

**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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

|                      | September 2011 | Our 28th Year |                  | September 2011 | Our 28th Year |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Meals                | 12,140         | 3,157,916     | Loads of laundry | 29             | 25,892        |
| Nights of lodging    | 1,201          | 217,013       | Food packs       | 2,500          | 173,368       |
| Articles of clothing | 4,090          | 887,327       | Blankets         | 76             | 32,045        |
| Showers              | 880            | 160,550       | Prescriptions    | 55             | 6,676         |
| Haircuts             | 157            | 13,204        | ID Vouchers      | 5              | 8,185         |
| Bus passes           | 142            | 74,970        | HUGS             | 1,800          | 811,894       |

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

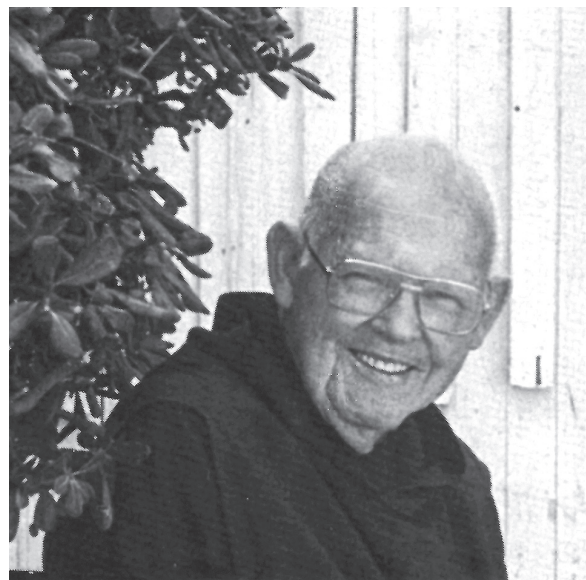
**The Thrift Shop**

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

**Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Oceanside, California  
**PERMIT NO. 166**



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

November 2011



**Do You Want To Be  
A Caring Christmas Angel?**

Approximately 2,400 children will receive Christmas toys because of Brother Benno's caring supporters. If you'd like to donate a new toy for a specific child, please consider becoming a "Caring Christmas Angel." We'll send you a paper angel with "boy" or "girl" and the child's age written on it. Then all you have to do is drop off your unwrapped gift, with the angel attached to it, at the Center or Thrift Shop. The Center is located at 3260 Production Avenue, Thrift Shop at 3965 Mission Avenue, both in Oceanside.

Our biggest need is for gifts for 0-2-year-olds, and for boys ages 12-15. For boys, some suggestions are baseballs, mitts, and bats; footballs, soccer balls, and basketballs; hand-held games; board games, and gift cards. For the little ones, be sure your gift doesn't contain any removable or small pieces.

You can pick up an "angel" at the Center or Thrift Shop, or call **Suzy** (760-439-1244, ext. 118) to have it mailed to you.

In addition to the Angel program, we will gratefully accept gifts for children of any age.

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**SPECIAL URGENT REQUEST**

We are in need of a new or almost-new vehicle for use by the women living in our two shelters. A mid-sized SUV would be ideal, but any reliable car would be welcome. Brother Benno's can bear the financial responsibility of insuring the vehicle and driver; but with donations down this year, we do not have the funds to purchase a vehicle.

The women we serve, some of whom have children, are in transition, rebuilding their lives after suffering from an abusive relationship, addiction, or illness. They need transportation to go to job interviews, school, jobs, and sometimes to take and pick up their children at school or day care. The House Manager also needs a car to pick up groceries at the Center, transport donated furniture for the women when they move into their own place, and to help with bicycles, strollers, etc. for the children. With cold, wet weather approaching, the need for reliable transportation increases.

If you can help, please contact **Liz Windle** (760-439-1244, ext. 113) or [elizabethwindle@att.net](mailto:elizabethwindle@att.net).

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**Brother Benno's Auxiliary  
Annual Luncheon  
“THE GIVING SPIRIT”**

Tickets are now on sale for the Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad. Besides a delicious lunch, there will be beautiful door prizes, delightful centerpieces, opportunity baskets, and silent auction items such as a New England-style dinner prepared by former San Diego Chargers kicker **John Carney**. Entertainment will be provided by a very talented group, "The Hot Flashes Follies. A day of fun, all for a good cause!

What better way to "give" than by making this luncheon a Christmas gift for your neighbors, friends, and family members. Individual tickets are \$50, or a table of ten for \$500. Donations are also welcome from those who cannot attend. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets and information, please contact **Vera Bayliss** (760-739-9061).

Proceeds from this fund-raising event will support the two women's houses that Brother Benno's maintains for sheltering homeless women and children.

**EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE**

by Barbara Ladwig

**One Way We Help.** I was leaving the Center around ten one morning when I overheard **Dave** at the front desk telling a Guest where to go for her appointment with a Case Worker. The woman was carrying her baby boy in a carrier, while a little girl about two trailed behind.

The woman looked stressed, as if she were about to cry, and she seemed confused about where she was supposed to go. Even though the Case Worker's office is just a step outside and one door down, I could tell she needed help. "I'll walk her over there," I said to Dave.

The Case Worker's door was open and the light was on, but no one was in. I suggested she sit down and said I was sure someone would be there very soon. Again, I saw her weariness and tenseness.

Just then, **Bill Harper** came in from the back, saw the woman and asked if she had an appointment. She showed him a piece of paper she'd been clutching in her hand. "Your appointment was at 9 o'clock," he said.

She took a deep breath. "I know, but my baby is sick, and I couldn't get here in time." Bill immediately ushered her into his office and closed the door. I found out later that the woman had received an eviction notice from her landlord. Brother Benno's was able to help with her rent, thus keeping the family from becoming homeless.

**Stores Provide.** It's amazing how many businesses in Oceanside, Carlsbad, and Vista donate food to Brother Benno's every week—bread, meat, dairy, and produce. These items are carefully scrutinized by our kitchen staff to make sure they are safe for whoever receives them, according to **Dennis Martinek**, one of our Operations Managers. Participating stores and restaurants include: Albertsons, French Bakery, Sprouts, Jimbo's, Stater Bros, Trader Joe's, Red Lobster, Starbucks, KFC, Pizza Hut, Costco, Target, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Fresh & Easy, WalMart, and Campbell Bread. Recipients include meal Guests, residents of our Houses, and Guests who receive bag lunches or want to take something to prepare at home.

**Collaborative Effort.** Speaking of Operations Manager, last month we identified Dennis Martinek as having taken over those duties from **Tom von Betticher**. Dennis would like readers to know that at the present time, he is coming in two days a week while he continues his teaching job. Tom still comes in one day, **D.\*** takes two days, and **Frank Doherty** one day.

**Help With Basics.** **Harold Kutler** reported that during the fiscal year ending on July 31, monetary donations made it possible for Brother Benno's to help 250 families avoid homelessness by subsidizing part of their rent. In addition, 186 guests received assistance with their utility bills (water, gas, and/or electricity); and 211 people were given help paying for 354 prescriptions, partly through a grant provided by the Tri-City Hospital Foundation.

**Kids Step Up Again.** **Susan Lanz**, a teacher at the Classical Academy in Escondido, brought several eighth graders to Brother Benno's recently with donations collected by all the students. They piled up boxes and bags in front of the warehouse—482 jars of peanut butter and jelly, and 400 blankets! Susan said the kids—student government leaders—decided to support Brother Benno's for the whole year by doing three different drives and also performing community service hours at the Center.

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*\* It is the policy of the Brother Benno Foundation to respect the anonymity of our Program Members, present and past, in keeping with one of the basic traditions of the AA Twelve-Step program. Therefore, we use initials or aliases in all newsletter articles, and we refrain from publishing their pictures.*

**Memorials**

|                        |                    |                     |                  |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Brother Benno          | Ron Alexander      | Richard Kurtz       | Larry & Barbara  |
| Pope John Paul II      | Mary Peterson      | Helen Lucas         | Crell            |
| Mother Teresa          | Frank Barnet       | Bill & Joan Maloney | Robert Sayder    |
| Ann Sauer              | Frank S. Dolley    | Dora Ramirez        | Correia Family   |
| Joe & Ida Friend       | Phyllis H. Dierlam | Dick & Terry Riley  | Ethel Urban      |
| Mary Nordstrom         | Monty Nares        | Bill Buckner        | Alice Condren    |
| Myron Eichen           | Margaret Rossini   | Mary Shankle        | Squirrell Family |
| Alice Jordan           | Dorothy M. Donahue | Walter Ulloa        | Sr. Martha Vega  |
| Roseanne Dreibelbis    | Mary Teresa Carr   | Fred Williamson     | P.J. Daheim      |
| Richard Farhquar       | Ruth Hazel Pierson | Carole Kutler       | Bill O'Connor    |
| Deacon Art & Mary Carr | Elizabeth Holms    | Will Skinner        | Gilbert Brown    |
| Don & Dorothea Daybell | Edith Blaiser      | Fr. Abbot Claude    | Geraldine Howard |
| Catherine L. Quinlan   | Ben Kouns          | Ehringer, OSB       | Richard Kurtz    |
| Kathryn D. Pent        | Bill Lakoff        | Fr. Luke Dougherty  | Floyd & Rose     |
| Mary Pullman           | Bernice, Samuel &  | Naomi Shelton       | Caldwell         |
| Joan Boyd              | Milton Silver      | Rosemary Tucker     | Stanley LaMonte  |
| Agnus Boyd             | Anita H. Donahue   | Ben E. Lewis        | William Flanagan |
| Harold Thompson        | Margaret Stephan   | Roland Bond         | Jack Thill       |
| Bud & Blanche Ogle     | Bill Boster        | Anna Correia        | Jason Frater     |
| Bob Gleason            | Louise Foussat     | Geraldine Howard    | Margaret Zachan  |
| Jane Pfau              | Tom Hayward        | James O'Keefe       | Agnes Spencer    |

**Needs**

Ponchos Blankets New toys  
Men's pants & jackets Permanent drivers once a week (7-11 a.m.)

|                 | Monday                                | Tuesday                                | Wednesday                              | Thursday                              | Friday                              | Saturday                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>November</b> |                                       | <b>1</b><br>St. John The Evangelist    | <b>2</b><br>Brother Benno's Auxiliary  | <b>3</b><br>Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis | <b>4</b><br>San Luis Rey Mission    | <b>5</b><br>St. Thomas More      |
| <b>2011</b>     | <b>7</b><br>St. Elizabeth Seton #1    | <b>8</b><br>Friends from Vista         | <b>9</b><br>Naval Hospital             | <b>10</b><br>Oceanside Civitans       | <b>11</b><br>St. Patrick's          | <b>12</b><br>St. Vincent de Paul |
| <b>Monthly</b>  | <b>14</b><br>North Coast Methodist    | <b>15</b><br>Christ the King Lutheran  | <b>16</b><br>Grace Anglican            | <b>17</b><br>Carlsbad Rotary          | <b>18</b><br>St. Elizabeth Seton #2 | <b>19</b><br>Girlfriend's Care   |
| <b>Serving</b>  | <b>21</b><br>Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista | <b>22</b><br>St. Mark's San Marcos     | <b>23</b><br>San Luis Rey Methodist    | <b>24</b><br>Pilgrim Creek            | <b>25</b><br>Fallbrook Presbyterian | <b>26</b><br>Catholic Daughters  |
| <b>Team</b>     |                                       |  |  |                                       |                                     |                                  |
| <b>Schedule</b> | <b>28</b><br>Christ Anglican          | <b>29</b><br>Grace Chapel of the Coast | <b>30</b><br>Soroptimist International |                                       |                                     |                                  |

**Brother Benno's Furniture Sales**

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 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.

### CASE WORKERS HAVE IMPORTANT CONNECTION TO GUESTS

Brother Benno's Case Workers, **Bill Harper** and **Mary Holguin**, love what they're doing. They say that being able to help families with rent and utility assistance makes all their efforts worth-



"I know we can't help everyone because of limited funds," Bill said, "but often just a little extra money keeps people able to stay in their homes." He mentioned that Brother Benno's is the only service agency currently offering rental assistance, which puts an extra burden on us. As a result, he and Mary now ask that Guests be able to pay three-fourths of the rent if possible; and they can apply for help only once a year. "Of course, we have to be flexible," he said. "We don't want to send people away, knowing they'll be out on the street."

"I never knew how much good Brother Benno's does until I started volunteering here," Mary said. She started as a receptionist and also helped with other projects around the Center. When it became evident that one Case Worker couldn't handle the increasing needs of those who come for help, she gladly agreed to take on the job.

Bill said he doesn't see himself as having to be authoritarian. He is a good listener, he said,

and even if it ends up that he can't help someone, they often go away feeling better because someone cared enough to hear their story. He's also willing to do everything in his power to help, including calling landlords to explain how Brother Benno's is helping and to encourage them to give the tenants a little more time to work things out.

Bill and Mary see Guests on Mondays and Fridays, with Bill coming in on Wednesdays as well. In addition to face-to-face meetings, they also respond to phone messages. "It's always a long list," Bill said. "We find out first if they qualify; and if they do, we set up an appointment."

Like any job at Brother Benno's, being a Case Worker seems to bring out the best in our volunteers; and they have a similar reaction to carrying out their duties: one success makes up for the times when they are unable to help someone.

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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>

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS AT THRIFT SHOP

The Christmas Boutique at the Thrift Shop will open on November 7, with decorations for sale that have been collected throughout the year. Come early, shop often. There's sure to be something for everyone!

A local Girl Scout troop gave up a Sunday to give our furniture room a fresh coat of paint. It was much needed and makes a huge difference. Come take a look.

Our new donations truck parked in front of the shop has already proven to be invaluable. It's very convenient for people who want to drop off donations—please bring them any time, Monday through Saturday, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

We are also a drop-off point for donations of new toys for the big Christmas giveaway at the Center. These donations can be dropped off until 5 o'clock.

“Like us” on Facebook! Shop information, sales, and unique items are posted.

During this time of Thanksgiving, the Thrift Shop staff would like to thank you for your patronage this past year. Thanks to you, we are STILL the best little thrift shop in Oceanside!

(Thrift Shop, 3965 Mission Ave., Oceanside, east of Albertsons, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday).

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## AUXILIARY NEWS

Installation of officers for 2012 will be held at the meeting on November 16 (meeting date changed because of Thanksgiving).

Vikki Ramey & Alicia Sullivan, Co-Presidents  
Linda Garvey, Vice President  
Isobel Haring, Secretary  
Joan O'Connell, Treasurer  
Karen Gallagher, Adviser

We need members to help assemble teen baskets at 12:30--be sure to come early and bring your items.

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## MOSTLY ROSES

by Helen Parsons

Roses to **Nancy Cotrino** and her special group of teen Girl Scouts, who gave up a Sunday to prepare and paint the furniture room at the Thrift Shop. One of their dads had been part of the Genentech group that painted the front room at the Shop. They all did an exceptional job, and we hope to work on another project with them soon! Thank you for your energy and kind hearts!

Roses to **Virginia Sylwestrzak**, who we hope is well on the road to recovery. You are so missed! You have been so loyal for . . . how many years? Hurry back!

Raspberries to the person who stole the battery and bolts from the Thrift Shop truck. Sorry you felt the need to do that. Also, one of our storage units was broken into, and a lot of gift items for the men's boutique were taken. Most likely, Brother Benno's could have helped you with your needs!

Roses to all our **Program Guys**, who pitch in and help whenever asked. And roses for your courage, stamina, willingness, and smiles!

One huge bouquet of roses to our newsletter editor-in-chief, **Barbara Ladwig**. Some of the comments I have received about Barbara are: “Barbara is my favorite author. She has a unique ability to use just the right words! She is a genuinely nice person who can talk with anyone and put them at ease.”

From a staff member: “Barbara is a tremendous asset to Brother Benno's Foundation and Auxiliary. She takes the time to ensure all our news and needs reach our greater community. How blessed we are to have such caring and talent.”

Many more contained such descriptive adjectives as: diligent, perfectionist, good-natured, steadfast, cheerful, kind, smiling thoughtful—and my favorite—motherly. All of us who know Barbara know how much she loves her children and grandchildren!

So, Barbara, we want to say thank you for your many years of service with love here at Brother Benno's. You are loved and appreciated by all!

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