



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

May 2019



COUNTY HONORS BROTHER BENNO'S FOR HEALTH SERVICES

On April 5, five people from Brother Benno's attended an event sponsored by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) for the "Live Well San Diego 18th Annual Public Health Champion Awards." Brother Benno's was a recipient of an award in the area of Public Health Services in recognition of our extraordinary achievements to ensure that San Diego County residents are healthy, safe, and thriving. On hand to accept the award were **Jim Kutler, Ron Lamb, John Jarvie, Carol Muehe, and Helen Parsons.**



Jim Kutler, Ron Lamb, John Jarvie, Carol Muehe

We were proactive last year regarding the outbreak of Hepatitis A by providing immunizations for Program Members, Guests, and Staff, and we offer flu shots as well. At the Thrift Shop, we offer blood pressure monitoring.

Our regular and best-known services such as healthy food, clean clothing, and showers contribute to the overall well-being of those we serve. We also maintain cleanliness in all areas of the Center—kitchen, dining room, shower rooms, rest rooms, chapel, children's reading room—as well as areas outside and around the Center, thanks to the daily work performed by our Program Men and Women.



Helen Parsons said, "To you, our staff and volunteers, congratulations! Your loving hearts made this award happen. With approximately 300 people in the audience, we accepted the award as 'We Are the Champions' blasted from the speakers. We all had goose bumps and happy hearts!"

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

A Perfect Match. We recently asked for twin sheet sets for our Women's Houses. **Elana Bagley**, one of our Program mentors, said she was thrilled with one person's donation (unfortunately she didn't get the person's name). There were six sets—two gold, two purple, and two green—colors that just happen to match the comforters in one of the Houses. With five additional sets donated, we've covered eleven of the 21 beds in our two Women's Houses.

"It would be nice to get enough to set up the Men's Houses as well," Elana said. That's another 28 beds. Please mark your donation **RECOVERY PROGRAM**. And we thank you!

God Speed, Good Friend! Speaking of **Elana**, we sadly said goodbye to her at the end of March, as she is in the process of moving out-of-state to be near her family. She's been a rock in our Recovery Program; and she's contributed to the Foundation in countless other ways with her expertise, her energy, and her unflinching commitment.

A Huge Contribution. As part of a Community Project assignment, eighth grade boys at Vista Magnet Middle School decided to collect health and hygiene products for the homeless, and they chose Brother Benno's as the place to donate them.

The boys started the project by raising funds at their school expo, selling items and baked goods that they made. They then met with their school district office and some local school principals to set up multiple hygiene product drives. With all this support, they were able to collect over 1,300 items, from which they put together 59 hygiene kits.

Deirdre Green, the mother of one of the boys, said, "The kits and remaining products were proudly donated to Brother Benno's." When asked how they knew about Brother Benno's, Deirdre said that when she was a child, she served with her mom at the old Kitchen in downtown Oceanside, and her current parish donates regularly to the Foundation.

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WOMAN FINALLY LEAVES HOMELESSNESS BEHIND

With all the sadness and need we see in the world every day, it's heartening when a "happy-ending" story comes along. Such is the case of "**Lois**," who—after eight years of being homeless—has just moved into her own apartment. She had finally qualified for Section 8 Housing, and with a little boost from Brother Benno's, she was ready to move in.

Lois is able to get supplementary food at the Center, and the Brother Benno Thrift Shop is helping her with furniture and other household items. Because she has a physical disability and has been unable to work, SSI payments now make it possible for her to pay rent as well as buy food and other necessities.

"She just beams with joy every time I see her," said **Mary Holguin**, a volunteer who helps our Guests with housing and utility payments. "She's had no help from her family," Mary added, "because her daughter is struggling with alcoholism, which also means that her grandchildren are now living out-of-state with their father. She misses them terribly."

Actually, during her years of homelessness, Brother Benno's was Lois's home and family. She came for the meal and a shower every morning, and everyone seemed to know and care about her.

Lois, and many others like her, has a new outlook on life because someone was kind enough to donate money and/or saleable items to Brother Benno's, and Staff members were able to make good things happen.

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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 Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

FROM THE BOOK

For those of us who knew Harold and Kay Kutler well, hardly a day goes by that we don't reminisce about them. "What would Kay think about that?" "How would Harold handle this situation?" Kay died in 2012, Harold in 2018, but they continue to guide us as we try to carry out their life-giving ministry by loving and caring for those in need. The following excerpt from Harold's book is a whimsical look at how they met. (Chapter 4)

"Marriage and family seemed like a good alternative to my earlier plan of becoming a priest, so I joined the S.C.O.T. Club (Single Catholics Over Twenty-three). Ironically, I'd been at the first meeting of this club eight years earlier, along with 17 ladies. The odds were somewhat threatening. Besides, I was already thinking about the priesthood, so I didn't return. But now I was ready to begin socializing with men and women my age.

"I entered the hall shyly that first night, but the ladies were anything but shy. They were there to catch a husband, but I didn't know that then.

"After a few meetings, I carefully got my feet wet by dancing with different girls following the business part of the evening. The next step was going out with small groups for coffee afterward.

"Finally I made a phone call, and I had my first date in eight years—with a lovely blonde Swedish nurse. This relationship didn't go anywhere, but it brought me back into the boy-girl arena.

"The next young lady who attracted my attention was Kay, when she spoke up one night at the club's business meeting. There had been some sentiment for dropping the club's bowling team, but Kay had other ideas.

"Hey, you guys, it's great exercise, and we have a lot of fun doing it, and it attracts new members."

After more lively discussion, we took a vote, with Kay's side winning. I said to myself: Now there's a spunky, enthusiastic gal who must be a pretty good athlete.

"The next bowling night, I was in the crowd to see if Kay was going to measure up to my expectations. She went over to the rack, picked up her ball, and rolled it down the left gutter. It must have slipped out of her hand, I thought. Her next ball rolled down the right gutter. Sorry to say, there was little improvement during the course of the evening.

"Why in the world was she so adamant about keeping the bowling team, when she's such a terrible bowler, I wondered.

"At the next meeting, I asked Kay to dance so I could find out.

"Hey, she said, in school they never let me be on any team, so just being on a team is a thrill for me.' She gave me her impish grin. 'I'm never concerned about the score, because it really doesn't matter. I just like being on a team with people who like me regardless of what score I bowl. We have a lot of fun together.'

"This was a refreshing point of view toward sports, but it was absolutely opposite of mine. I enjoyed playing most sports, but winning was the main thing. Kay's athletic ability didn't impress me, but her infectious enthusiasm was tantalizing. . . ."

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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 _____

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

April was a quiet month for the Auxiliary, but lots of activity in planning, though. Keep your eyes out for some fun events to come.

At our last meeting, **Darryl Harris**, a Staff member at the Center for the past ten years, told us about all the hats he has worn over those years. He is definitely the "Go To" man; it's amazing all he has accomplished.

Mary Jamison, who heads the Layette Committee, gave us a report on the work that she, **Teresa Dorr**, and **Louise Lussier** do to help families with new babies. They get gently used clothing from the Thrift Shop and other sponsors, as well as new items such as onesies, bibs, socks, and blankets that are donated by members. These items are packaged in gift boxes and given out at the Center and also to Marine families at Camp Pendleton. So, if you are in a store that is having a great sale on baby items, please consider buying a few and donating them to the Auxiliary.



Teresa Dorr, Louise Lussier and Mary Jamison

On May 11, the U.S. Postal Carriers are having their annual food drive. As in the past, the Post Office in La Costa is sending their donated items to Brother Benno's. We are asking for volunteers on that day to help us load the food to be taken to the Center. If you are able and willing to help, please call **Joyce (818-641-9598)** or **Eileen (760-390-3725)** for more information and/or to sign up.

LOOKING AHEAD AT FUNDRAISERS: in August, **Karen Gallagher** will chair a "Sip and Paint Watercolors" event that will surely please novice artists. And on September 27, we'll sponsor a Golf Tournament at Camp Pendleton. Jot these events on your calendar now!

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Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Encourage me, and I will never forget you.

~ Author Unknown

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 Bennos online:

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

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>

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Joseph Schubert
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Dora Ramirez	Jean St. Amant
Frank Barnet	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Andrew & Jane
Brother Benno	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Yandura
Edith Blaiser	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Toni Keane
Andrea Boersma	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Bob Strawbridge
Roland Bond	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Donald Deaffenbaugh
Bill Boster	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	John Steiger
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Frank Beeson
Bill Buckner	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Gilbert & Donna
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Brown
Anna Correia	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Happy Birthday
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	Anne Billings
Frank S. Dolley	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	
Anita H. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	
Dorothy M. Donahue	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nares	Harold Thompson	
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	
Richard Farhquar	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	
William & Vennita	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	
Flanagan	Jane Pfau	George O'Donnell	
Louise Foussat	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Frank Flores	
Joe & Ida Friend	Alan Port	Alice Shutter	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Mary Whitaker	

Needs

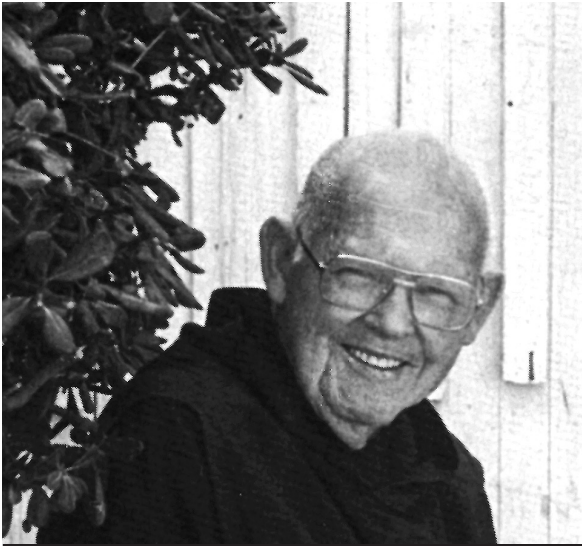
Gently used furniture

Light-weight blankets, easy to fold and carry

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2019 Monthly Serving Team Schedule			1 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
	6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 Fairwinds	9 Oceanside Civitanis	10 St. Patrick's	11 Nativity Men's Group
	13 North Coast Methodist	14 Riverview Church	15 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	16 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
	20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 Christ the King Lutheran	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Pilgrim Creek	24 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	25 Catholic Daughters
	27 St. Thomas More RCIA	28 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	29 Soroptimist International	30 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop	31 King of Kings Lutheran	

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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 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-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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:

	March 2019	Our 35th Year		March 2019	Our 35th Year
Meals	12,880	4,343,139	Loads of laundry	26	28,311
Nights of lodging	976	305,758	Food packs	1,159	343,345
Articles of clothing	5,802	1,371,207	Blankets	143	46,689
Showers	878	258,857	Tarps	110	4,757
Haircuts	29	22,719	ID Vouchers	35	9,473
Bus passes	89	84,447	HUGS	2,250	987,844