



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

May 2015

HAVE WHEELS, WILL TRAVEL

The women in Brother Benno's Recovery Program give a **BIG THANK YOU** to the Brother Benno Auxiliary for providing funds for a new (gently used) van to meet their daily transportation needs.

The money that was raised by the Auxiliary over the past year enabled the Foundation to purchase a 2010 Ford ten-passenger van to replace its 1986 Dodge with over 200,000 miles. Our Auxiliary has been a big supporter of women in need, which now includes our Women's Recovery Program.

Carol Sanford and **Judy Calegari**, Co-Presidents of the Auxiliary, presented the keys to **Jan Roberts** and **Elana Bagley**.



Elana Bagley, Jan Roberts, Carol Sanford, Judy Calegari

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“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LOCAL BUSINESS HOLDS FUNDRAISER

The owners of the Oceanside Grocery Outlet, **Mark** and **Sherry Vargas**, stepped up recently and held a fundraiser for Brother Benno's. **Robert Hackett**, who's in charge of Purchasing, often buys the food we need for our Food Boxes there, so he has a good relationship with the owners and staff; and they were happy to support us in this way.



The main part of the fundraiser was the sale of hot dogs and a drink. Manning the booth were Robert's daughter **Angela**, and **Jan Roberts'** granddaughters **Tessa** and **Torrey Stapp**. The store owners had a Spin-the-Wheel game with prizes, as well as a popular face painter—both big attractions for the kids while their parents shopped.



More and more businesses are having fundraisers for Brother Benno's, and we welcome their time and commitment to helping us help others.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Reading and Love. I talked with two volunteers in the Children's Reading Room at the Center one Saturday morning, and I came away with a thought that occurs to me often at Brother Benno's: We just never know when we'll have an opportunity to touch someone in a positive way.

Sue Sidell has been helping the children for about a year. **Taleen Nazarian** joined her three months ago as part of her community service requirement for classes in Child Development at Palomar College. Both women said they try to show love and acceptance with the goal of making the children feel good about themselves, as they are encouraged to read.



Sue's story of one particular ten-year-old boy we'll call "Jack" illustrates how her efforts seem to have turned him around in a dramatic way. When he first wandered into the Room, he stated that he doesn't read. "Reading is for nerds," he said. But he kept coming in; Sue thinks the older kids come in just for something to do, kind of a hang-out, she said.

After a while, Jack softened his stance and let Sue show him a few books—sci-fi and sports. Little by little, he found it harder to resist, and now he often takes books home AND he's happy to give her an oral book report the following week.

The last vestige of his reluctance resurfaced one day when Jack's older brother came in to see what he was up to. "Nothing. Reading's for nerds," Jack said.

Taleen said her greatest joys are six-year-old twins who come in every Saturday. "They are not always interested in reading," she said, "but it

is a plus when I can encourage them to read with success."

Win-Win. At 26, **Ryan Coughlin** was looking for a place to volunteer, and his dad suggested Brother Benno's. Ryan, born with spina bifida, has been in a wheelchair all his life, and his dad thought volunteering would give him some work experience and also help him with his shyness.



After about six months of coming to the Center three or four days a week, Ryan has indeed had some success with both goals. He's happy to do whatever job he's given: packaging rice and beans, organizing food items, bagging crackers and cookies, and "working" the front desk. The desk is often his Saturday duty, where he directs visitors and answers the phone. He agreed that both of those things have challenged his shyness, but it hasn't scared him away.

Often when I come into the Center, I see Ryan chatting with other volunteers or Guests. It's a win-win for Ryan and for Brother Benno's.

Commitment. Another volunteer came to my attention very recently, even though he's been coming to the Center almost every Saturday for 18 years. **Andy Yandura** is a Business Development Specialist during the week, but at Brother Benno's he folds the heavy-duty flat "boxes" into actual boxes that are used for the food packs given to those in need of a monthly supplement: families with children, seniors, and the handicapped.

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CHANGING LIVES ONE AT A TIME

by Frank Doherty

Brother Benno's impacts the lives of many poor and elderly people with food and clothing. However, we often make a more significant impact on the lives of people facing major problems such as drug or alcohol dependency. One such case was "Mary," one of our chronically homeless Guests who was on drugs, living on the streets, and under the influence of a bad crowd.

One Saturday, Mary was having brunch at the Center; and she spotted Sue, one of our volunteers in the Children's Reading Room. Mary said to another Guest, "I love her hair; I wish I looked like her." The woman responded, saying, "You can. The barber shop is open now and they can cut your hair to look just like her."

Mary finished her meal and went into the barber shop. Thanks to Betty, one of our hair stylists, Mary got the perfect haircut and some good coaching. It was at that point that she decided to inquire about being accepted into our Women's Recovery Program (a recent addition to our services).

Mary was accepted, but she had some emotional issues that we could not address. With Brother Benno's help, she was then accepted in the McAlister women's recovery program, which does deal with these issues. She has successfully completed their program, which enabled her to recover; and it also restored her spirit.

Today, Mary has moved back in with her mother, who is suffering from macular degeneration and is greatly in need of her daughter's help. She has become the beautiful person that she aspired to be. She is currently looking for part-time employment and is facing the future with a lot of optimism. Mary's mother recently expressed her appreciation to the Brother Benno staff for the help they gave in turning Mary's life around.

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Andy told me he volunteered with a similar organization when he lived in Northern California; and when he moved to our area, he wanted to continue giving of himself to the less fortunate. He works mostly by himself in a corner of the ware-

house, but his commitment—like that of so many—touches the lives of people he'll probably never meet.



Andy Yandura

The Truck. Thanks to many generous donors, Brother Benno's is close to being able to purchase a refrigerated truck to be used when picking up grocery items. If you've been thinking about helping out with this much-needed truck, just drop off or mail your donation in any amount, clearly marked REFRIGERATOR TRUCK. And Thank You so much!

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"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

~ Mother Teresa

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 Carol Sanford

The Auxiliary will be celebrating the month of May by handing out gift bags for our lady Guests on Saturday, May 9, all lovingly prepared by **Claire Carter** and her helpers. And we must thank our members for their generous donations of all the items that will fill those gift bags!

Also on May 9, another group of Auxiliary members will be at the La Costa Post Office in the afternoon hours to help load all the food items, which USPS carriers have picked up from residents' doorsteps, into Brother Benno vans. Our Program Guys will then transport everything back to the Center. **Debbie Knight** is chairing this event, and among her many helpers will be more than 30 military personnel from Camp Pendleton. We are so fortunate to have their energy!

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our Christmas in July fundraiser on Wednesday, July 15, at the Outback Steakhouse on Vista Way in Oceanside—\$20 for adults, \$10 for children. We still need a chair for this event, but **Joan O'Connell** (760-730-9125) will be taking reservations, starting now. The proceeds fund our Christmas party for the Center's registered families with kids. We also honor our military by paying for their meals as they join us.

But . . . the most exciting news is that we are reviving the Fashion Show that's part of our Annual Luncheon! It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it will be held on Saturday, November 7, at the Sheraton in Carlsbad. Put the date on your calendar now! **Dixie Bales**, Auxiliary founder and sparkplug for the Fashions Shows of yore, will be lending her remarkable memory to guide us on how she used to do it. The proceeds go to

the Brother Benno Women's Recovery Program. Last year we were able to donate \$25,000. This year??

Come join us at the next Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, May 27, at 1 p.m. at the Center. Guests are always welcome; come meet us and see us in action!

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CALL 2-1-1 TO LEARN ABOUT MANY SERVICES

Brother Benno's is proud to be part of the 2-1-1 phone system that provides information and referrals to health and social service organizations. We not only are listed in the system, but we also encourage our Guests to use the system themselves for any services that we are unable to provide.

The San Diego County 2-1-1 website lists all of its areas of service, which include—but is not limited to—the following: Financial Assistance, Food Assistance, Housing Information, Physical Activity and Nutrition, Post-Incarceration Re-Entry Resources, Child Care and Early Education, Military and Veteran Services, Shelter and Homeless Services, and Mental Health Resources.

Help is available 24/7 in both English and Spanish. Simply call 2-1-1.

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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

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

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	Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker
Frank Barnet	William & Vennita	Pope John Paul II	Walter Ulloa
Brother Benno	Flanagan	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson
Edith Blaiser	Louise Foussat	Mary Peterson	Gilbert Brown
Andrea Boersma	Joe & Ida Friend	Jane Pfau	Tina Finncuppet
Roland Bond	Mary Gerrity	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Bernie Weiler
Bill Boster	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Dorothy Plantenga
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Tom Hayward	Catherine L. Quinlan	Alan Port
Bill Buckner	Elizabeth Holms	Dora Ramirez	Cyril Wells
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Dancy & Zeferino
Mary Teresa Carr	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Nares
Anna Correia	Richard Kurtz	Ann Sauer	Frank Forthoffer
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Rick Cicero
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	
Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	
Anita H. Donahue	Ben E. Lewis	Milton Silver	
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl	
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Helene McGill	Margaret Stephan	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Monty Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Nordstrom	Mother Teresa	
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Harold Thompson	

**HAPPY
EASTER**
Carol Conner

Needs

Gently used furniture
Bottled Water

Diapers
Baby Wipes

Books for Teens and Pre-Teens
Motel Sized Hygiene

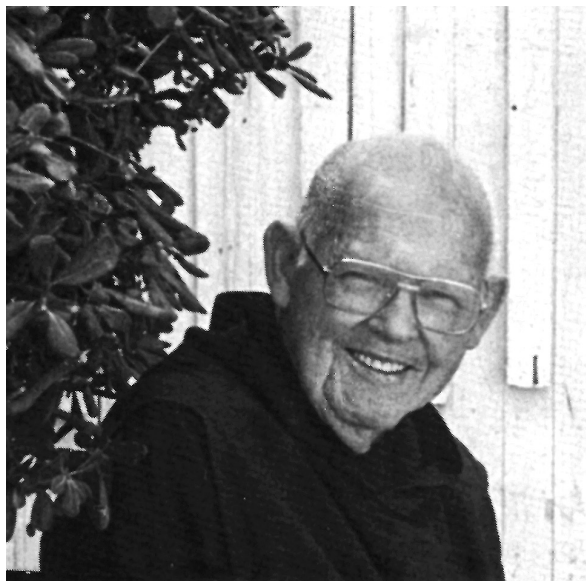
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
2015						
Monthly	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Riverview Church
Serving	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Hawkes Home	13 Sisters in Sobriety	14 Oceanside Civitanis	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Team	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Grace Anglican	21 Carlsbad Rotary	22 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	23 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	25 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	26 St. Mark's San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Pilgrim Creek	29 Sonrise Christian	30 Catholic Daughters

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 2015	Our 31st Year		March 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	13,321	3,713,068	Loads of laundry	24	27,007
Nights of lodging	1,069	260,624	Food packs	1,887	275,215
Articles of clothing	4,624	1,113,417	Blankets	171	38,343
Showers	1,093	203,444	Prescriptions	1	7,256
Haircuts	118	18,442	ID Vouchers	15	8,692
Bus passes	121	79,068	HUGS	1,800	893,794