino &amp; Dancy</td>
<td>Clay</td>
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<td>Myron Eichen</td>
<td>Pope John Paul II</td>
<td>Nares</td>
<td>Andrew &amp; Jane</td>
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<td>Richard Farquhar</td>
<td>Kathryn D. Pent</td>
<td>Nysewander Family</td>
<td>Yandura</td>
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<td>William &amp; Vennita</td>
<td>Mary Peterson</td>
<td>Squirrell Family</td>
<td>Joe Koenn</td>
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<td>Flanagan</td>
<td>Jane Pfau</td>
<td>Louise &amp; George</td>
<td>Jim Bender</td>
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## Needs

- Gently used furniture
- Diapers
- Reading glasses

## Schedule

<table>
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<th>March 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
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<td>8 March</td>
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<td>9 March</td>
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<td>10 March</td>
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<td>11 March</td>
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## Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
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, 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

Brother Benno’s Services:

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January 2016</th>
<th>Our 32nd Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>12,657</td>
<td>3,845,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>271,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
<td>5,199</td>
<td>1,167,767</td>
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<tr>
<td>Showers</td>
<td>1,316</td>
<td>214,588</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>19,680</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>80,267</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Our 32nd Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loads of laundry</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27,258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food packs</td>
<td>1,687</td>
<td>293,567</td>
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<td>Blankets</td>
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<td>Tarps</td>
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<td>ID Vouchers</td>
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