



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

May 2021



VACCINES GIVEN AT BROTHER BENNO'S

Eighty people received the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine at Brother Benno's on Saturday, April 3. These fortunate individuals included the homeless, volunteers, and the working poor; and even a few people from nearby businesses took part.

This event was hosted by the Operation Collaboration Team—firefighters and paramedics from fire departments in North San Diego County.



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BROTHER BENNO VOLUNTEERS: AN UPDATE

by Barbara Driscoll

As the new Volunteer Coordinator for Brother Benno's, I would like to extend warm greetings to our many fine volunteers who do such a great job for all we serve. This has been a challenging time, and the staff very much appreciates your support, effort, and commitment to our Guests.

As we prepare to increase our on-site services, I kindly ask your help with the following: We need an accurate list of volunteers to insure we have sufficient personnel available to handle the anticipated reopening of the Brother Benno Center. Therefore, please contact me at your earliest convenience, letting me know if you will or will not be available for upcoming volunteer work. My email address is: volunteersatbb@gmail.com Brother Benno's is working to make sure you are able to volunteer in a safe environment, which includes a mandatory mask policy.

In order to have you slated for a volunteer position that best fits your area of interest, we will be asking you to update your volunteer questionnaire. We hope to have it online in the coming months. We also most strongly encourage you, if you haven't done so yet, to please get your COVID vaccine before you return.

Our Thrift Shop needs volunteers NOW to receive donations and to help process them on the following days and times:

Wednesday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We hope to have these “donation receivers” on a continuous weekly basis as we do the food serving teams at the Center. Please email

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SPOTLIGHT: MEET BARBARA LADWIG

By Joe McDevitt *

Reporters learn early in their training that they are not to be the story but neutral and unseen observers closely assessing and asking questions to better understand the topics they report. This is the rule Barbara Ladwig has followed over the many years she has been the editor of the Brother Benno's Newsletter. It was not surprising, therefore, that she was naturally hesitant to be the subject of this article. Her considerable achievements, however, as a volunteer at Brother Benno's since 1984 are intertwined with the services offered by the Brother Benno Foundation, and she is a big part of Brother Benno's history and continuing story.



Barbara and Bob Ladwig

Barbara has been writing all her life. At Whitewater State College (now University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) she completed journalism classes and became the Editor-in-Chief of her college weekly newspaper. This led her to become a freelance writer with short stories and articles published in newspapers and magazines. Her love of writing and her unselfish efforts to become a volunteer guided her to fulfill 20 years as co-editor of a newsletter at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad, and also 20 years as a volunteer tutor and eventually director at the Carlsbad Literacy Center, teaching English to adults, as part of Laubach Literacy International.

Her volunteer work at Brother Benno's began when she responded to a newspaper advertisement asking for volunteer food line servers at

Brother Benno's original Kitchen site on Minnesota Street in Oceanside, a ministry started by **Harold and Kay Kutler**. Once on board, she became involved in providing various services and eventually working on assignments from Harold and Kay, which included being an early contributor to the Education Committee for the Substance Abuse Recovery Program. At the onset of her service, Barbara was particularly impressed with the unconditional love and commitment shown by Harold and Kay to the homeless and needy, their "Guests," at Brother Benno's.

As Barbara's writing skills and experience became known, Harold asked her to become part of the staff that writes and edits the newsletter. She's been Editor since 2004, a position that remains key to communicating the activities at Brother Benno's to the many volunteers and supporters. Asked what stands out to her over these years, she recounts how she finds that volunteers lose any judgmental tendencies and fully embrace and accept those in need. She commented that it is especially rewarding for everyone to meet the "new" person graduating from the Recovery Program compared with the "past" person before recovery.

Dennis Pinnick, part of Brother Benno's Community Outreach Team, said, "Barbara is an amazing force in taking draft statements, performing research, communicating with outside organizations, and completing a finished article for the Newsletter. He is particularly impressed with Barbara's work with **Dorothy Richardson** to manage the sending out of many 'Thank-You' cards to donors. In remembrance of Kay Kutler, they continue to use copies of cards that were hand-written by Kay, an act especially meaningful to donors who have contributed to Brother Benno's over these many years."

Father Charles Wright from Prince of Peace Abbey and a member of Brother Benno's Board of Directors said that Barbara has been unselfish in committing considerable time and energy to Brother Benno's. He added: "Barbara was

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DOING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR THE POOR

By Frank Doherty

We have many beautiful people at Brother Benno's. One who does not look for recognition, but stands out, is a kind and giving 89-year-old lady named **Phyllis Wohlberg**. Although slight in stature, she brings much light and love to the poor in her presence, along with the group of seven she works with, called "All About Love." Phyllis celebrated her 89th birthday at Brother Benno's on April 4, proving that age truly is only a number.



Sudha Shah, Phyllis Wohlberg, Scott Hood

Phyllis is the coordinator of the group that comes to Brother Benno's every Saturday morning. They set up tables at 8 o'clock outside the Center in order to give out food and water that augment the bag lunches we serve our Guests. Given that Brother Benno's is closed on Sundays, this is especially helpful and provides a means of sustenance for many all weekend. The food consists of burritos, ramen soup, sandwiches, granola bars, Rice Krispies treats, P/B crackers, V8 juice, bananas, and cookies. Part of what is amazing is that they spend about \$300 each week out of their own resources.

What is most recognizable about Phyllis is her kindness and heartfelt love for the poor. She believes we are called to be a source of light in this world, no matter if you are young or old. Her single agenda is "to love and serve others with unlimited kindness, understanding, and forgiveness," and the rest of her team shares the same goals.

Each Saturday morning our Guests line up, and you can see that they feel they are among a gathering of friends as they are served. Phyllis and her circle are truly the source of light that we are all called to be. She says that "love-all" is her religion, and that she is "a Happy Camper on this Planet Earth."

Mother Teresa called on each of us to "do something beautiful for God." Phyllis and her team are doing just that.

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Helen Parsons at helenparsons75@outlook.com if you or your team are interested.

I look forward to working with you as we begin our transition to an improved and more normal set of operating procedures. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you again for all you do for Brother Benno's.

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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>

EMERGENCY HELP AVAILABLE FOR RENT AND UTILITIES

Brother Benno's continues to provide temporary emergency rental and utility assistance on a case-by-case basis, primarily to those households in North San Diego County that are at risk of homelessness or that are unable to pay for utilities. This program has provided assistance on average to over 92 members of households each month.

For those in need of receiving assistance, please call 760-439-1244 and ask for Mary Holguin at ext. 113. Mary manages this emergency rental and utility assistance program. Applicants are required to meet income eligibility levels based on household size, and they will be requested to complete an application and provide supporting documents.

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“Homelessness is not only for a home made of bricks. Homelessness is being rejected, unwanted, unloved, uncared for, having forgotten what is human love, what is human touch.”
~ Mother Teresa

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.

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always available to provide support and advice to Harold and Kay during particularly challenging times in the growth of Brother Benno's.”

In 2001, Harold asked Barbara to review a draft of his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*. The account that followed describes how Harold was not initially pleased with Barbara's extensive comments to his draft; but since he was working on becoming “humble,” he accepted them. He graciously acknowledged Barbara's contributions by stating in the book's Acknowledgments” section: “My deepest thanks to Barbara for patiently rescuing me from a dullsville manuscript. She was instrumental in breathing life into this story, while showing me how to write modern non-fiction.”

Barbara continues to pass along Harold and Kay's message of love and commitment to those in need with each monthly edition of the Newsletter, particularly their message of “Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve.”

**(Joe volunteers at Brother Benno's on the Grant Writing Team and is also a member of the Board of Directors.)*

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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	Bob Gleason	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Bernie Weiler
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Alan Port	Jim Bruynell
Brother Benno	Hayward	Mary Pullman	Pat Kouns
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Catherine L. Quinlan	Michael Chapa
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Dora Ramirez	Toni Keane
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Dick & Terry Riley	Dorothy Barnell
Bill Boster	Jellig	Margaret Rossini	Frank Beeson
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Ream Braegger
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Nick Sauer	Robert Buchach
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Ace & Polly Cole
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Jerry & Barbara
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Hector
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	H. Edward Smith
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	Family
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	Ron Beckman
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Alva & Frances	Virginia VanderMel
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Snider	Rose Horner
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty, Natalie, &	Squirrell Family	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Michael Nares	Mike Stendahl	
Ehringer, OSB	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	FOR HEALING
Myron Eichen	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Russ Stanley
Richard Farhquar	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Bill McCoy
William & Vennita	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb	
Flanagan	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Thornberg	
Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	
Joe & Ida Friend	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Peterson	June Williams	

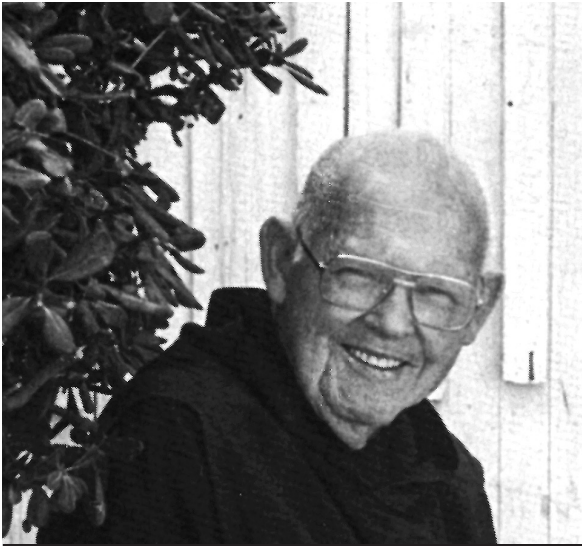
NEEDS

small bags of chips
 fruit cups
 protein bars
 crackers
 bottled water
 small juices
 Gatorade

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.

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

Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up

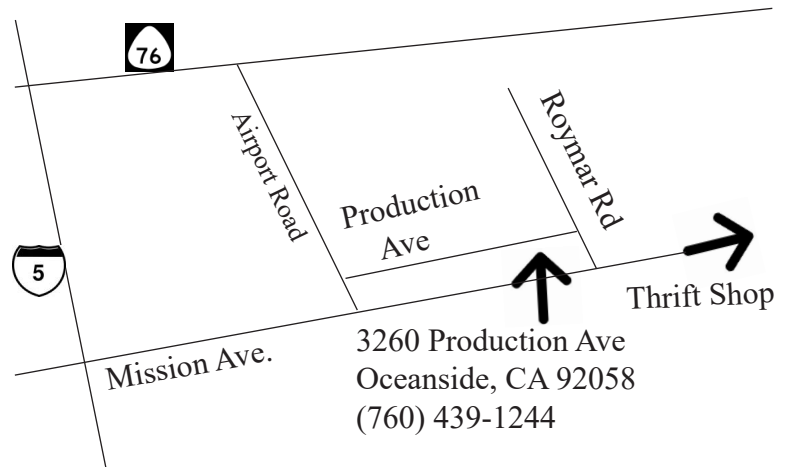
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 2021	Our 37th Year		March 2021	Our 37th Year
Meals	9,998	4,604,652	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	783	327,219	Food packs	717	359,706
Articles of clothing	2,671	1,438,372	Blankets	99	49,446
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	32	6,361
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	23	10,101
Bus passes	73	86,321	HUGS	0	1,011,244