

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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



3260 PRODUCTION AVE.
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058
(760)439-1244

Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

November 2010



BROTHER BENNO'S CELEBRATES 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

The sunshine and blue skies on Saturday morning, October 9, seemed to be part of the atmosphere inside the Brother Benno Center as well, as guests, volunteers, and friends celebrated 27 years of service to the poor and homeless. The upbeat music provided by **Eric and Joanne Kraegenbrink** made it almost impossible to sit quietly; people swayed and clapped between taking bites of the delicious spaghetti meal, and a few even danced in the crowded space between tables.

Harold Kutler opened the festivities, and **Kay** was there with their son **Jim** and Kay's caretaker, **Janice**. You didn't have to wonder whether or not Kay was having a good time; music has always been one of her joys. In fact, at one point, the crowd heard a tape of Kay singing some of her all-time favorites like “Baby Face,” “Second-Hand Rose” (which was also **Brother Benno's** favorite), and “I'm Just Wild About Harry.”

Harold honored a grandmother as the person who was served the three-millionth meal, and the woman's granddaughter as the one who received the 200,000th night of shelter. The grandmother is raising her granddaughter, and they had stayed at one of Brother Benno's shelters when the down economy made it impossible for the woman to make ends meet. With the help of Solutions for Change, they have now moved into an apartment.

Several Oceanside City officials came to participate in the party. Mayor **Jim Wood** presented a proclamation, read by Housing Commissioner **Kay Parker**. Councilwoman **Esther Sanchez** praised the work being done by Brother

Benno's, then shared a story about her own mother, who—along with her family—had been homeless at one point in their lives. She said her mother told the children that you can accomplish anything if you believe in yourself, and the family was eventually able to get back on their feet and become successful.

Servants of the Poor **Liz Windle** and **Tom von Betticher** were in charge of the day's events, ably assisted by Program Members, who, according to Liz, “were such a help, as always, in addition to their regular workday.” Liz and Tom each led a group of interested attendees on a tour of the Center, and many other volunteers were there to help or just to be part of the festivities.

There's nothing quite as wonderful as a party at Brother Benno's!



Janice, Kay and Harold

Brother Benno's Services:

	September 2010	Our 28th Year		September 2010	Our 28th Year
Meals	11,480	3,008,792	Loads of laundry	25	25,500
Nights of lodging	1,077	202,570	Food packs	2,354	144,805
Articles of clothing	4,255	835,105	Blankets	104	30,868
Showers	966	149,933	Prescriptions	39	6,109
Haircuts	157	11,675	ID Vouchers	11	8,065
Bus passes	121	73,495	HUGS	1,800	788,494

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

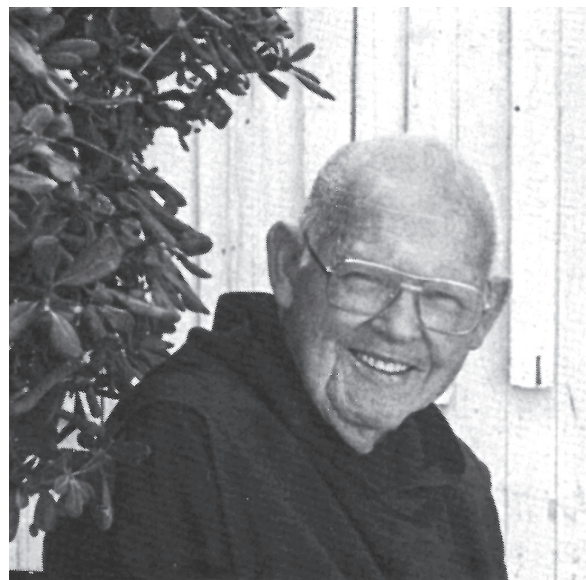
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Tours. Anyone interested in volunteering, or just learning more about Brother Benno's, is invited to take a tour of the Center on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. No registration is required; just come on down. However, THERE WILL BE NO TOUR IN DECEMBER, but they will resume on January 8, 2011.

A Big Helping Hand. A family of six, who lost almost everything in an apartment fire in Oceanside in September, found abundance at Brother Benno's. "We were able to give them a lot of stuff," said Greg, our Warehouse Manager, and Thomas, who heads our used furniture department. They received clothing, hygiene items, a bed with sheets, blankets, and pillows, cleaning supplies, a dining room set, sleeper-couch, lamps, end tables, cabinet, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, and several small appliances.

All this was possible because of the many donations we receive from our supporters. Even though they weren't at the Center the day this family came in, they were there in spirit because at some time they gave of their own abundance.

Another Winner. The Auxiliary's Fall Luncheon on October 16 was a fun day for the big crowd in attendance. Instead of a fashion show, the special feature this year was a trio of women singers who call themselves The Harmonettes, and who sing music from the 40's and 50's ala the Andrew Sisters and the McGuire Sisters. There was a lot of toe-tapping from the guests, and I saw a few swaying in their chairs—probably wanting to get up and dance!

The Opportunity Baskets were scrumptious, as always. I tried a new tactic this year to win one of them; I put a whole handful of tickets into one basket, instead of spreading them around. It didn't work! But the food and the company were great, so no complaints here.

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FOND RECOLLECTIONS

by Helene McGill

When I walked into the Center for the first time (in 2002), I was greeted by Sue Devey. She gave me a tour and told me all about the Center and her association with it for so many years. She emphasized how agreeable everyone was. That did it—I was hooked. I soon came to realize that Sue was the prototype of the Brother Benno volunteer—pleasant and untiring in her efforts.

For about a year and a half, I came in on most Fridays and helped Blanche Ogle make brown-bag lunches and then open cans, wash fruits, and cut up vegetables for the volunteers and Program Members' lunches. I looked forward to it, because every week was another trip down memory lane as Blanche reminisced about her dear family and her "founder" status with Brother Benno's. She was a loving woman and was respected and loved by all the guys. Pretty soon, I felt like an adopted relative. I sometimes drove her home, and she showed me her apartment and the lovely things her children gave her.

Kay and Harold are perfect role models. Their genuine dedication, joy, and tireless love work the many little everyday miracles that Brother Benno's is famous for.

(Editor's Note: Sue still volunteers at Brother Benno's. Blanche died in 2008 at the age of 86.)

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I want you to be concerned about your next-door neighbor. Do you know your next-door neighbor?
~ Mother Teresa

Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

Memorials

Brother Benno	Mary Peterson	Bill & Joan Maloney	Leo Labassiere
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dora Ramirez	Tom Tuttle
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Dick Riley	Sr. Martha Vega
Ann Sauer	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Buckner	Ann Witherow
Joe & Ida Friend	Monty Nares	Mary Shankle	Larry Fisk
Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Rossini	Walter Ulloa	Jeffrey Fisk
Myron Eichen	Dorothy M. Donahue	Fred Williamson	Margaret Zachan
Alice Jordan	Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	William Flanagan
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Will Skinner	Zeferino & Dancy
Richard Farhquar	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Edith Blaiser	Ehringer, OSB	Fred & Helen
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Briscoe
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Claude Miller
Kathryn D. Pent	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Patricia Hoffman	David Stookey
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Edwin Schlinger	Family
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Tom Schlinger	Jason Frater
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Irene Keritz	Rod Maasch
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Robert	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Jack Thill	
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Pearl Van Buskirk	
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Sy Miller	
Ron Alexander		Philip Larsen	

Birthdays

Doris Van Ginkle

Needs

Frozen turkeys, canned cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, chicken stock, dressing mix, dinner rolls

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2010	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
Monthly	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Friends from Vista	10 Naval Hospital	11 Oceanside Civitans	12 St. Patrick's	13 Shiloh Church of God In Christ
Serving	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Grace Anglican	18 Carlsbad Rotary	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
Team	22 5/11 Marines	23 St. Mark's San Marcos	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Thanksgiving	26 Fallbrook Presbyterian	27 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Vista Community Clinic				

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Tue. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to brotherbenno.org, click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

KAY IS EVERYBODY'S ANGEL

By Barbara Ladwig

Kay Kutler is the most beloved person in the Brother Benno "family." She's been the personification of the good work that's been done for the poor and homeless over the past 27 years, and she is often called an angel by her husband **Harold**.

Anyone who ever saw Kay's office at the Center knows that she had angels everywhere on the walls and shelves. Harold now uses that office, and he has kept the angel theme intact, so it feels like Kay is still there.

Even though health problems now make it impossible for Kay to be the everyday presence that we all came to depend on, we feel her spirit throughout the Center; and the staff and volunteers seem to have an inner urge to carry on the love she gave so freely to everyone.

Denise Seymour, a new Servant of the Poor who decorates the dining room, became aware of the warm affection everyone has for Kay. "I have gotten to know and experience the love you have for Kay and all she has given at the Center," she said in an email to staff and volunteers, "and in my heart I feel led to fill the dining room with angels (in her honor)." She said she wasn't sure exactly how this would all unfold, but she hoped others would come forward with their own ideas.

Several things are in the works, but one has already been accomplished. **Gayle Chew**, a member of Girlfriends Care (GC), handcrafted two pillows for Kay. **Gini Craig**, also of GC, recently

presented the pillows to Harold "as a gift of love for Kay Kutler." The pillows feature embroidered scripture quotes, one of which is: "For to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways." *Psalm 91:11*

When Gayle heard about the angel theme for Kay, she said she prayed about it; and she could see two small pillows cushioning Kay's arms as they lay on the arms of a wheelchair (even though she didn't know at the time that Kay was already in a wheelchair).

At a GC meeting, the members created an over-sized greeting card for Kay, with everyone writing notes of love and appreciation inside. And they topped off their gifts with an angel jewelry box.

Kay's outpouring of love over the years is being carried forward by many who have been touched by her. Guests still tell Harold how a hug from Kay meant the world to them when they felt that no one cared about them. Volunteers who might have come to the Center with heavy hearts knew that a hug from Kay—along with her million-dollar smile—were just what they needed to brighten their day.

We will share other parts of this angel project with you as they come to fruition.

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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>



AUXILIARY LUNCHEON ON OCTOBER 16



Red Hat Ladies



An opportunity basket for the beach



The Harmonettes



Selling Tickets

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 _____