



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

November 2012

DECEMBER TOY DAY IS SET

by Helen Parsons

This year's Christmas toy giveaway will be on Wednesday, December 19. All sorts of toys for all ages will be needed. Besides small stocking-stuffers, a toy that sells for around \$10 would be a wonderful gift for a child. Although children love more expensive items, most families have more than one child, and we like to keep the values about the same for each child. Monetary donations and gift cards from stores that sell toys are also welcome.

The Brother Benno Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 to noon to accept donations. And on Saturdays, there will be a truck parked out front to receive donations. Gift cards and monetary donations can be given to the receptionist inside the Center or to the Thrift Shop at 3965 Mission Avenue in Oceanside, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you'd like to help with the toy giveaway, please call Denise (760-439-1244, ext. 107).

(Editor's Note: Our supporters amaze us every Christmas with their generous outpouring of donations and gifts. It probably sounds trite, but truly, we couldn't do it without you!)

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The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.

~ Oscar Wilde

All who would win joy must share it – Happiness was born a twin.

~ Lord Byron

THRIFT SHOP TO MOVE, GREAT DEALS AVAILABLE NOW

Brother Benno's Thrift Shop will be moving a few doors down from its current location sometime in February, 2013, in order to be able to offer much more merchandise and furniture. **Harold Kutler**, Founder and President of the Brother Benno Foundation, signed the new lease in October, with **Chuck Currey**, Property Manager (left), and Shop staff looking on.



Helen Parsons, Board Member who oversees the Shop, said that **Tom von Betticher**, one of our Operations Managers, "worked tirelessly and fearlessly to make this the best deal possible"; and **Nick Sauer**, Board Member and Attorney, worked on the wording of the lease. She also commented that "To say we are excited is an understatement! (We see the Thrift Shop) as a way to serve the poor, one sale at a time."

Before the move, the Shop will continue to offer the great deals it's famous for. A wide variety of Christmas decorations, trees, and gifts are already available. A manned donations truck parked in front of the Shop welcomes donations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and the Shop is open 10 to 5. The current address is 3965 Mission Ave. in Oceanside, east of Albertson's. Stop by to check out the weekly specials and start your Christmas shopping.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Reading for B.B.'s. St. Patrick Catholic School in Carlsbad made reading "profitable" for both students and Brother Benno's this past summer with a book sale, book exchange, and Read-A-Thon. According to **Annette Latasa**, an event organizer, "Many books were donated to the Brother Benno Library to be given to children, as well as the money raised in the book sale."

Children who participated in the Read-A-Thon got sponsors, who paid them for the number of minutes they read during the summer. This money, plus the funds from the book sale and exchange, amounted to more than one thousand dollars for Brother Benno's. We thank you!

We'd like to encourage other schools or individuals to put on read-a-thons. It's a win-win for everyone: reading is great, and it's even better when it helps out someone else.

A Blessing. Wheelchairs and walkers are probably not on people's lists of things to donate to us, but both have come in handy at times.

In August, a woman came to the Center asking if we might have a walker for her mother. They couldn't afford to buy one, and the mother had been in need of one for a long time. Servant of the Poor **Diana Shields** showed the woman the walker we had, but there was some question as to whether the seat was wide enough. Diana suggested she take it home and try it; and if her mother couldn't use it, she could bring it back and we'd try to find another one.

The woman came back to the Center a few weeks later to report that the walker fit her mother perfectly, and that she cried tears of joy that Brother Benno's had blessed her with a walker. Diana said it reminded her of **Brother Benno** himself, who used to drive his battered pickup truck through the poor neighborhoods of Oceanside in order to fill whatever needs he found there.

(If you'd like to know more about Brother Benno, **Harold Kutler** has several chapters in his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, that tells the beautiful story of the kind monk whose name our Foundation bears.)

Movie, Popcorn, and Outreach. Ultra Star Movies at Mission Marketplace in Oceanside will be putting on a Thanksgiving food drive for Brother Benno's this month. Free popcorn will be given to everyone who brings a donation to the theater. **Elizabeth Ramos** from Ultra Star said, "It is an honor to be able to host a food drive for you!" And we say, "Many, many thanks!"

Sweet Dream. One of our mentally disabled volunteers told us that her dream was to get a job folding clothes at the Center. "She's a natural," said one of our Servants of Poor, so the young woman's dream was easy to fulfill—and she is now happily folding clothes in our warehouse.

Winter Time. November, December, and January are always our extra-special-needs months. It starts with our big Thanksgiving dinner, open to one and all, when we need frozen turkeys, pumpkin pies, and canned goods like corn, green beans, and fruits.

And of course with cold and rainy weather, our need for jackets, sleeping bags, ponchos, and men's socks and durable pants (jeans and chinos) goes up, too.

We know that whenever we ask for something, our supporters rush to help us. It's a humbling feeling, to be sure.

Easy Duty! Four Auxiliary members got to taste-test the menu for their Annual Luncheon in December. I'm sure they didn't mind that job!



Vikki Ramey, Alicia Sullivan, Mary Vernaci & Vera Bayliss

GUEST SHARES HER SWEETNESS AND ART

It's a beautiful thing when a relationship is so balanced that all parties receive a satisfying benefit. Such seems to be the case between Brother Benno's and a Guest named **Joretta**.

Joretta and her husband **Bob** came to the Center several times a week to enjoy a hot meal and the camaraderie. Bob was suffering from Alzheimer's, and both he and Joretta enjoyed being part of the upbeat atmosphere. When Bob died a year and a half ago Joretta continued to come, now with her sister whom she cares for, and who is also a victim of the disease.

Whatever good Brother Benno's has done for Joretta, she has paid it back a hundredfold. Her first gift is her sweetness. Staff members and volunteers have commented on what a lovely lady she is, and how they look forward to seeing her. Her second gift is the fruit of her artistic talents. Joretta has painted single pictures as well as large panels of the most joyful and colorful items that grace the walls of the dining room. One panel was covered with multi-colored fish, each one with an easily discernable personality. Looking at a sassy, or flirtatious, or sweet-faced fish is enough to brighten anyone's day.

Another panel is full of pumpkins, again adorned in such a way that they seem to live on the paper. A black cat here, a snarling witch there—and you have the perfect setting for a jolly Halloween.

Joretta said she took an art class in high school; but beyond that, her artistic talents “just come out of me. It's a hobby. It relaxes me.” Hobby or not, she has been reaching out to others with art most of her life. She made posters for various projects when her children were in school, and now she creates things for her grandchildren. She also designs and sews clothing, makes ceramic art, flower arrangements, and wooden bird houses. Again, she said: “It all just (flows) out of me.”

Besides her artistic talent, Joretta has always had a curiosity about how things work. When she was a child in L.A., her family spent a lot of time listening to the radio. “One day it stopped working,” she said, “so I took it apart, saw some tubes that didn't light up, took them to the radio shop to get new ones, and the radio worked again.” She continued this fix-it talent after she and Bob were

married. When the TV quit working, she took the back off—much to Bob's dismay—figured out the problem and fixed it.

Joretta said she misses Bob a lot. “There are mean Alzheimer's patients and happy ones,” she said. “Bob was a happy one. We always used to dance around the living room, even when the children were young. He wasn't very steady on his feet toward the end, but he could still dance with me. And he'd always hug and kiss me and tell me how good I was to him.”

In spite of her sadness, Joretta is still able to bring joy to others with her sunny disposition and the sharing of her art. Brother Benno's is blessed to have her in our family.



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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 NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

Order your tickets now for our Annual Luncheon on Saturday, December 1, at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa at 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$500 for a table of ten. This year's theme is "Special Hugs" in memory of **Kay Kutler**. Music will be provided by **Lauren Beale**, Celtic harpist, playing favorite holiday music. There will be opportunity baskets and drawings. The silent auction will include an authentic Italian dinner for eight made by Auxiliary member **Vera Bayliss**, golf equipment donated by Callaway Golf, a hotel and spa package donated by Sheraton, and many other items. Please call Vera Bayliss (760-295-0059) for tickets.

A reminder about teen baskets: We will be assembling them at our November meeting. **Carol Richards** is asking all members to bring items and the "banks" for the baskets.

SAVE THE DATES:

November 14: (note date change) general meeting, installation of officers, quilt drawing.

December 1: Annual Luncheon (see above).

January 13, 2013: general meeting (note: there are five Wednesdays in January).

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Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

ROSES AND RASPBERRIES

by Helen Parsons

Dozens of red roses to our great volunteers and Servants of the Poor—**Carol, Denise, Marty, and TJ**—who have diligently made changes in our sorting policies, enabling more donations to benefit our neediest.

A huge bouquet of yellow roses to a group of local realtors, led by **George Hartt**, who keep finding volunteers to fill many needs at the Center. They drive trucks, sort clothes, and are helping us get ready for our toy giveaway in December.

Dana Dubois, a human resource employee at Target in Encinitas, blesses us with many Target employees who volunteer in our "Sorting 101" projects on Monday nights. We love having them! Dozens of white roses for their pure hearts!

To my neighbors, **Steve and Paula, Carol, Rena, Frank, Michelle, and Cyndee**: you're so supportive and are always donating for our guests. An enormous bouquet of multi-colored roses for all your many diverse talents for giving!

The staff at the Thrift Shop get orchids, because they are unique and rare in their utterly unselfish willingness to work twice the time they are expected to work!

A lone raspberry to the person who siphoned the gas from the Thrift Shop truck. You are stealing from the poor. We invite you to come to the Center if you need help—that's what we do at Brother Benno's.

And finally, a long-stemmed red rose every day to all the volunteers at the Center and Thrift Shop—the beloved staff, program members, Board of Directors, Operations Managers, Furniture Warehouse organizers, newsletter writers, grant writers, Auxiliary members, computer room techs, social service workers, and cooks. Warmest regards to all!

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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 _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Frank Barnet	Bill Buckner	Squirrell Family
Pope John Paul II	Frank S. Dolley	Mary Shankle	Nysewander Family
Mother Teresa	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Walter Ulloa	Vennita & Bill
Kay Kutler	Monty Nares	Fred Williamson	Flanagan
Ann Sauer	Margaret Rossini	Carole Kutler	James O'Keefe
Joe & Ida Friend	Dorothy M. Donahue	Will Skinner	Richard Johnson
Mary Nordstrom	Mary Teresa Carr	Fr. Abbot Claude	Dancy & Zeferino
Myron Eichen	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Ehringer, OSB	Nares
Alice Jordan	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Pat & Ben Weseloh
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Edith Blaiser	Naomi Shelton	Gilbert Brown
Richard Farhquar	Ben Kouns	Rosemary Tucker	Josephine & Charles
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill Lakoff	Ben E. Lewis	Campbell
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bernice, Samuel &	Roland Bond	Byron King III
Catherine L. Quinlan	Milton Silver	Anna Correia	Mike Stendahl
Kathryn D. Pent	Anita H. Donahue	Geraldine Howard	Margaret Opatkie
Mary Pullman	Margaret Stephan	Helene McGill	wicz
Joan Boyd	Bill Boster	Andrea Boersma	Dee Hubik
Agnus Boyd	Louise Foussat	Ben Osgrove	Mary Alice Condren
Harold Thompson	Tom Hayward	Bernie Weiler	Helen Moriarty
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Richard Kurtz	Richard Kurtz	Dick Ellis
Bob Gleason	Helen Lucas	Floyd & Rose	Floyd, Theoan, &
Jane Pfau	Bill & Joan Maloney	Caldwell	Laura Frieberg
Ron Alexander	Dora Ramirez	Jeanne Nickel	
Mary Peterson	Dick & Terry Riley	Stanley LaMonte	

Needs

Desperately Needed Are: Men's Underpants, Socks, and Gloves Diapers (All sizes, especially 4 & 5)
 Frozen Turkeys and Pumpkin Pies for Thanksgiving Rain Gear, Ponchos Jeans and Chinos

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
2012						
Monthly	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitans	9 St. Patrick's	10 Men of Nativity
Serving	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Friends from Vista	14 Naval Hospital	15 Carlsbad Rotary	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
Team	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 Fallbrook Presbyterian	24 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	26 Christ Anglican	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Grace Anglican	30 King of Kings Lutheran	

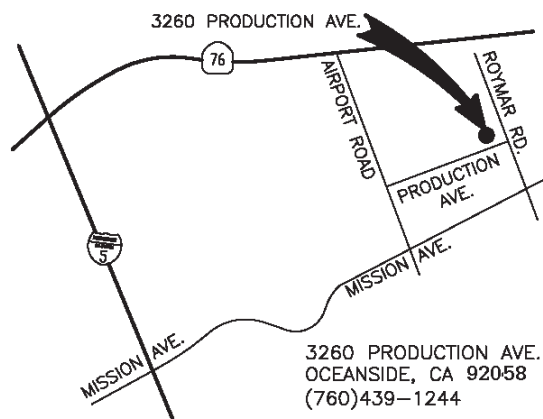
Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

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.

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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:

	September 2012	Our 29th Year		September 2012	Our 29th Year
Meals	12,293	3,313,136	Loads of laundry	24	26,204
Nights of lodging	1,077	230,275	Food packs	2,314	205,380
Articles of clothing	4,924	943,846	Blankets	91	33,449
Showers	944	171,620	Prescriptions	13	7,081
Haircuts	21	14,492	ID Vouchers	15	8,323
Bus passes	81	75,893	HUGS	2,250	835,744

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, religion, 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**

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