



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

March 2022



IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP

That title comes from a sentence our Founder, **Harold Kutler**, used to say. He believed we never know what someone is really going through until we spend some time with them and get to know them.

We now have San Diego County welfare workers coming into our Outreach Center every Tuesday and Thursday. They are doing a great job. Our Brother Benno Volunteer Case Workers support them in any way they can. Here is an example:

A few weeks ago, “Hank” walked in and asked to see a welfare worker. While he was talking with the social worker, he mentioned that he really wants to change his life and wants to stop drinking. The social worker reached out to our Community Outreach Team while Hank was still in her office. One of our Team members went to the office, asked our new friend a few questions and shared some of his own trials so that he would understand that we know how he feels. He then asked Hank if he was willing to go to a ten-day detox center. He said yes, so our Team member called for **Doug**, our “specialist.”

Doug has been volunteering in our Outreach Center for several years, helping and serving our poor and homeless community. He is always ready to drop anything he is doing in order to give one of our Guests a ride to an appointment or other service. His LOVE for others is felt by those he serves. Doug also went through the Brother Benno Recovery Program himself

years ago, so he knows and can RELATE to folks who want to get sober.

Doug also volunteers regularly at the First Step House in Carlsbad, a ten-day detox program that many people have gone through and where they found a beginning to a new and purposeful life. Most important is that Doug begins a friendship of trust with the new person during his time with them. This friendship is sometimes the beginning of a life-long relationship.

Guess what . . . Hank was accepted into the Brother Benno Recovery Program a few days ago, and he looks so alive! When the Outreach Team member who had initiated the meeting with him and Doug saw Hank, he knew he looked familiar and was amazed when he realized it was the same person he'd met ten days earlier. What a transformation in such a short time!

Now is the time for Hank to begin his new journey at the Brother Benno Center. We hope he does well and finds what many others have found here at our little “Soup Kitchen” these last four decades: SOUP, SOAP, HUGS, and HOPE.

(Editor's Note: the writer of this article prefers to remain anonymous.)

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Brother Benno's Auxiliary Check

On February 7, 2022, Brother Benno's Auxiliary President **Joyce Cerimele** and Vice President **Doris Nyman** presented a check to the Brother Benno Foundation for \$40,602.00. The Auxiliary raised funds through its 3rd annual golf tournament and other fundraising efforts in 2021.



Kathleen , Joyce, Doris

Founded in 1996, the Brother Benno's Auxiliary has helped further the mission of Brother Benno's by providing financial assistance, service, and support. Unfortunately, the Auxiliary made the difficult decision to disband in 2022. Its legacy will live on through the 4th annual Pay It Forward charity golf tournament and the annual gift card drive for the Children's Christmas party. The Brother Benno Foundation is grateful to the Auxiliary members past and present for their dedication and support.

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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 Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or jim.napier@cox.net.

HAROLD'S WORDS CONTINUE TO INSPIRE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

(This article was first published in our newsletter of December 2018 and continues to be relevant today.)

In **Harold Kutler's** book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, he continually stressed the importance of treating the people who come to us for help in a loving and respectful way. That starts with calling them Guests instead of clients, and it ends only when they no longer need our services. This excerpt from the book is typical of Harold's thinking:

“Even though the Brother Benno Center is housed in a huge warehouse, the inside looks more like a party place. Color is everywhere. Decorations appropriate to the season or holiday draw you in . . .

“Everything is clean—the food-serving area, the tables, the floor. People hug and smile and laugh. Music plays—quietly in the background or right up front. . . Table coverings in the dining room are the extra touch that say: ‘You are our Guest.’

“**Kay** sings to the Guests—tender songs like ‘May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You’ or rousers such as ‘I’m Just Wild About Harry!’* . . .

“The grandest party of all is Christmas, which we celebrate—not once, but twice a year—in December and July. The dining room bursts with color and warmth, but now the warehouse has been transformed as well. As adults and children walk into Santa's Village, they are overwhelmed by a wall of 1,500 stuffed animals. ** (Their) last stop is our jolly Santa. He gives them candy, but his sweetest gifts are his cheery Ho-Ho-Ho's.”

**Harold's wife Kay died in February 2012, but recordings of her songs are often played for our Guests.*

*** With COVID restrictions, some things have changed, but the spirit remains.*

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SPOTLIGHT: MEET GREGG PRATHER

by MaryLynn Datoc-Bryce

This month we are shining the spotlight on **Gregg Alan Prather** (PRAY-ther), the Director of Facilities for the Brother Benno Foundation. He has been doing work for the Foundation for about 21 years and has been on the Board of Directors since 2020.



Over the years, Gregg has volunteered to be a sponsor for several men in our Recovery Program for alcoholism and drug addiction. As a sponsor, he is a mentor who guides the folks as they go through the program. Gregg himself recovered from such addictions when he was in our Program many years ago.

Gregg is a skilled electrician and has done various work and repairs on Brother Benno facilities. He created and built spaces for staff and volunteers so they can do their jobs more easily. The facilities include the Brother Benno Center, Food Pantry, Brother

Benno Thrift Shop, and seven single-family homes that house the folks in our Recovery Program.

Gregg was born in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 59 years ago and is the second of five children. His father was a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. When his older brother passed away, Gregg assumed the role of the eldest child. He grew up in Oceanside and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Economics from UC Santa Barbara.

Gregg is currently doing a special project at the Center and is very excited about it—making a new stainless steel serving line that will modernize the current line, making it more sanitary and food-safe. He will also be creating a scullery as part of this project, which is scheduled for completion this summer.

In addition to volunteer work for the Foundation, Gregg works full-time as an Electrician for the University of California San Diego (UCSD). He has held other jobs such as a bookkeeper and a substitute teacher at Oceanside and Escondido junior high schools. He enjoys backpacking and taking his nieces and nephews through the Sierra Nevada and Anza Borrego Desert.

continued on page 4...

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) _____

The Brother Benno Foundation
PO Box 308
Oceanside CA 92049

Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

Benno's

This place they call Benno's
of which I'm a part
has cleansed my soul
and opened my heart.

To think this all started
with two gracious men
whose love and whose kindness
we freely extend.

A hand up
not hand out
would become the creed
for so many families and people in need.

When they come in
we see the despair
we clothe and we feed
and show them we care.

To give them some hope
with respect and a smile
things they might not
have had for a while.

So how does this blessing
continue to grow
from the unselfish kindness
of so many we know.

For without the donor
or caring volunteer
this thing that was started
would all disappear.

God put us together
it's not just by chance
for he plays the music
and we merely dance.

So thank you to Benno's
for this new start
for filling my soul
and touching my heart.

-by a Thankful Program Member

....continued from page 3

Kathleen Diehlmann, Foundation Board President, said this about Gregg: *“My father, Nick Sauer, (a long-time Board member until his death in 2019) always referred to Gregg as the “poster boy” of Brother Benno’s and its recovery program. When I came on the Board, I felt compelled to ask Gregg if he would be willing to become a Board member. I believe, although we never discussed it, that I would be honoring my father’s wishes. Gregg has been an incredible asset to the Brother Benno Foundation and its Board of Directors. He manages our facilities and understands the needs of our Guests, Program Members, and Staff. He is one of the kindest and most compassionate people that I know. Gregg is a great person to ask for advice and guidance. He is measured and thoughtful. Brother Benno’s is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer.”*

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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.

**Information & Online dona-
 tions: brotherbenno.org**
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 **facebook.com/brotherbenno**

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	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Joan Zerkie
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Alan Port	Ruth Johnson
Brother Benno	Hayward	Mary Pullman	Ron Beckman
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Catherine L. Quinlan	Jim Jett
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Dora Ramirez	Barbara LaMothe
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Dick & Terry Riley	Bill Justus
Bill Boster	Jellig	Margaret Rossini	Elizabeth Parrish
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Brother Benedict
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Nick Sauer	Conor Espoy
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Robert Ghigheri
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Nancy Still-Hoines
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Joe Hart
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Linda Erland
Frank S. Dolley	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Will Skinner	Albert Freiburger
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	Alva & Frances
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Alva & Frances	Snider
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Snider	Jeanne St. Amant
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty, Natalie, &	Squirrell Family	Bernie Weiler
Fr. Abbot Claude	Michael Nares	Mike Stendahl	June Williams
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	Andrew & Jane
Myron Eichen	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Yandura
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb	
Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Thornberg	
Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	
Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	June Williams	

Happy Birthday

Shane Poplawski

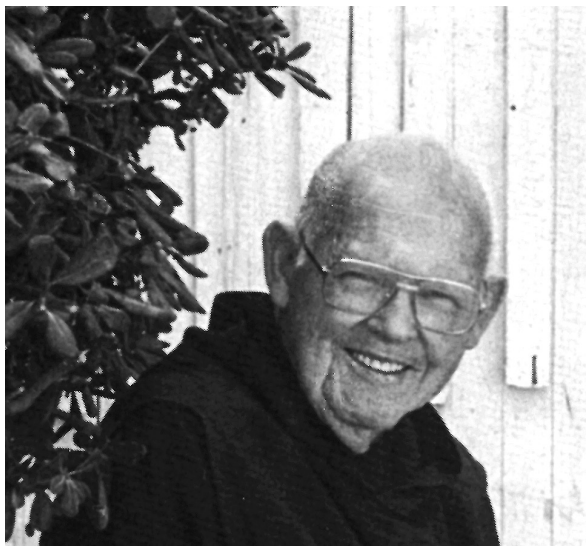
Needs

Gently used furniture Blankets Adult Unisex Diapers Baseball caps

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Juanita's Team	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas Moore
2022						
Monthly	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Riverview Church	9 Rotary Clubs of Carlsbad	10 Open	11 St. Patrick's	12 La Costa Valley Volunteers
Serving	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ The King Church	16 Nita's Team	17 Open	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
Team	21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 Rotary Club of Vista	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Open	25 Open	26 Catholic Daughters & Dina Ahee Group
Schedule	28 Servers R Us	29 Women's Club of Oceanside	30 Soroptomist International	31 Brother Benno Thrift Shop		

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

Non-Profit Organization
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 Oceanside, California
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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tues or Thurs 10-2, Saturdays 10-Noon

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 2022	Our 38th Year		January 2022	Our 38th Year
Meals	9,006	4,683,525	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	736	335,822	Food packs	963	365,596
Articles of clothing	2,753	1,468,449	Blankets	126	50,505
Showers	343	272,681	Tarps	63	6,772
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	46	10,368
Bus passes	147	87,115	HUGS	0	1,011,244