



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).

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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."



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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SOCIAL MEDIA HELP NEEDED!

Brother Benno's is looking for someone who can help out with some social media regarding our website. You can do it from the comfort of your home, the beach, the Center, or wherever you wish.

If you are interested, please contact Suzy at 760-518-9061. Thanks!

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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AUXILIARY NEWS

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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

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

Needs

Gently used furniture

Diapers

Reading glasses

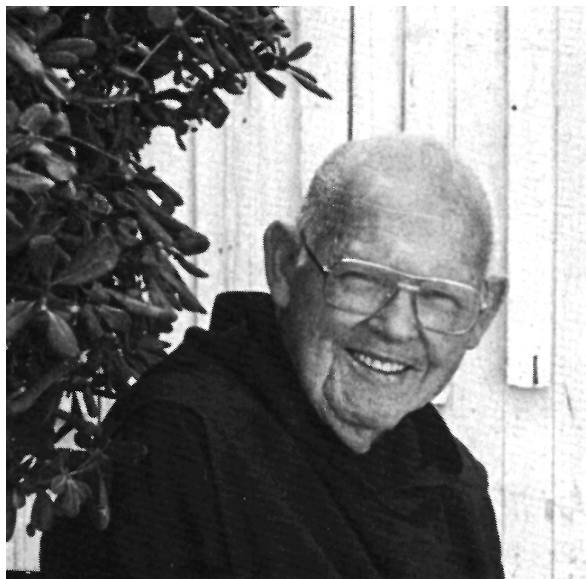
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
2016	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Team Wyndham	9 1st MLG FCPOA	10 Oceanside Civitans	11 St. Patrick's	12 Camp Penleton Catholics
Monthly	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ the King Lutheran	16 Grace Anglican	17 Carlsbad Rotary	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 St. Mark's San Marcos	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Pilgrim Creek	25 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	26 Catholic Daughters
Team	28 Christ Church	29 Welk Resort	30 Soroptimist International	31 TBA		
Schedule						

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 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, 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:

	January 2016	Our 32nd Year		January 2016	Our 32nd Year
Meals	12,657	3,845,905	Loads of laundry	23	27,258
Nights of lodging	1,002	271,244	Food packs	1,687	293,567
Articles of clothing	5,199	1,167,767	Blankets	155	39,739
Showers	1,316	214,588	Tarps	84	844
Haircuts	122	19,680	ID Vouchers	14	8,826
Bus passes	167	80,267	HUGS	2,250	913,594