



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

March 2018



VOLUNTEER AND GUEST CONNECT THROUGH ART

Volunteers and staff members at Brother Benno's don't just *refer* to the people they serve as Guests, they *treat* them as such. Founder **Harold Kutler** said, “A Guest is someone we invite to join us, someone we treat with respect.”* His wife **Kay** was famous for hugging every Guest who walked through the door; and since she's gone, others have lovingly stepped up to carry on her welcoming spirit.

Eileen Costa is one of those special volunteers. She comes in one morning a week to greet the Guests and listen to their stories. After breakfast, she is available in the intake office or the Center entry area to help them with their problems. “It's an opportunity to implement creative problem-solving,” she said. “All days are filled with meeting and interacting with interesting and wonderful guests. I have grown to feel that the people who work at Brother Benno's and the Guests who arrive are part of my family. They bring me joy.”

A homeless woman whom Eileen has gotten to know has shared her love of art with her, and Eileen wrote the following story to share with our readers.

*“I'd like to introduce you to “**Louise**” and her artwork. She enjoys sharing her masterpieces and revealing what they signify to those who enjoy looking at them. Originally from Chicago, Louise has been a local resident for the past 33 years. Among her friends are those she met when she first arrived in Oceanside.*

“I find it a pleasure to be part of Louise's world. She started her artwork six years ago after browsing through Michael's (craft store) seeking a hobby to enjoy. She chose adult color-

ing books, and her talent blossomed as she found joy in bringing to life her creative imagination. Mixing the colors and textures of gel pens, colored pencils, and markers produces unusual and appealing results. In addition to the joy she feels when talking with friends about this art is the relaxation, stress relief, and feeling of fulfillment it brings. She describes creating her art as a decompressing experience.

“When Louise brought her artwork to Brother Benno's during breakfast, I was amazed at the time, effort, and beauty it reflected. She kindly let me choose two pieces to enjoy at my home. They are hanging on my wall next to my daughter's henna artwork.”



**(from Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen by Harold Kutler, page 33).*

TWO STORIES SHOW HOW JUST A LITTLE CAN MEAN A LOT

Walking in Their Shoes

by Frank Doherty

Working at Brother Benno's has allowed many of us to grow in our love and understanding of how we can best serve the poor. We realize we have an opportunity to work every day with those at the margin—standing where God would be present.

Many of our poor come to us with a history of trauma, and with feelings of abandonment. The question becomes, how can we best love them?

We know many of our poor on a first-name basis, and we embrace them with a friendship of unconditional love. We have learned that we can have the greatest impact when we walk their journey with them. We seek a relationship first and see what happens. We let them know they are not alone. We listen and embrace their stories and hardships.

Over time, we share ourselves, and we find that our acceptance and friendship can make a difference in both of our lives. We find more and more joy by staying close to the poor, going out of our way to help where we can. We see them as “diamonds in the rough,” and we help them to see their own innate goodness, and to see that we are all on a journey to love and serve one another.

We ourselves become changed with a new sense of love and friendship that is created when we do our best to understand their pain and difficulties, and to help wherever possible. We become a person who has learned to love by our willingness to be there for them, to walk in their shoes.

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You've never been to the Brother Benno Center? Not to worry! Just show up by 9 a.m. on any first Saturday of the month, and you'll be taken on a tour. No reservation needed. Our address is 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside.

A Simple Request

Last week when I was coming into the Center, I encountered a homeless man who had a simple request. Could I get him a can opener? I told him I'd see what I could do.

I didn't know where to start looking for such a simple item. I tried the warehouse furniture area and they didn't have one. Then I went into the Kitchen and asked **Pelon**, our chief cook, and he just happened to have an extra one. It wasn't quite functional, he said, but maybe it would work. What was amazing to me was the expression on the man's face when I gave it to him—the smile of gratitude, as if I'd given him a precious gift.

We often take for granted such simple things as a can opener; but for the poor we serve, it can be very important. We give away a lot of canned food—quite useless if you can't open the cans!

The poor need many of the things we take for granted, such as shoes, socks, belts, caps, blankets, sleeping bags, dog food—or a simple can opener. When we give, we become the beneficiaries of the good feeling that we have helped somebody who has nothing.

We have many donors who give us the things we regularly need—like Pampers and baby formula—for which we are very grateful. We all have this ability to perhaps go a little out of our way to help those in need.

(Donated items can be dropped off at the Center or the Thrift Shop.)

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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

BROTHER BENNO'S HAS SPECIAL VISITORS AND ALWAYS-SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS

In early February, California Assembly Member **Rocky Chavez** and his Aide **Michael Hadland** visited the Center. They were there to check on the status of the work being done by Brother Benno's because of a rise in the homeless population in North San Diego County.

After the visit, Michael reported that "Assembly Member Chavez feels much relief, knowing that a great institution such as Brother Benno's is there for the Community. (It) continues to set a high bar for homeless assistance in North County. It is (his) hope that the community can continue to support Brother Benno's in everything they do."

Another first-time visitor was **Auxiliary Bishop John Dolan** of the San Diego Catholic Diocese, who came to the Center one Saturday morning to take the tour and have lunch with our Guests.

Brother Kevin, a Franciscan Friar and regular volunteer at Brother Benno's, reports that the Bishop spent a lot of time one-on-one with the men and women in the meal line and again when everyone sat down to eat. He also promised to make Brother Benno's more well known among the pastors in North County.

And speaking of pastors, we can count the leaders of many local churches of all denominations as avid supporters of the work we do with the poor and homeless. Their example of reaching out to the less fortunate naturally touches their flocks, and many of our volunteers come to us through those channels. But lest anyone think a church connection is the only way to make a difference, be assured that we see good people in many walks of life who follow their hearts and experience the great satisfaction of helping others. To quote our founder, **Harold Kutler**, "Volunteers are the heart and soul of Brother Benno's. These men and women are all ages, and we appreciate every one of them." (from *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, page 69).

See pictures on page 4.

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DONATING TO BROTHER BENNO'S IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER

If you love to shop online, and you love even more to help Brother Benno's, you'll want to check out our brand-new Amazon Wish List. We let you know what our current needs are, you decide what you'd like to donate, and Amazon sends the items directly to Brother Benno's.

This idea came from one of our Facebook fans a few months ago when we needed gloves for our Clothing Room (also known as the Brother Benno Boutique!). We did a quick survey, and our Facebook fans loved the idea. Why? First, they loved being able to donate exactly what we need when we need it. And second, they loved that their purchased items could be delivered directly to the Center. (And for those who are Amazon Prime members, delivery is free!)

The link to our Amazon Wish List is: <http://amzn.to/2EyMGj6>

You'll see a picture, description, price, and reasons for our need for each item. There's also a notation of how many of each item we need, and how many have already been purchased.

We'll be keeping our Wish List updated monthly and would appreciate any feedback you can give us when you donate via our Amazon Wish List. And as always, we thank you for your donations!

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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>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Nita Rodriguez

We are gearing up for our first fundraiser of 2018—our famously popular **Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast!** It will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at 2146 Vista Way in Oceanside. Auxiliary members will be greeting, seating, and serving everyone delicious plates of freshly scrambled eggs, pancakes, fried red potatoes, sausages, toast, coffee, juice, and milk—all for only **\$10 per person!** (Generous tips are greatly appreciated and are a big part of the fundraiser.)

You can download a reservation form at <http://bit.ly/2stXI3S>, or call **Dorine Mead** (760-434-3950) to have a form mailed to you. We look forward to serving you!

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28, in the Dining Room at the Center—1 p.m. for snacks, 1:30 meeting. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. Can't attend a meeting but want to be a member? Download our membership application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>.

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On Teamwork: "No member of a crew is praised for the rugged individuality of his rowing."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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



Dennis Martinek, Barbara Collins & Rocky Chavez
(Brother Bennos was a Bus Stop for the North County Veterans Stand Down Jan 25-28)



Bear and Rocky Chavez

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
 Dixie & Lou Bales
 Frank Barnet
 Brother Benno
 Edith Blaiser
 Andrea Boersma
 Roland Bond
 Bill Boster
 Agnus & Joan Boyd
 Bill Buckner
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr
 Anna Correia
 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
 Chance Hales
 Tom Hayward
 Elizabeth Holms
 Alice Jordan
 Ben Kouns
 Richard Kurtz
 Carole Kutler
 Kay Kutler
 Bill & Louise Lakoff
 Ben E. Lewis
 Helen Lucas
 Bill & Joan Maloney
 Helene McGill
 Michael & Monty
 Nares
 Zeferino & Dancy
 Nares
 Mary Nordstrom
 Nysewander Family
 Bud & Blanche Ogle
 Ben Osgrove
 Kathryn D. Pent
 Mary Peterson
 Jane Pfau
 Ruth Hazel Pierson
 Alan Port
 Mary Pullman

Catherine L. Quinlan
 Dora Ramirez
 Dick & Terry Riley
 Margaret Rossini
 Ann Sauer
 Mary Shankle
 Naomi Shelton
 Bernice, Samuel &
 Milton Silver
 Will Skinner
 Ann Grier Smith
 Squirrell Family
 Mike Stendahl
 Margaret Stephan
 Virginia Sylwestrzak
 Harold Thompson
 Carol & Herb
 Thornberg
 Rosemary Tucker
 Walter Ulloa
 June Williams
 Fred Williamson
 Agatha Johnson
 Toni Keane
 Harry Opatkiewicz
 Dorothy Quinn
 Earl McDougal
 Donna Kurtz

Alva & Frances Snider
 Charles Hales
 Fr. Brad Dusak
 Gilbert Brown
 Delia Hill
 Margaret Beitey
 Jaci & Matt Kautzman
 Robert Buchach
 Robert McLaughlin
 Molly Wilber
 Donald Deffenbaugh
 Bob Strawbridge
 Barbara LaMothe
 Bill Daley
 Andrew & Jane Yandura
 Elaine Sauter
 Micheo Ogamori
 Harley Lowe
 Catherine & Joseph
 Martina

IN HONOR OF
Harold Kutler

Needs

Gently used furniture
 Disposable razors

Q-tips
 Neosporin

Mouthwash (no alcohol)

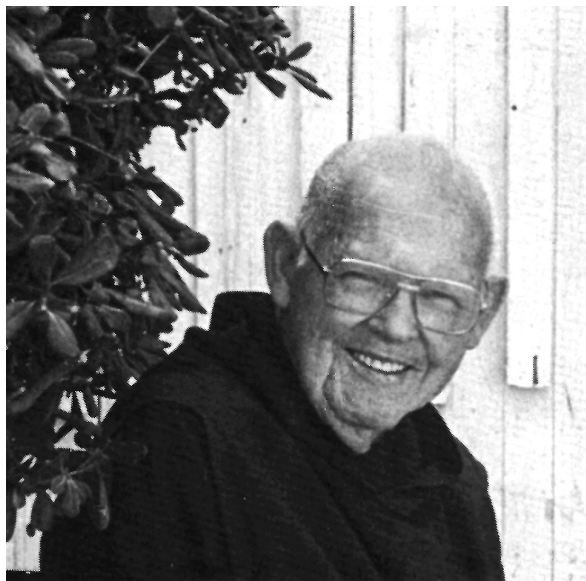
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitans	9 St. Patrick's	10 TVIA SD1
	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Fairwinds	15 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	24 Catholic Daughters
	26 Christ Church	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop	30 King of Kings Lutheran	31 Shiloh Church of God in Christ

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

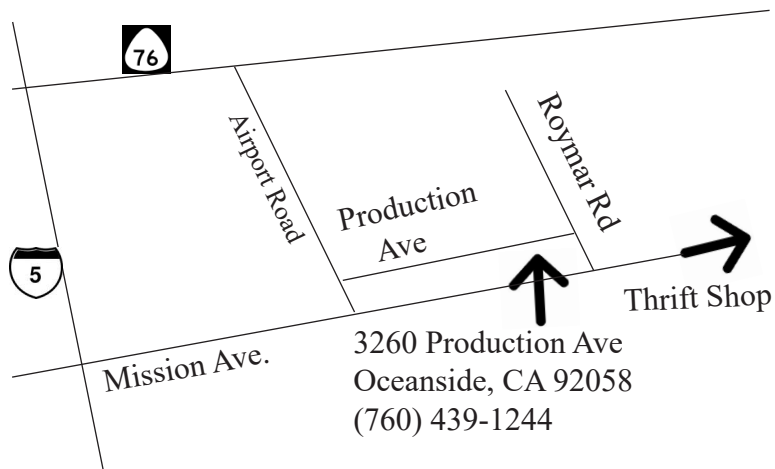
Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 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 2018	Our 34th Year		January 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	13,309	4,163,200	Loads of laundry	60	27,935
Nights of lodging	935	292,819	Food packs	1,246	327,824
Articles of clothing	5,297	1,301,511	Blankets	673	44,178
Showers	1,309	243,562	Tarps	142	3,139
Haircuts	31	22,121	ID Vouchers	9	9,065
Bus passes	130	83,003	HUGS	1,800	960,394