**GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**

The morning Serving Line has an opening. This does not happen very often.

What is the Serving Line? Each morning, Monday through Friday, Brother Benno’s serves a hot breakfast to the working poor and the homeless. The serving team should have 8-10 people, wear closed-toe shoes, and a head cover such as a baseball cap or other hat. We have hair nets, if preferred, and of course gloves. The meal is served from 6:30 am until 8:00 am. Arrival should be around 6:15 am.

The time slot would be the second Thursday of each month.

I have communicated with the various organizations over the past 12 years and the feedback has been so positive.

A group from your church, club, or community organization would be ideal.

If you are interested, please contact me, Suzy Martinek, at:

- 760-941-1876
- smartinek@miracosta.edu

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**STUDENTS SHARE LOVE ON VALENTINE’S DAY**

Students ages 5 to 11 at Foussat Elementary School in Oceanside participated in the Great Kindness Challenge by decorating large paper hearts and writing loving messages on them. These hearts were included in our sack lunches on Valentine’s Day to let our Guests know that others are thinking of them. Here are just a few samples of the messages the children wrote:

- You are loved.
- We’re sending you hugs.
- Hope you feel good about yourself–you’re worth it.
- You matter.
- Stay strong and life will get better.
- We care about you.

The drawings that accompanied the messages included hearts, rainbows, smiley faces, and stars, all done in bright colors.

According to **Jennifer Hatfield**, the school counselor, the children made the cards during recess time. “When we explained what we were going to do with these notes,” she said, “they were so touched and couldn’t wait to make them.” She added that some of them already knew about Brother Benno’s because they’d been there with their parents. “We appreciate Brother Benno’s for allowing our school to learn how good it feels to do something kind for someone else, not just at our school but also in our community.”

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Nick was one of the original members of the Brother Benno Foundation Board, where he served faithfully until shortly before his death last November at the age of 79. As an attorney, he provided legal counsel to the Board and also wrote the Foundation’s bylaws. His passion for helping those in need was an example that was much appreciated by all who knew him. Because he was a member of the Board, he was not able to represent the Foundation in legal matters; but his wide association with the legal community made it possible for him to recruit other attorneys when necessary.

Board member Helen Parsons had this to say about Nick: “This man was bigger than life to me when Harold brought me onto the Foundation Board. So one afternoon, when he came to my home, I found myself speechless! He was there to convince me that I needed to be part of the “executive” board as a liaison for the Thrift Shop. He was a tremendous help for me, sometimes an adversary, but always with Brother Benno’s in his heart. I miss him!”

John Blasier and Richard Shlemmer are two current Board members who were brought on by Nick in the 1980’s. Richard said that with Nick an attorney, John a businessman, and he a psychologist, the Board was well covered in those areas of expertise.

John shared these memories: “My thoughts are based upon my friendship with Nick over the last 40-plus years. He joined a group of us in a weekly football pool. Nick on the average did very well over the years in the pool. We became close friends and regularly got together for lunch.

“In 1989, Nick asked me to become a Board member, primarily because my company was in the industrial park where Brother Benno’s was planning to move from the house on Minnesota Street downtown. Nick was acting as President while Harold Kutler took a leave of absence. He asked me if I had any objections to the move and all the problems we would face. I said I thought the park would be a good spot, and immediately I was a board member! Bud Ogle (another Board member) and I were given the responsibility for the move. We moved under the “Conditional Use Permit” from the City of Oceanside, and the conflict began—and has never ceased to this day.

“It was only a short time after this that Nick informed me of Ann’s cancer (Nick’s first wife). He took a leave of absence so he and Ann could travel to Europe, and all of a sudden I was President of the Board for the next six or seven years until Harold came back and resumed the position.

“After Ann’s going to be with the Lord, Nick returned to the Foundation and took over as legal advisor and Secretary. As the years passed, Nick and I became closer friends, both at the Foundation and in our personal lives. All I can say is I am going to miss all the good times we had.”
David says he doesn’t remember being brought to Brother Benno’s by some friends in 2014. When our Recovery Program mentors recall that day, David said it sounds like he was more dead than alive. After a short interview, he was taken to the hospital and put into an induced coma for eight days, which allowed him to detox. Then his friends brought him back to one of our Recovery Houses to begin the process of changing his life.

David is 59. He said he never expected to live that long, and he wakes up every morning feeling awe and gratitude. “If it weren’t for Brother Benno’s, I never would have made it,” he said. “I love this place! I come down here as often as I can, just to be here, to talk to everyone, help out if I can. Just being here is a gift.” One of the ways he gives back is to sponsor two men who are currently in our Recovery Program.

Starting in 1995, David had managed to stay sober three times for five years. He always thought he was in charge; everything he did was up to him. So when he relapsed, he didn’t turn to anyone else for help; he could do it on his own. Until finally, he couldn’t.

He lost his wife, daughter, and father, as well as a good job. He ended up living in his truck, which he parked in a mall area. Every morning he called a cab company and asked them to deliver a bottle of booze because he was too weak to walk into a store. That’s where his friends found him one day and knew he needed help–fast.

David said he knows why the Brother Benno Recovery Program worked for him: he found God, and he learned humility. He’d been baptized as a child and had occasionally gone to church with his grandmother, but she lived out-of-town, so it wasn’t a consistent experience for him. Now, he says he needs God and prays often every day. “It’s not me calling the shots any more, it’s God,” he said.

Learning humility comes from his decision to trust his sponsor and the mentors at Brother Benno’s. Right from the beginning, they said he needed to do what he was told, whether it made sense to him or not, and to trust the process. “I realized that relying only on myself hadn’t worked, so I felt I had nothing to lose,” he said.

David also said he learned many life skills during his six months in the Program, such as how to work with others. “It was a whole mind shift,” he added. “Now, when I want to make a change in my life, I run it past my sponsor or some of the people at Brother Benno’s. Sometimes they say, ‘That sounds good,’ or maybe, ‘OK, but have you considered -----?’ It feels really good to have that input.”

Before going into our Recovery Program, David’s father had told him not to come around any more. After he graduated, the two were reconciled, and David was able to take care of his father during the last two years of his life. “For the first time ever, we talked,” he said. “I learned so much about his growing-up years–many things I never knew about him. It was wonderful.” He is also in touch with his ex-wife, and he and his 22-year-old daughter talk or see each other at least once a week. He owns his own home and has a good full-time job.

“Thanks to Brother Benno’s, I enjoy every day,” David said. “I never had it so good.”

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 Joyce Cerimele

Our Membership Brunch was held on February 8 at Shadowridge Country Club in Vista for a menu of eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, fruit, and pastries. The food was plentiful and delicious. The program highlighted the Auxiliary’s activities, with heads of work parties telling us about their particular effort. Some members modeled clothing they had bought at the Thrift Shop while sorting clothing there. We all chatted and visited and had a great time.

Next event will be “Reading Between the Vines” on April 4. For a $60 entrance fee, attendees will have lunch with wine and other beverages, and will be able to choose two gently used books from a large selection. Those who wish to buy more can do so at a modest price. We will also be having noted author Dr. Kecia Brown at the event to talk to us about writing books. She will be addressing those attendees who think they might have a book in them, begging to come out. Dr. Brown is an entrepreneur and educator. Non-Auxiliary members interested in attending, please contact Karen at onekgone@aol.com or Joyce at jcerimele11@gmail.com.

We will have an opportunity to tour the Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey in Oceanside on May 22. Keep an eye on this newsletter for information about signing up for the tour. There will be no cost.

As usual, our members are spending their volunteer effort and time on our ongoing activities. Volunteers for the Breakfast Club, Thrift Shop work parties, Meet and Greet Committee, and Layette-gathering are working tirelessly to help those who rely on the Brother Benno Foundation. The Knitting Committee is still in force, and anyone who knits or crochets and would be able and willing to help out, please contact Joyce at jcerimele11@gmail.com.

Dr. Kecia Brown

New members: seated- Margie Boucheno, Gisella Hill, Marianne Zanzig  Standing- Caitlin Gordon, Jack Boucheno

If you are not already a member of the Auxiliary and are interested in being one, please come to one of our meetings. The next one will be on Wednesday, March 25, at the Center at 3260 Production Avenue. The meeting starts at 1:30, but fellowship starts around 1 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Ω

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 Barnett
- 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 Dreipelbis
- Fr. Abbot Claude
- Ehringer, OSB
- Myron Eichen
- Richard Farhquar
- William & Vennita Flanagan
- Louise Foussat
- Joe & Ida Friend
- Mary Gerrity
- Bob Gleason
- Chance Hales
- Tom & Louise Hayward
- Elizabeth Holmes
- Alice Jordan
- Ben Kouns
- Richard Kurtz
- Carole Kutler
- Harold & Kay Kutler
- Bill & Louise Lakoff
- Ben E. Lewis
- Helen Lucas
- 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
- Alva & Frances Snider
- Squirrel Family
- Mike Stendahl
- Margaret Stephan
- Virginia Sylwesterzak
- Harold Thompson
- Carol & Herb Thornberg
- Rosemary Tucker
- Walter Ulloa
- June Williams
- Fred Williamson
- Christine Evans
- Donald Deffenbaugh
- David Lorbati
- Peggy Miville
- Frank Beeson
- Bernie Weiler
- M/M Robert Kellis
- Larry Barstow
- Carreen
- Shirley Lynch
- Bill Daley
- Harry Opatkiewicz
- Kenneth Erwin
- Alice Beckman- Carlson
- Robert Bachach
- Barbara LaMothe
- Molly Wilbur
- H. Edward Smith
- Family
- Josh
- Andrew & Jane Yandura
- Floyd & Marie Atkinson
- Gabriella Bitskey’s Parents

## Needs

- Gently used furniture
- Blankets
- Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing) and Cotton Fabric

## Monthly Serving Team Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>San Luis Rey Mission</td>
<td>St. Thomas More</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>Riverview Church</td>
<td>Fairwinds</td>
<td>Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>J. C. Penny</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>St. Thomas More RCIA</td>
<td>Vista Hi-Noon Rotary</td>
<td>San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Catholic Daughters</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>Welk Resort</td>
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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 Thrift Shop
( Helping the poor, one sale at a time)
Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture
Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

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www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno’s Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January 2020</th>
<th>Our 36th Year</th>
<th>January 2019</th>
<th>Our 36th Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>12,835</td>
<td>4,469,776</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>315,099</td>
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<td>351,408</td>
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<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<td>1,411,117</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>269,775</td>
<td>107</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
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<td>22,827</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
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