



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

May 2018



## “UPLIFTING THE DIGNITY OF THOSE WE SERVE”

**Brother Benno's has never been very good at “tooting its own horn.”** That can be a good thing—after all, humility is a virtue. But there are times when it's important to let others know about the hidden benefits that are just as important—sometimes even more so—than those that are familiar to the general public. When needy people come to our door, we don't ask them where they come from—we are here to serve everyone with unconditional love as shown to us by our Founders, **Harold and Kay Kutler**.

For most of our Guests, we are the source of a good hot meal, bag lunches, showers, clothing and shoes, and a place to receive their mail, six days a week. But for many others, it's also a lifeline and a source of help in a crisis.

Many men and women, especially young people, come to us broken, due to addiction. We offer them a 26-week live-in Recovery Program strongly based on AA, and the only “cost” to them is their service to others at the Brother Benno Center and/or our Thrift Shop. Some of our staff members and volunteers are graduates of our Program, which is an added benefit for those newly working on their recovery.

**Brother Benno's is often the starting point** for helping those in difficult situations. Sometimes people are simply dropped off at the Center by family members or friends who have been unable to address their problems and don't know where else to take them. We have an emergency outreach team that can help stabilize them and address their most immediate issues, and we work with other agencies that can provide more long-term solutions that include mental health care, housing, and employment.

**Families with children and the elderly** are a special focus of care at our Center. We provide one-time assistance with rent and utility bills and more than 1,400 monthly food boxes. Sometimes we see mothers and their children living in their cars, and for them we are able to provide blankets, diapers, and baby formula when available.

**Our Thrift Shop** is not only a source of revenue that helps with our many outreach projects, but it also provides our local communities with extremely low-cost clothing, household items, furniture, books, gift items, and so much more.

**The Brother Benno Auxiliary** members (more than 125 strong) are often the ones who make it possible for us to help these families and others by providing the blankets and baby items. They also put together gift bags for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

**Brother Benno's is like a two-sided coin.** On one side is the help given to those in need. On the other side is the benefit to those who give thousands of volunteer hours every year. They are the ones who start out with the goal of helping others and then find that they themselves are the recipients of blessings they never imagined. Service brings joy and a sense of purpose. It's what Harold and Kay believed and lived, and it's what those of us who continue to carry out their mission of “Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve” hope to do as well.

*(This article is a collaborative effort of several volunteers and staff members.)*

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Meet the Board.** The Brother Benno Foundation Board might be the most unseen part of the Brother Benno family, but we are grateful for the members who make important decisions every month about the many facets of the work we do.

The current officers are:

Richard Giroux, President

Dennis Martinek, Vice President

Daniel Boone, Treasurer

Abbot Charles Wright, Secretary

Other members are: John Blasier, Richard Shlemmer, Nick Sauer, Helen Parsons, and Suzy Martinek. Jim O'Connell, who served for many years, recently resigned.

**Serving Team Needed.** We are looking for a new serving team of seven to ten members on the fourth Monday of the month. The hours are 6:15 to 8 a.m. Servers must wear closed-toe shoes and a head cover such as a hat or hairnet, and gloves (we have the hairnets and gloves). We also have aprons if wanted.

Please contact Suzy (760-941-1876) if you're interested or need more information.

**A Little Levity.** At a recent Communications meeting, one long-time volunteer made the observation that sometimes she's so focused on a task that she forgets to notice the little "miracles" that take place every day. She jokingly chided herself: "I'm way too busy, I don't have time for miracles!" Others around the table smiled in recognition.

**Thanks!** When we let our supporters know our particular needs, they really come through! We thank you for your donations of socks and canes, both of which are now in good supply. As we mentioned in the March newsletter, it's now easier than ever to donate by using the Amazon Wish List: <http://amzn.to/2EyMGj6> Items will be shipped directly to our Center.

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## MORE MEMORIES OF HAROLD AND KAY

*(In our April newsletter, several Brother Benno volunteers shared their memories, in light of the death of our founder, Harold Kutler, on March 6. We continue in this issue).*

**Richard Shlemmer.** Harold's spirit continues daily with Brother Benno's, just as it has for these past 35 years, through some fifty men and women who are now in recovery from alcohol and drugs, along with the multitude of volunteers from the community who serve our needy Guests and the homeless. Harold's last words to me a couple of weeks ago, after listening to an update on the current recovery program, were simple and to the point: "It's all about love. . . it's all about love." Harold's spirit is with us today!

**Barbara Ladwig.** I met Harold and Kay in 1984, when the Brother Benno Foundation was barely a year old, but it wasn't until 2000 that I really got to know them, when Harold asked me to help him write his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*. It was then that I saw his humility, his willingness to be vulnerable, and his determination to learn and practice unconditional love.

I also learned about the struggles that Kay had to overcome, especially her undiagnosed dyslexia, which made her feel "dumb." It wasn't until high school that her teachers saw her gifts of music and friendliness, and those were the gifts she shared with everyone at Brother Benno's. It still makes me smile every time I think of her singing what started out as a gentle ballad but suddenly burst forth into a raucous ending. And her nickname, Kay the Hugger, is legendary.

continued on page 4....

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, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or [smartinek@miracosta.edu](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)

## AUXILIARY NEWS

by Nita Rodriguez

### LOOKING FORWARD

May is a busy month for Auxiliary activities. Not only do we have the usual service activities, but we are also involved in two special events: Mother's Day Gift Bags, and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

Our members are filling 50 gift bags with needed items and treats, which will be distributed the Saturday before Mother's Day during the regular brunch at the Center. A special thank you to **Teresa Keith** for coordinating all aspects of this event, and to our members who donated items and helped assemble and distribute these much appreciated gifts.

Auxiliary members will participate in the NALC food drive on May 12 at the post office in La Costa.

Planning is already underway for our "Christmas in July" gift card fundraiser and our Annual Luncheon on December 1. Watch for more info in the coming months!

### LOOKING BACK

We are happy to announce that our March Applebee's fundraiser was a big success. Thanks to all who supported this event by purchasing breakfast tickets, leaving generous tips, or sending us a donation. We couldn't have done it without your support and the leadership of **Dorine Meade** and her team of servers and hostesses.

The Auxiliary had two special events in April. Easter bags and books were passed out to children the Saturday before Easter by coordinator **Terri Keyes** and her team. Thank you to **Claire Carter**, who donated the filled bags, and to members who donated books.

The "sold-out" Prince of Peace Abbey Tour on April 12 was a special day for all who attended. Thank you to **Abbot Charles Wright** (retired) for a most informative talk and tour, and to **Vikki Ramey** for coordinating this event.

As always, you're invited to join us for the next Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, May

23, in the Center Dining Room. Social time and snacks start at 1 p.m., followed by the meeting at 1:30. We welcome all to join us and give your input. Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? Download our membership application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>



Prince of Peace Abbey Tour

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MAY 12 FOR POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

Once again this year, Brother Benno's Auxiliary is coordinating with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" on Saturday, May 12. Auxiliary members **Eileen Ciganko** and **Frank** and **Joyce Cerimele** have volunteered to be coordinators for this service project.

The food donated at the La Costa Post Office in Carlsbad will go directly to the Brother Benno warehouse via our own trucks. It will be used in food packs for the homeless, working poor, and seniors; and it's food that Brother Benno's doesn't have to buy.

We will need many volunteers to help unload the donations from postal vehicles and place them in boxes for loading onto our trucks. **Want to volunteer? Just email us by May 7** at [Auxiliary@BrotherBenno.org](mailto:Auxiliary@BrotherBenno.org) for more information. (Please put "Stamp Out Hunger" Volunteer in the subject line). Or you can call Eileen (760-390-3725) or Joyce (818-641-9598).

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Since Harold's death, I sense a heightened effort on the part of many to carry on his and Kay's loving service. It's a daunting task, but one done with purpose and gratitude.

**Julie Petrie.** I first met Harold when I hopped on board as a volunteer at Brother Benno's seven years ago. But I didn't really get to know him until I became a Servant of the Poor. This was an amazing side organization that Harold started. It was comprised of a few of us volunteers who wanted to enrich and enhance our experiences in helping with the poor spiritually and emotionally, as well as physically.

At each first Friday of the month, Harold would meet us at the Prince of Peace Abbey for Mass, lunch, and a brief meeting. And once a month, he also set a time and day aside for a meeting at someone's home. These meetings kept the fire in my soul burning bright, and I looked forward to each meeting with much anticipation as I would learn so much about spiritual giants such as Mother Teresa (now St. Teresa), St. Francis of Assisi, and of course, Our Lord Jesus. And slowly I learned about what a spiritual, gentle giant Harold was as well.

Not once did I ever see Harold down or in a bad mood, no matter what was going on. He was always cheerful and smiling, with that sparkling twinkle in his beautiful, kind eyes. I cherished everything he gave me to read and tried to read about everything he ever talked about, and I always will for the rest of my days. To me, Harold was as close to a living saint as one could be while here on earth; and everyone I knew who ever met him loved him--me included. He lived the Gospel, inside and out, and to that end, he served as such an inspiration to every last one of us!

I was so sad when he had to give up this

awesome organization and many other things as well, due to his declining health. It just wasn't the same around there anymore. And when I received the news that he was slowly slipping away from us, all I knew was that I had to get to see him while he was with us at least one last time.

On the first of what would be the two days that I would be blessed to see him, I was suddenly moved to look up into the sky. And it was directly above where Harold lived that I saw two gigantic cloud angels--I mean, they filled up the whole sky--white against the brilliant blue overhead--kneeling in prayer facing each other. I couldn't even see all of their wings, as they were so huge! I took that as a sign that the angels were there with him, watching over him, as they most assuredly were. And within just one day of my second visit, Harold had indeed passed from this earth and on to receiving his just reward that was waiting for him in heaven.



**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**

- |                        |                      |                      |                       |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ron Alexander          | Joe & Ida Friend     | Jane Pfau            | Sr. Constance Marie   |
| Dixie & Lou Bales      | Mary Gerrity         | Ruth Hazel Pierson   | CSJ                   |
| Frank Barnet           | Bob Gleason          | Alan Port            | Mary Kennedy          |
| Brother Benno          | Chance Hales         | Mary Pullman         | Harry Opatkiewicz     |
| Edith Blaiser          | Tom Hayward          | Catherine L. Quinlan | Hugo Carlos           |
| Andrea Boersma         | Elizabeth Holms      | Dora Ramirez         | Gilbert Brown         |
| Roland Bond            | Alice Jordan         | Dick & Terry Riley   | Peggy Miville         |
| Bill Boster            | Ben Kouns            | Margaret Rossini     | Bernie Weiler         |
| Agnus & Joan Boyd      | Richard Kurtz        | Ann Sauer            | Eleanor Reznek        |
| Bill Buckner           | Carole Kutler        | Mary Shankle         | Agatha Johnson        |
| Deacon Art & Mary Carr | Harold & Kay Kutler  | Naomi Shelton        | Molly Wilbur          |
| Anna Correia           | Bill & Louise Lakoff | Bernice, Samuel &    | Bob Strawbridge       |
| Don & Dorothea Daybell | Ben E. Lewis         | Milton Silver        | Eva Escobar           |
| Phyllis H. Dierlam     | Helen Lucas          | Will Skinner         | Donald Deffenbaugh    |
| Frank S. Dolley        | Bill & Joan Maloney  | Ann Grier Smith      | Shirley Kudzia        |
| Anita H. Donahue       | Helene McGill        | Squirrel Family      | Marie Atkinson        |
| Dorothy M. Donahue     | Michael & Monty      | Mike Stendahl        | Fred & Helen Briscoe  |
| Fr. Luke Dougherty     | Nares                | Margaret Stephan     | Bill Daley            |
| Roseanne Dreibelbis    | Zeferino & Dancy     | Virginia Sylwestrzak | Robert Buchach        |
| Fr. Abbot Claude       | Nares                | Harold Thompson      | Andrew & Jane         |
| Ehringer, OSB          | Mary Nordstrom       | Carol & Herb         | Yandura               |
| Myron Eichen           | Nysewander Family    | Thornberg            | Toni Keane            |
| Richard Farhquar       | Bud & Blanche Ogle   | Rosemary Tucker      | Alva & Frances Snider |
| William & Vennita      | Ben Osgrove          | Walter Ulloa         |                       |
| Flanagan               | Kathryn D. Pent      | June Williams        |                       |
| Louise Foussat         | Mary Peterson        | Fred Williamson      |                       |
|                        |                      | Sabin Mroz           |                       |

**IN HONOR OF**  
N.W.

**Needs**

Gently used furniture                                      Bottled water  
Gift cards to Target and Walmart for our Program Members

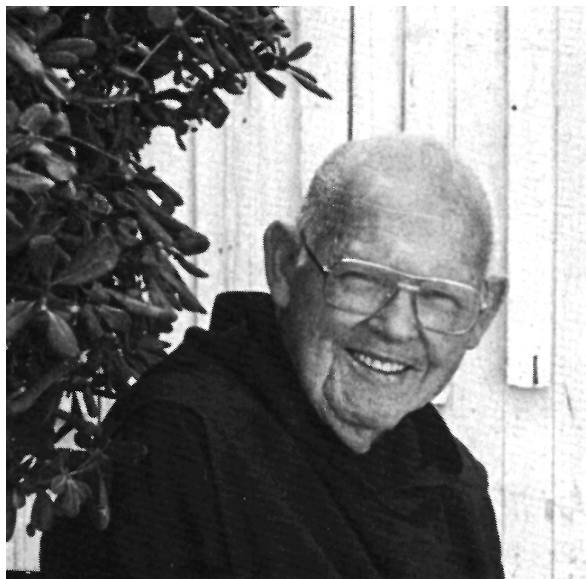
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>May 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>		<b>1</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>2</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>3</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>4</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>5</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>7</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>8</b> Riverview Church	<b>9</b> Fairwinds	<b>10</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>11</b> St. Patrick's	<b>12</b> Work Partners
	<b>14</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>15</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>16</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>17</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>18</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>19</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>21</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>22</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>23</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>24</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>25</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>26</b> Catholic Daughters
	<b>28</b> Christ Church	<b>29</b> Welk Resort	<b>30</b> Soroptimist International	<b>31</b> Brother Benno's Thrift Shop		

**Furniture Sales at the Center**

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**  
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	March 2018	Our 34th Year		March 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	13,248	4,188,635	Loads of laundry	29	27,990
Nights of lodging	1,010	294,691	Food packs	1,062	329,942
Articles of clothing	3,958	1,310,319	Blankets	183	44,527
Showers	1,170	245,813	Tarps	131	3,392
Haircuts	60	22,218	ID Vouchers	13	9,087
Bus passes	123	83,258	HUGS	2,250	964,444