



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

May 2014

TAX LAWS REQUIRE CHANGES AT BROTHER BENNO'S

Dear Loyal Friends and Supporters,

It's been said that the only thing certain in this life is change, and The Brother Benno Foundation is no exception. For the past 30 years, we have made every effort to stay basically an all-volunteer organization. We know that's important to you, because it stretches your donated gifts; and it's important to us for the very same reason.

Over the years, Brother Benno's has been able to avoid the hiring of employees by offering things such as free housing and stipends to those dedicated people in our Servants of the Poor program and to some of our Recovery Program staff. And of course, our thousands of loyal volunteers over the years have been the very backbone of our entire mission; and they will continue to be for many years to come. This is what Brother Benno's is about, and that will not change.

In recent years, tax laws and what qualifies people as employees has changed for non-profit organizations. We believe in 100 percent transparency with our supporters, which is the reason for this letter. As of the end of 2013, we were required to make our Servants of the Poor and our Recovery Program staff official employees. This was a more than difficult decision for us, but there was no alternative if we were to keep our non-profit status and keep our doors open to continue to assist the poor on your behalf.

Looking forward, it's our goal, through attrition, to find ways to incorporate volunteers into most of the current employee-type positions so that we can get back to our original mission of being as volunteer-oriented as possible. And while this may take some time, we know it's possible and are planning accordingly. Our goal is

to have as many volunteers and as few employees as possible, while still running the Foundation in a responsible manner.

Thank you for your continued support and concern for the poor while we make this transition.

Harold Kutler, Founder,
and The Brother Bennos Board of Directors

EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEER GRANT WRITERS NEEDED

The Brother Benno Foundation is seeking to expand its financial support from public and private grants. We need a volunteer (or two) who have past experience in writing grant applications. Much of the work can be done at home; however, office space, computer, and past grant applications are available at the Brother Benno Center.

It is our hope that new grants can be found to help the homeless and others in need. If you are interested, please contact **Denise**, our Volunteer Coordinator (760-439-1244, ext. 107).

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Seven Marines pitch in at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

So Thankful! Mary Holguin in our case management office had an out-of-the-ordinary opportunity to serve recently. An Afghan woman with a husband and four children (12, 9, 6, and 3 months) came in as a last resort, after trying to get help from other agencies. They had been in this country about three months, and it was soon obvious to them that the United States was not the land of immediate success they had been led to believe.

The woman had worked for the U.S. government in Afghanistan, and her husband was a doctor. He had assumed that finding employment would be relatively easy, but that was not the case, and he was continuing to look for work. They had enough money when they arrived in the United States to rent an apartment, but not enough to furnish it. The entire family was sleeping on the floor, wrapped up in their jackets.

Brother Benno's was able to give them some basic furniture and kitchen supplies, clothing, diapers, and food. When the woman was told that these items would be delivered to their apartment, she told Mary, "My God, this is humanity!"

She came back two weeks later to thank Mary again, and to tell her that her husband now had several job interviews set up. "It was like Christmas in March when everything was delivered!" she said. "We are all so thankful for everything! I will pray for you."

Another Outreach Project. As noted in the Auxiliary News this month, Brother Benno's was the recipient of financial help from Blanchard for Others, an outreach of The Blanchard Companies. When **Vikki Ramey** and **Vera Bayliss** approached Blanchard for Others to ask them to be a sponsor for this year's Annual Luncheon, they learned that the organization could no longer assist in that way, but they would be happy to contribute to projects for the Women's Houses. One of the most pressing needs was the replacement of a fence that had blown down in a recent storm; and thanks to the Blanchard people, a new fence is now in place, built by **Patrick Ivison** of PJI Handy Service.

Reminder. Have you put November 1 on your calendar for the Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon? See page 4 for more information.

Options. Every once in a while we like to remind our readers about the options you have regarding the newsletter. You can receive it as a paper copy in the mail or as an email. If you now get it in the mail but would like to switch to email, simply send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com and include your name and mailing address in order to help us identify you correctly.

We also have some donors who prefer not to receive a thank-you card or letter for each donation. If you'd like to be added to that list, please write a note to that effect and send it along with your next check. As always, we continue to appreciate you, even if we're not sending you a notice.

And finally, you can still check us out or make donations online any time you wish. It's **brotherbenno.org**.



Vikki Ramey, Vera Bayliss, and Blanchard committee members Cassie Johnson, Pamela Langness, Natalie Merrill, and Judy Fisher.

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MENTORS SHARE THE JOURNEY OF THE FOUNDATION'S RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Brother Benno Foundation has been helping people who suffer from alcohol and drug addictions almost since the beginning of the Foundation in 1983, and that help has taken many twists and turns as it has evolved over the years. Eight men and one woman are now mentors in our Men's and Women's Recovery programs, a group that also includes two Board members whose responsibility it is to oversee every aspect of recovery. They meet weekly to discuss concerns they might have with their own recovery and also any problems that have arisen with the other men and women in the Program.

This mentoring group wants to share with you, our friends and supporters, what it's been like for them to make the journey that continues to call them to accept the fact that it's still "one day at a time" and always will be; and how they are now reaching out to other men and women who are in the midst of their own recovery process.

The Twelve Step Program of AA is now the fundamental underpinning of the entire process. "Everything we need is in the Twelve Steps," said one man. "All Brother Benno's does is offer support to those working the Twelve Steps. And then you must give it away."

"You must give it away" is actually the Twelfth Step, and it was echoed by all in this mentoring group. Giving it away means they have to reach out to others who are still in need of help. This is done by regular attendance at AA meetings; and in the case of Brother Benno's Recovery Program, it also plays a huge part in the day-to-day living in the Foundation's recovery houses. No matter which stage of recovery a man might be in, he knows there's always somebody nearby to talk to when he needs guidance and support.

This kind of help is also available to the women at our House of Dorothy Barbara Rosemary and Joan (DBRJ); the difference is that they have already completed a recovery program elsewhere and are now in a sober-living environment, preparing to go out on their own.

A recent change in the Men's Program has to do with leadership. "We have evolved from a

top-down hierarchy of command to shared responsibility," said one of the men. "Our only leader is God. Now we're more loving instead of punishing. It's a collaborative effort." They mentioned that they still have rules; that's necessary if people are going to live together and get along. And it prepares them for the real world, where every aspect of life is governed to one degree or another by rules. But the focus has shifted from rules to recovery, and from one leader at the top to the shared leadership of the mentoring group.

Tradition 2 of AA states: "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants. They do not govern."

The Men's Recovery Program is set up in two phases over a six-month period. Phase One lasts three months and is the most strict of the phases. The men get an AA sponsor in the first couple weeks and attend seven AA meetings plus six House meetings a week. They keep a daily journal of their personal recovery. They are either at their House or working at the Center every day except Sunday, when they are taken as a group to an Oceanside park for a short visit with their families. They also get two 10-minute phone conversations with family members and their sponsor every day.

Phase Two is also for three months. These men can leave their House one day a week for eight hours, but they must check in by phone every two to three hours. During this time, they are encouraged to look into possible employment opportunities, spend time with their sponsor, go to outside meetings or the library. They work at the Center five days a week instead of six. As in Phase One, they are learning (or relearning) social skills, such as how to get along with the other men in their House; and they must always keep Recovery as their number one priority.

After the successful completion of Phases One and Two, a man "graduates" from the Brother Benno Recovery Program.

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

Thanks to everyone who attended the Prince of Peace Abbey event on May 1. It was a delightful and inspiring day, a great outing without having to work for a change.

Our next event will be the Outback Lunch on Wednesday, July 30, and we are still looking for a chairperson to head up this fundraiser. It's an easy challenge, as we always have lots of help to make the job as easy as possible.

Save the date for our Broadway Theater outing—September 28. We will be seeing a play called "Shaken Not Stirred." More details as it gets closer.

Our Annual Luncheon will be on Saturday, November 1, so please mark your calendars. Our chairpersons will need lots of help, as this is our biggest fundraiser. It is very important for everyone to sell tickets, so start early, and mention it to your friends and relatives.

Blanchard and Company has given us a check to cover all the expenses to fix the fence at one of our Women's Houses. This was a very important project, and we cannot thank Blanchard enough for their big donation. We have given the check to the Foundation.

Our next meeting is May 28. See you all there.

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Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)

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Phase Three is for men who need extra time in a structured sober-living environment, and it can last up to six months. These men must have a full-time job or be actively looking for one, and they continue to attend at least five AA meetings a week. They pay rent, and they have to save at least 50 percent of their pay every month. During this time, they can visit with family members and friends as they wish. One of the men put it this way: "They learn how to live life, no matter what happens. They learn to live life on life's terms, how to deal with people, get mature, and clean up the wreckage of their past."

A poignant remark made by one of the mentors seems to sum up the reasons why they are so grateful for the help they've received at Brother Benno's: "For those of us who hit bottom, (we come to realize that continuing in our addiction) means that our future is either a mental institution, jail, or death."

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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>

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 _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Jane Pfau	Tom Hayward	Helene McGill
Pope John Paul II	Ron Alexander	Richard Kurtz	Andrea Boersma
Mother Teresa	Mary Peterson	Helen Lucas	Ben Osgrove
Kay Kutler	Frank Barnet	Bill & Joan Maloney	William & Vennita Flanagan
Ann Sauer	Frank S. Dolley	Dora Ramirez	Bessie Silver
Joe & Ida Friend	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Dick & Terry Riley	Alan Port
Mary Nordstrom	Monty Nares	Bill Buckner	Gilbert Brown
Myron Eichen	Margaret Rossini	Mary Shankle	Bobby King
Alice Jordan	Dorothy M. Donahue	Walter Ulloa	Bernie Weiler
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Teresa Carr	Fred Williamson	Eleonore Kloepfer
Richard Farhquar	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Carole Kutler	Squirrell Family
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Elizabeth Holms	Will Skinner	Nysewander Family
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Harry & Jaundice Apatite
Catherine L. Quinlan	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	James Johnson
Kathryn D. Pent	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Rose & Floyd Caldwell
Mary Pullman	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Rosemary Tucker	Dorothy Barnell
Joan Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Ben E. Lewis	
Agnus Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Roland Bond	
Harold Thompson	Bill Boster	Anna Correia	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Louise Foussat	Geraldine Howard	
Bob Gleason			

Needs

Gently used furniture
 Razors...disposable
 Water bottles for individual drinking
 Coffee...regular grind not instant
 Diapers
 Tarps...9x12 is our usual size but appreciate all
 women's personal hygiene items
 Bags of rice and beans

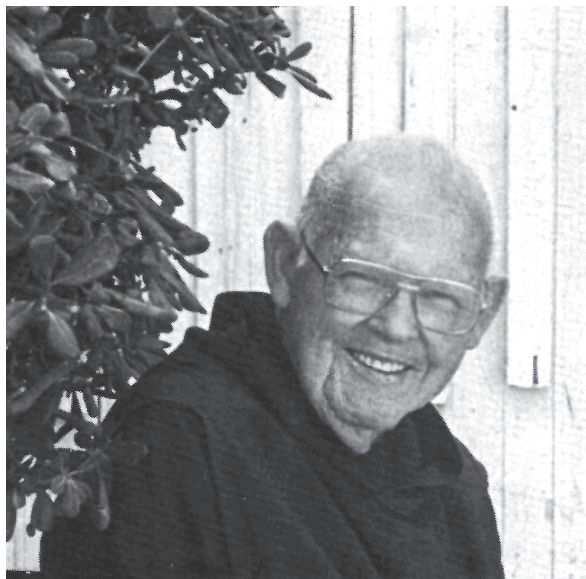
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
2014	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitanis	9 St. Patrick's	10 Oak Hills
Monthly	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Hawkes Home	14 Stew's Crew	15 Carlsbad Rotary	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	24 Catholic Daughters
Team	26 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Grace Anglican	30 King of Kings Lutheran	31 Shiloh Church of God In Christ
Schedule						

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 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 Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:

	March 2014	Our 30th Year		March 2014	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,125	3,553,589	Loads of laundry	29	26,693
Nights of lodging	867	248,489	Food packs	2,171	250,022
Articles of clothing	5,129	1,052,639	Blankets	157	36,341
Showers	1,016	190,197	Prescriptions	6	7,208
Haircuts	155	16,811	ID Vouchers	13	8,540
Bus passes	78	77,887	HUGS	2,250	870,394