



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

March 2020



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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all 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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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

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REMEMBERING NICK SAUER

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."

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

RECOVERY PROGRAM GRAD "NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD"

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."

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Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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.**



Dr. Kecia Brown

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



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!

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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	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Peggy Miville
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	Frank Beeson
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Dora Ramirez	Bernie Weiler
Brother Benno	Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	M/M Robert Kellis
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Larry Barstow
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Carreen
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Shirley Lynch
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Bill Daley
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Harry Opatkiewicz
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Kenneth Erwin
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Alice Beckman-
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Carlson
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	Robert Buchach
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Barbara LaMothe
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	Molly Wilbur
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	H. Edward Smith
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	Family
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Josh
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Harold Thompson	Andrew & Jane
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	Yandura
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	Floyd & Marie
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Atkinson
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Gabriella Bitskey's
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	Parents
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Christine Evans	
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Donald Deffenbaugh	
Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	David Lorbat	

Needs

Gently used furniture

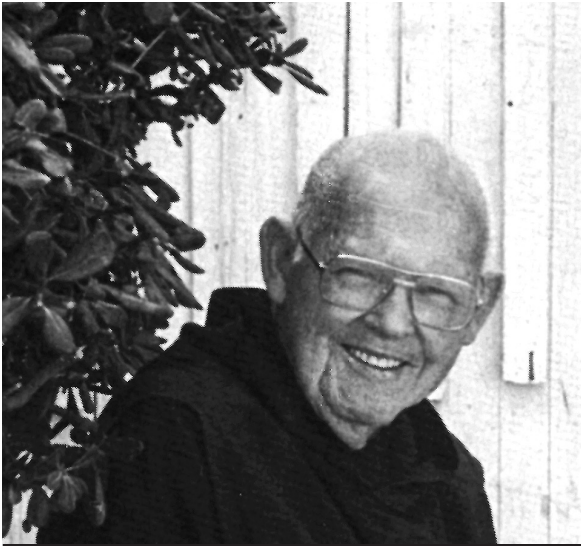
Blankets

Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing) and Cotton Fabric

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
2020	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Riverview Church	11 Fairwinds	12 Oceanside Civitanis	13 St. Patrick's	14 J. C. Penny
Monthly	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	19 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	23 St. Thomas More RCIA	24 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	28 Catholic Daughters
Team	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Welk Resort				
Schedule						

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Non-Profit Organization
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 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



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

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 2020	Our 36th Year		January 2019	Our 36th Year
Meals	12,835	4,469,776	Loads of laundry	31	28,578
Nights of lodging	1,041	315,099	Food packs	746	351,408
Articles of clothing	3,931	1,411,117	Blankets	172	48,109
Showers	806	269,775	Tarps	107	5,841
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	39	9,872
Bus passes	161	85,775	HUGS	1,800	1,007,194