



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

March 2017



## SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE, HOPE, AND UNDERSTANDING

Brother Benno's has been a beacon of love and hope within the community for many years; and because of this, Cal. State San Marcos, Palomar College, Mira Costa College, and the Catholic Diocese of San Diego have asked us for the opportunity to help their people get a better understanding of what we do, and to learn about the issues associated with the poor, the homeless, and the addicted.

Students from the three colleges come to our Center as part of their educational outreach, where they encounter and serve our Guests in many different capacities. By providing this experience, we impact the lives of the students as well as those of the poor; and in the long run, it's a benefit for the community as well.

The Catholic Diocese has a five-year diaconate program in which laymen study and work toward becoming Permanent Deacons—a designation that includes ordination but is not the same as the priesthood. These men are usually married, and their wives are required to take the training along with their husbands. At present, we have three men, sometimes accompanied by their wives, who come in on Saturdays—greeting Guests, working on the serving line, and sharing a meal and conversation with them.



Andrade Sanchez, Kieth Way, Jose & Margarita Maldonado

As with the students, the diaconate candidates come to Brother Benno's to get hands-on experience in working with the poor and homeless. Long-time volunteer **Frank Doherty** said: "Feedback from the candidates at the end of their time at Brother Benno's has been that their experience has had a major impact on the way they see the poor. They gain insight on how to see and help people who are hurting. A number of (them) have also helped to guide our Recovery Program members, which has had a lasting impact on them.

"In providing exposure to the poor and homeless . . . we help to sow the seeds of understanding and love for the poor that many of these people will never forget."

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## TWO GRANTS FUND NEW FORK LIFT

Brother Benno's has a new forklift, thanks to grants from **Las Patronas** and the **Tony Robbins Foundation**. This piece of equipment is vital to the work done in our warehouse, moving and stacking boxes of donations, mainly food items.

Las Patronas was started in 1946, and since then it has donated nearly \$20 million to more than a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego County. Funds are generated by various fundraising events; and among other targeted groups are children, seniors, homeless, and the disabled.

The Tony Robbins Foundation is dedicated to empowering individuals and organizations through its seminars, books, and infomercials. In 2014, they donated the profits from one of Tony's books to Feeding America, which provides meals to people in need.

We are grateful to both of these organizations for helping us behind the scenes in our efforts to serve the poor and homeless.

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**A Cornucopia.** On a blustery Saturday morning between rainstorms, I went to the Brother Benno Center to find stories for the newsletter. I talked to a variety of people—volunteers, Staff members, Program members and graduates, and Guests—and I came away with lots of information.

**Ben Edwards**, LMFT, was there to see what we're all about. He's a semi-retired therapist who worked mainly with people in domestic abuse situations, both perpetrators and victims. "I'll probably never fully retire because I want to help people," he said, "and maybe I can be of some use here."

**Jen** is a Program graduate who now volunteers at the Center three days a week. She's an artist who loves to paint huge murals, "the bigger the space, the better," she told me. When I asked her how she finds people who might want to hire her, she said it's mostly by word of mouth. One of her commissions can be seen at a Little League field, another was to decorate a little girl's bedroom. Give her a space, and she'll give you whatever you want!

**Dave Crockett** and **Bunny Lupica** are volunteers who sit at the Reception desk every Saturday. On other days, David helps fill food boxes, and Bunny works in the Intake Office. Dave said he's been here "forever," Bunny started last May. She said it's so rewarding to interact with the Guests, because just a smile or a hug are often enough to bring tears of appreciation.

I tried to engage a little boy in the food line who looked to be about four, but other than a huge smile, he was too shy to answer my questions. He did shake his head Yes when I asked if he'd been here before.

As I got ready to leave the Center, **Sheila Jaffee** had just started playing her harp. She had dropped off a load of donated clothing the week before, and she asked if she could come the next week to entertain the Guests.

On my trek back to my car (it's almost impossible to find a parking space on Saturdays), a man on a heavily loaded-down bicycle passed me. He had a small dog draped over his shoulders like a neck pillow. I'm sure he was on his way to eat at

the Center, and I don't doubt that his puppy got a few tidbits as well.

**All Those Names.** People frequently ask us about the names on the top half of page 5; who decides which names are listed? The answer is simple. When someone sends in a monetary donation and says it's in memory of a family member or friend, or it's in honor of someone's birthday or anniversary, we put those names on the list the following month. In regard to Memorials, there's what we call the permanent list, that is, the names of people who were exceptional donors and/or volunteers, and have been chosen by our Founder, **Harold Kutler**, to be on the list without having had a recent donation made in their name.

Some people donate in memory or honor every month, so their loved ones continue to appear month after month. A few donors ask that we "honor" someone, without giving us the specifics, so we have a listing that says, "In Honor Of."

A donor can send the request by cutting out the donation box in the newsletter, or writing a separate note along with their check. We do ask that donors print the names very carefully so we can be sure to spell them correctly. We also offer to send a card to a family member of the deceased, or the person(s) being honored for birthday or anniversary, letting them know that a donation was made in their names.

**Gift Cards Appreciated.** We appreciate getting gift cards for Walmart and Target for our Program Women and Men.

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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 Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or [smartinek@miracosta.edu](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)

## BROTHER BENNO'S HELPS TWO FAMILIES IN GREAT NEED

Imagine suddenly becoming responsible for seven children, ages five to seventeen! That's what happened to "Anne" and "Martin" of Oceanside when their grandchildren were about to be put into foster care. Their son, the children's father, was in jail, and the mother's drug use made her decide she couldn't care for them. The family lived in another state, and the grandparents didn't want them to have to be separated, so they sent them money for bus fare and took them into their home.

Anne came to Brother Benno's for help; and between **Mary Holguin** and **Carol Muehe**, she was given that help. They found donated beds, sheets, and seven blankets. "We sorted through all our blankets," Mary said, "and we found just enough!"

Anne was also offered children's clothing, but she said she hadn't had time to sort through what the children brought along, so she didn't know what they might need.

Both Mary and Carol had the impression that Anne was on top of things, and that she and Martin and the children would be just fine.

Another situation involved "**Maria**," a homeless mother who was being threatened with losing her children aged two, five, and six. When she'd been unable to pay her rent, the landlord locked the apartment and wouldn't let her retrieve any of their belongings, so they were out on the street with nothing.

When she came to Brother Benno's, she had already made arrangements to get on welfare and receive food stamps, and a friend knew someone with a converted garage where the family could live temporarily.

"She seemed ashamed to have to ask for help," Mary Holguin said, "but I assured her that we were here to help." She chose one outfit of clothing for each of the children and reluctantly took more when it was offered to her.

Two families were able to stay together because of the many people who donate money and goods to Brother Benno's, and the caring volunteers who see to it that the donations reach the poor and homeless in our community.

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The reason for this request is that hygiene items, underwear, shoes, and makeup are better purchased by the person who needs them. Many of these men and women come to us "off the street," so they are in great need of everything. Also, when they get to a certain point in the Program they are required to look for a job, so having a hair dryer, makeup, and appropriate clothing go a long way toward improving their self-confidence. One of the Program mentors said that cards for any amount are very much appreciated. Please mark these cards FOR PROGRAM MEMBERS and drop them off at the Center.

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### First Saturday Serving Team Saint Thomas More



**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>**



### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Karen Gallagher & Nita Rodriguez

We're happy to report that the Auxiliary is getting off to a great start this year!

We are proud to share that **Karen Gallagher** and **Nita Rodriguez**, Co-Presidents, presented a check for \$25,000 to the Brother Benno Foundation; Board President **Dennis Martinek** graciously accepted the check on behalf of the Foundation. This \$25,000 was made possible through the Auxiliary's fundraising efforts throughout 2016. It reflects the tremendous support we have received from our community.



Karen, Nita and Dennis

We are genuinely humbled and blessed by your support and hope you will accept our heartfelt thanks. Our goal this year is to raise enough money to increase our contribution in 2017 to \$28,000.

The Membership Brunch provided members an opportunity to share with their guests the history and purpose of the Auxiliary, as well as the many fundraising, service, and support activities the Auxiliary holds throughout the year. New members were invited to take a tour of the Brother Benno Center in March. A big thank-you to **Edith**

**Jones**, Vice-President, for such a delightful and successful membership event!


If you weren't able to attend our Membership Brunch and are interested in becoming an Auxiliary member, don't worry. Interested men and women are welcome to join at any time.

Our Thrift Shop Work Party has a new co-ordinator. Thank you, **Frank Cerimele**, for taking the lead on this important service project.

Speaking of fundraising, we're already geared up for our first fundraiser for 2017: Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast on Saturday, March 25, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at 2146 Vista Way in Oceanside. Members will be greeting, seating, and serving everyone delicious plates of Applebee's freshly scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, toast, coffee, juice, and milk—all for only \$10 per person. (Generous tips are always greatly appreciated and are a big part of the fundraiser.) You can download a reservation form at <http://bit.ly/2labpNL>. For more information or to ask that a reservation form be mailed to you, contact **Judy Harris** (760-724-00227). We look forward to serving you!

The next Auxiliary meeting is **Wednesday, March 22, in the Center Dining Room. Social time and snacks start at 1 p.m., followed by the meeting at 1:30. Why don't you check us out? We welcome all to join us and give input.**

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**Information & Online donations:** [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)  
**Follow Brother Bennos online:**  
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

### Memorials

Ron Alexander	Louise Foussat	Alan Port	Elene Fish
Dixie & Lou Bales	Joe & Ida Friend	Mary Pullman	Molly & Johnny
Frank Barnet	Mary Gerrity	Catherine L. Quinlan	Samuelson
Brother Benno	Bob Gleason	Dora Ramirez	Margaret Gregoire
Edith Blaiser	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Robert Buchach
Andrea Boersma	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Lorraine Diot
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Andrew & Jane
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Yandura
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Peggy Miville
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Clay
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Donald Deffenbaugh
Mary Teresa Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Louise & Gerry
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Mike Stendahl	Michael Sifferlou
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Margaret Stephan	Donna LaMothe
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Fr. Brad Dusak
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Mother Teresa	Wilford & Bertha Ross
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Harold Thompson	Mary Hicketier
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Rosemary Tucker	Bob Strawbridge
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Mary Nordstrom	Walter Ulloa	Ron Lukosiewicz
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Bud & Blanche Ogle	June Williams	Jack Gillen
Fr. Abbot Claude	Ben Osgrove	Fred Williamson	John & Helen Hagan
Ehringer, OSB	Pope John Paul II	Zeferino & Dancy	Gilbert Brown
Myron Eichen	Kathryn D. Pent	Nares	John & P.J. Daheim
Richard Farhquar	Mary Peterson	Nysewander Family	<b>In Honor Of</b>
William & Vennita	Jane Pfau	Squirrel Family	Donna Kurtz
Flanagan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Tyler James Pinnick	

### Needs

Gently used furniture      Reading glasses      Sunglasses      Gift cards for Walmart and Target  
 Ladies' socks      Men's hoodies, jackets, belts, wallets, jeans (sizes 30 - 36)  
 Men's and Women's Razors -- Gillette Mach 3 and Gillette Venus      Adult and Baby Diapers (sizes 2-3-4-5-6)

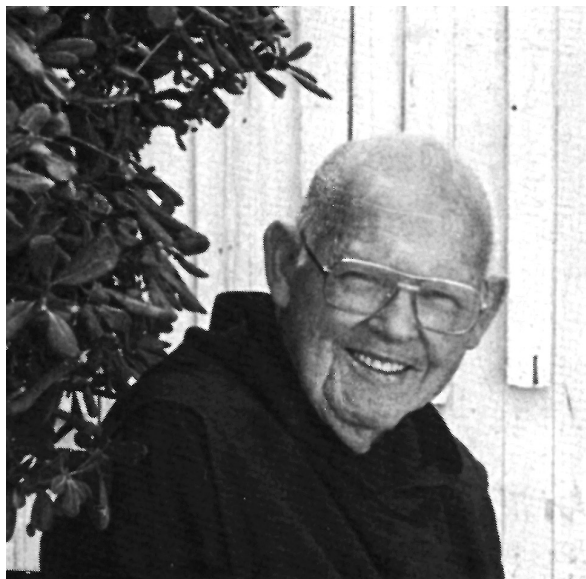
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March</b>			<b>1</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2017</b>	<b>6</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>7</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>8</b> 1st MLG FCPOA	<b>9</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>10</b> St. Patrick's	<b>11</b> Riverview Church
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Riverview Church	<b>15</b> Grace Anglican	<b>16</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>24</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>25</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>27</b> Christ Church	<b>28</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>29</b> Soroptimst International	<b>30</b> Brother Benno Thrift Shop	<b>31</b> King of Kings Lutheran	
<b>Schedule</b>						

### Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**  
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	January 2017	Our 33nd Year		January 2017	Our 33nd Year
Meals	13,127	4,005,552	Loads of laundry	23	27,571
Nights of lodging	870	282,410	Food packs	1,457	311,981
Articles of clothing	5,664	1,235,436	Blankets	238	41,727
Showers	1,159	228,801	Tarps	140	1,960
Haircuts	122	21,292	ID Vouchers	14	8,926
Bus passes	129	81,685	HUGS	2,250	936,994