



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

March 2023



TrueCare Mobile Health Clinic Brings Medical and Dental Staffs to our Homeless Guests

We are thrilled with our recent partnership with the non-profit TrueCare and their provision of free medical and dental care to unsheltered (homeless) persons from their TrueCare Mobile Wellness Unit. TrueCare's mobile clinic, housed in a 36-foot-long vehicle, arrives early each Monday morning at Brother Benno's Oceanside facility and brings medical and dental facilities and a dedicated staff of health care professionals. The mobile clinic has an examination room, equipment for physicals, women's health care, behavioral health, chiropractic treatment, and immunizations. If health needs cannot be fully addressed at the mobile clinic, the medical staff refers people experiencing homelessness to TrueCare's health center in Oceanside. Since starting weekly visits in October 2022, appointments have been filled by a very thankful group of our homeless Guests, many of whom have lacked even minimum medical/dental care for a number of years.

After examining 95 of our homeless Guests, the medical staff provided several recommendations to improve the hygiene of homeless persons, a majority of whom, not surprisingly, have skin problems and suffer from fungal or bacterial infections. By working with TrueCare's medical and dental staffs and receiving their continued input, our caseworker staff is also learning how to guide our guests in improved hygiene and direct them to medical/dental care.

We are thankful for the dedicated efforts of TrueCare's staff of health care professionals. At the start of each week at our Oceanside facility, their visit offers hope and encouragement to our unsheltered guests.

For more information about TrueCare, please visit: <https://truecare.org/>

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BROTHER BENNO'S WELCOMES ITS NEW HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

By Steve Oetting

In recognition of their long-standing service, Brother Benno's has been pleased to inaugurate **Mary Holguin** and **Dr. Richard Shlemmer** as Honorary Board Members. As **Joe McDevitt**, a current member of the Board of Directors and one of the three persons comprising the Office of the President, explains, the aim of creating the honorary positions is both to recognize the tremendous contributions of Mary and Richard over the years, as well as to ensure that Brother Benno's does not lose touch with its past. The purpose of the Brother Benno Foundation, notes Joe, is “to serve with love and compassion, and give people hope.” By having Mary and Richard continue to advise the board as

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Art Donated With Heart

By Gregg Prather

Over the years, scores of friends in the local community have supported the Brother Benno Foundation. One such ally is a talented local artist named Fred M.

Last year when Fred was made aware that Brother Benno's was giving some of its recovery homes a much-needed facelift, he offered to populate the newly remodeled homes with some of his artwork. Brother Benno's gratefully accepted the offer. When the time came to see the gift, the Brother Benno Foundation was quite taken aback. His abstract paintings are exceptional, full of bright, uplifting colors and bold strokes. Within the colors there are uplifting messages of hope and faith, a spiritual message for our newly sober program members to grow and develop.



Fred wasn't always an artist. His talent was repressed for years. It wasn't until he was 50 years old, newly bankrupt, and had just lost his home when he began using the talent with which he was born. He started showing abstract paintings at an art show in Carlsbad. Painting evolved into mixed media, including wall sculptures, using metal, copper and MDF (a processed wood). He began expanding his displays to art shows in the desert communities: Palm Springs, Palm Desert, and La Quinta.

Today Fred is semi-retired, but he is still giving to the community. In addition to Brother Benno's, Fred has donated his artwork to "Turning Point", a crisis center for drug and alcohol abuse.

With the generous support of community members like Fred, the Brother Benno Foundation is in good hands.

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honorary members, Brother Benno's will be able to ensure the continued pursuit of this mission by tapping into their extensive experience and enabling a smooth transition into the future.

Mary began volunteering with Brother Benno's over two decades ago. She has worked in a number of different capacities and eventually became an indispensable part of the outreach effort, as well as facilitating monetary assistance to provide for utilities, bus passes, motels, and rentals. For the last several years, she has been a board member and has been responsible for reporting on these areas. As Joe likes to point out, Mary has a "great heart" and is quickly able to discover the source of any problem.

Richard, who is a clinical psychologist and who was previously an ordained priest, became a board member in 1987 and has been responsible for the recovery program. In that capacity, he has met with recovering individuals on a weekly basis. Richard continues to attend all board meetings so as to provide guidance regarding historical precedent. Over his many years of involvement, he recognizes that he has often learned through his own mistakes. He hopes to pass down the knowledge that he has accumulated over the past four decades so that we can avoid those same mistakes in the future.

Both Mary and Richard have been integral to Brother Benno's for many years and their appointment as founding Honorary Board Members will help ensure their continued participation and serve as a tribute to their lasting legacies.

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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.

To The Rescue

A special thanks to grant committee member and former Board president **Dennis Martinek** for never, ever giving up. Due to Dennis' diligence and the support of Congressman Mike Levin's office, The Brother Benno Foundation may soon receive blankets from the U.S. Department of Defense and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Thank you **Congressman Levin** for this wonderful letter of support for our mission!



February 15, 2023

Army Brig. Gen. Eric P. Shirley
Commander, DLA Troop Support
700 Robbins Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Dear Army Brig. Gen. Eric P. Shirley,

I write to request full and fair consideration of the Brother Benno Foundation's application for blankets from the Department of Defense's Logistic Agency's (DLA) Troop Support program. The Brother Benno Foundation provides impactful services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout North County San Diego, including veterans, low-income seniors, and disabled individuals.

The Brother Benno Foundation has demonstrated its commitment to addressing homelessness in part by organizing programs that distribute food, clothing, hygiene products, and blankets to individuals in need. Additionally, The Brother Benno Foundation previously received blankets from DLA and is seeking similar assistance so it can continue to provide important services.

I appreciate your fair consideration of this application. Please contact me or my staff if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Levin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Have you considered remembering the Brother Benno Foundation in your will?

If you've included a gift to the Brother Benno Foundation in your estate plans, first and foremost, we would like to say thank you. Your donation is absolutely vital to supporting the mission of the Brother Benno Foundation in serving the most vulnerable in our community. If you would like information about making a legacy gift, please contact **Jim Napier** at (760) 802-6884 or by email: jim.napier@cox.net.

Volunteer of the Month for March – Nita Rodriguez

She's HERE. She's THERE. She's EVERYWHERE!!

Congratulations to Brother Benno Foundation's volunteer of the month for March 2023 - **Nita Rodriguez**.



Energetic, independent, determined, motivated, and kind are only a few of the many qualities that describe Nita. She also has a great sense of humor and a joyful attitude. She will make an impression when you meet her. Currently, you might be greeted by Nita at The Brother Benno Center where she volunteers every Friday at our front desk. You could also find her serving breakfast in our dining room on the third Wednesday each month as one of our serving team leaders. You might also connect with her every year when she helps to organize the annual fundraising golf tournament for Brother Benno's. Perhaps, you

might meet her when you visit the Thrift Shop, where she volunteers on the last Saturday of the month when there is a big sale at the Thrift Shop.

Nita is an exemplary and dynamic leader, including her time as President of the Brother Benno Auxiliary from 2016 to 2019. She motivated her members to do more than fundraising. She encouraged them to serve while also developing fellowship. She also acted as a liaison from the Auxiliary to the Board of Directors. The Brother Benno Foundation has been so fortunate to have Nita volunteer in so many different leadership roles for the Foundation.

When you need a job done right, ask Nita to help you. Nita will get it done the right way! Nita Rodriguez is an amazing human being with a great mix of responsibility and gratitude

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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 donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Benno's online:

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

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- 1) email: unsubscribe@brotherbenno.org; or
- 2) Call (760) 231-1619; or
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If you would like to subscribe to the online version of the newsletter, please go to our website: www.brotherbenno.org

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 & Louise
 Hayward
 Elizabeth Holms
 John Jarvie

Dorothy and Walter
 Jellig
 Alice Jordan
 Ben Kouns
 Richard Kurtz
 Carole Kutler
 Harold & Kay Kutler
 Bill & Louise Lakoff
 Ben & Ozelle Lewis
 Helen Lucas
 Bill & Joan Maloney
 Helene McGill
 Peggy & Beverly
 Miville
 Monty, Natalie, &
 Michael 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
 Nick Sauer

Mary Shankle
 Naomi Shelton
 Bernice, Samuel &
 Milton Silver
 Will Skinner
 Ann Grier Smith
 Alva & Frances
 Snider
 Squirrell Family
 Mike Stendahl
 Margaret Stephan
 Virginia Sylwestrzak
 Harold Thompson
 Carol & Herb
 Thornberg
 Rosemary Tucker
 Walter Ulloa
 June Williams
 Fred Williamson
 Andrew & Jane
 Yandura
 Charlotte D. Baker
 Michael Chapa
 Annie E. Carter
 Frank Beeson
 Ted Matter
 Robert E. Dodd Jr.
 Mary Bellinger
 Conor
 Michael Collins
 Ream & Erik
 Braegger
 Alva & Frances
 Snider

Sandi Blessing
 Barbara La Mothe
 Carreen Golden
 Stephen Boss
 Stephen E. Purcell
 Toni Keane
 Jeanne St. Amant
 Timothy Diem
 David Easterbrooks
 Randy Furtik
 Ron Beckman
 Joee
 Tim McCoy
 Bill Daley
 Bill Stone
 John Ciganko
 Linda C Scott
 Dennis E. O'Connor
 Molly Wilbur
 Barbara La Mothe
 Ricci & Eginton Families
 Richard Kahl
 David Watson
 Bob Mikulay

Happy Birthday

Joanne Shlemmer
 Shane Poplawski

In Honor Of

Jacob AKA Smoky
 or Jay Sanders

Needs

Gently used furniture Blankets Baseball caps
 Diapers size sizes 4, 5 & 6 Adult Unisex Diapers Women's underwear, sizes 4 & 5
 Men's 2x and 3x t-shirts Baby wipes Travel-size toothpaste & deodorant
 Travel-size shampoo & body wash Bottled waters, sodas, & juices

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March			1 Juanita's Team	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
2023						
Monthly	6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 Metropolitan Humanitarian	9 Servers R Us	10 St. Patrick's	11 St. Vincent De Paul
Serving	13 North Coast Methodist	14 Riverview Church	15 Friends of Brother Benno	16 Ernest Packaging	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
Team	20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 Christ The King Church	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Metropolitan Humanitarian	24 Pilgrim Creek	25 NMRTC Camp Pendleton Orthopedics Dept
Schedule	27 Metropolitan Humanitarian	28 Rotary Club of Vista	29 Soroptomist International	30 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop	31 King of Kings	

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 "Ways You Can Help". We've expanded your donation options to include bank transfers, Venmo, Apple Pay, and Google Pay in addition to PayPal. You can scan this QR code to make an online donation too.



Your donation is used each month at our main center and seven recovery and sober living 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.

Please Note Our Mailing address:

The Brother Benno Foundation
Post Office Box 308
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

If you wish to drop off donations or deliver donations in person, our physical address is:

3260 Production Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno's Services:

	January 2023	Our 39th Year		January 2023	Our 39th Year
Meals	12,349	4,810,806	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1144	348,147	Food packs	1,194	378,731
Articles of clothing	3,310	1,504,388	Blankets	164	51,722
Showers	958	283,301	Tarps	89	7,546
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	28	10,662
Bus passes	63	88,766	HUGS	1,000	1,013,244
