



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

November 2013

THE HOLIDAYS BRING A CALL FOR HELP FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

Brother Benno's is known for the great meals we serve to our Guests, especially on holidays, and for the gifts we give to the children for Christmas. That reputation is due in great part to our many kind supporters who always come forward when we ask for donations. We know this holiday season will be no exception.

For **Thanksgiving**, we are accepting frozen turkeys and canned veggies, such as corn and peas, **on or before Monday, November 18**. We can also use monetary donations to cover the cost of the long-distance phone calls we allow Guests to make to their families.

For **Christmas**, our biggest need will be toys suitable for children twelve and under (we estimate we'll need about 2,000 toys!). We suggest that they be in the \$20 range, and we ask that they be **delivered to us unwrapped and preferably by Wednesday, December 4**. If you prefer giving gift cards, they would be much appreciated, too. And if you donate cash for toys, we will shop the toy sales! Donations can be brought to the Center at 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside, Monday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.; or to the Thrift Shop at 3255 Mission Avenue in Oceanside, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We are so thankful to each and every one of you for your kind hearts and continuous support," said Board Member, **Helen Parsons**; and her gratitude is echoed by the many volunteers who help to make the holidays memorable for those who find themselves in difficult times.

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THRIFT SHOP IS READY FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

by Michelle Hoppe

The elves at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop are busy unpacking all of the holiday items that have been carefully stored all year. Decorations, trees, stuffed animals, cards, wrapping, wreaths, stockings, and even the perfect ugly Christmas sweater for your office party! There's something for everyone and all budgets. Shop now for all your holiday needs.

Do you have gently used decorations that you no longer want or need? Consider donating them—we can turn them into dollars to help the working poor and homeless in our area. Drop them off at our donations truck in front of the Shop, Monday through Saturday, from 10-4.

The Thrift Shop needs volunteers in our Furniture Boutique at the back of the store. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. No lifting necessary! The position involves talking to customers and writing sales receipts. If you are interested, please contact Manager, Michelle Hoppe (760-967-7505, or email brobennostriftshop@aol.com).



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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Success Stories. One of the most gratifying things **Harold Kutler** experiences is when former Program Members succeed in life. He was recently visited by two of these men who found success because of the help they received at Brother Benno's.

Brian graduated from the Program eight years ago. First he went back to school, then he started a successful graphic design business in Los Angeles. "He told me about some of the work he's doing," Harold said, "and then he just said, 'Thank you!'"

Jim was with us ten years ago; and when he finished the Program, Brother Benno's sent him to truck drivers school. "I've been driving trucks ever since!" he told Harold with a grin. And for Harold, these success stories are what make it all worthwhile.

Thank You! Many thanks to **Bob**, who donated the money needed to treat the Program Members to a day of fun and camaraderie; and also to the woman who called shortly after Bob's call to make the same offer. It just goes to show how many good people there are out there, just waiting to see how they can be of service to others. (See the October newsletter online if you missed this story).

A Fun Night. Eleven staff members and volunteers got together recently to see a play, "The Matchmaker," at Mira Costa College. Outings like this tend to add to the bonding experienced by those who come together at the Center to fulfill their various duties. Word is that plans for another theater night are in the works.

A Bit of Bragging. Some of my enthusiasm for Brother Benno's has rubbed off on my family (no arm-twisting needed). My husband **Bob** refinished several pieces of old furniture for the Thrift Shop, making them much more appeal-

ing to prospective buyers. And our son and daughter-in-law, **Steve** and **Jen**, who live in Trinidad, California, have "insisted" on spending a few hours volunteering at Brother Benno's during their annual visits to Carlsbad. The first year they decorated lunch bags used for our Guests and reorganized a storage closet full of heavy boxes. This year they joined the crew that fills the food boxes, cutting down significantly on the time put in by the regulars. (They already have an invitation to repeat that performance next year!)

(Thank you for indulging my brag-fest!)

Family. Sixty-four-year-old "Paul" has a long history with Brother Benno's. It started when, as a younger man, he was given the support he needed to stay sober. By meeting other men in the same situation, he formed friendships that have served him well. More recently, he found himself unable to work because of serious medical problems; and until his Social Security assistance became available, he was given rental assistance. Paul's most recent need involved transportation to and from the hospital in San Diego; and, although that's not a service that Brother Benno's is able to provide, one of our volunteers took it upon himself to do it for Paul.

I asked Paul if he has a family. He pointed to himself and said, "You're looking at it. It's just me." But then he added, "He's my family (meaning the man who drove him). Brother Benno's is my family."

Wise Words. **Tom von Betticher** isn't sure where he heard this, but he says when it comes to the way volunteers come and go, it describes Brother Benno's very well:

The train runs down the track. People get on and people get off. But the train just keeps running down the track.

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DROPPING OFF DONATIONS LEADS TO SATISFYING VOLUNTEERING

This is a story in two parts about a Brother Benno volunteer and some of the ways she's been able to help our Guests.

Mary Holguin first came to Brother Benno's several years ago when she brought in a carload of donations. Her husband had died; and when she was finally able to go through his things, she decided to donate everything. Since he was the one who had brought donations here over the years, she said she didn't even know where the Center was located; but a quick check on the Internet gave her the address. Unfortunately, she didn't know that the Center closed at 1 p.m., and it was now past that time.



"I rang the doorbell," she said, "and it was answered by **Mary Robinson**, who told me the hours when donations could be accepted. I said it had taken me hours to pack all the stuff into my car."

At that point, Mary R. and **Tom von Betticher** asked her to drive around the back; and they helped her unload and carry everything into the warehouse. As they worked, Mary and Tom talked about all the things Brother Benno's does. By the time Mary H. was ready to leave, Mary R. asked her if she might like to volunteer sometime; and that was the beginning of the fulfilling service that has evolved from coming in one day a week to her current four-day schedule—three days as case worker, and one day in the accounting office.

The second part of this story is how Mary is impacting the lives of those she helps. She shared three recent encounters that show how Brother Benno's does a lot more than "just" feed people.

A **64-year-old woman** came in, desperately looking for help paying for three prescriptions she needed for diabetes and high blood pressure. She said that because of the "government shut-down," she was unable to talk to someone at the Social Security office about a glitch in receiving her monthly checks. She had enough money to buy the prescriptions or pay her water bill. Mary was able to secure the prescriptions at a discount pharmacy, and the Guest left, feeling greatly relieved.

Another **woman with three children ages 3, 2, and 8 months**, was struggling to keep her family safe from an abusive husband. She told Mary that every time she moved, he managed to find her, which resulted in the usual beatings. At the time she came to Brother Benno's, she and her children were staying with her godmother in a studio apartment. Mary was able to connect her with the Salvation Army for temporary housing, and with Solutions for Change, which could potentially help her find permanent housing and learn coping skills to assure a more stable life.

A **Thai man with poor English skills and a debilitating injury** that causes one arm to shake violently came to Brother Benno's in dire straits. His language difficulties and physical handicap made it impossible for him to find a job; and his Social Security checks barely covered his rent, leaving little for food and other necessities.

"He lives in a travel trailer," Mary said, "and when I went to see him, I peeked into his refrigerator, and all I saw was a cup of orange juice and two wieners. I went back to the Center and got a food box." She's also trying to get help for him from the County Welfare office, mostly helping him fill out the paperwork.

These three stories are typical of the kinds of help Brother Benno's is able to give to those whose situations are often desperate. Mary admitted that she feels good about the difference she can make in people's lives, but she also said she can seldom set aside their stories when she leaves the Center—she wishes she could do more. "I was glad the young woman with three children didn't bring them along when she came in—I would have wanted to take them all home with me!"

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

Luncheon. I can't say "Thank You" enough for all who came to the Annual Luncheon on October 26, which celebrated 30 years of service at Brother Benno's. A good time was had by all, the meal was superbly delicious, the Harmonettes sang songs of the Big Band Era that had everyone toe-tapping and remembering the times.

Congratulations to all the winners of the silent auction, opportunity baskets, and "Name Game" cash drawings! Many, many thanks to **Mary Vernaci** and **Vera Bayliss**, Luncheon Coordinators—once again you did an excellent job with all the members volunteering with setup, ticket selling, greeting guests, and much, much more. And another thank-you to our runners and security staff--way to go! And finally, thanks to members and non-members who donated items or certificates for baskets and silent auction.

Officers and Chairs. We are still looking for members interested in becoming a board member or committee chair for 2014. Please contact **Vikki Ramey** for more information.


Meeting Change. Due to Thanksgiving, the November meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20. We will be assembling pre-teen baskets prior to the meeting. Thanks to Carol Richards for chairing the Teen Baskets Committee, and to all who donated items for them.


Christmas Help. Members are asked to volunteer in serving refreshments during the Christmas Toy gathering on Wednesday, December 18 at the Center. Please call **Denise Seymour**, Volunteer Coordinator (760-439-1244, ext. 107) for scheduled times.

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Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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

 [Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.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>

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	Mary Peterson	Dora Ramirez	James Ryan
Pope John Paul II	Frank Barnet	Dick & Terry Riley	Nysewander Family
Mother Teresa	Frank S. Dolley	Bill Buckner	Squirrell Family
Kay Kutler	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Shankle	Mike Stendahl
Ann Sauer	Monty Nares	Walter Ulloa	Basil & Gloria Lester
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Fred Williamson	Raymond & Stella
Mary Nordstrom	Dorothy M. Donahue	Carole Kutler	Thill
Myron Eichen	Mary Teresa Carr	Will Skinner	Jeanne Nickel
Alice Jordan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fr. Abbot Claude	Zeferino & Dancy
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Elizabeth Holms	Ehringer, OSB	Nares
Richard Farhquar	Edith Blaiser	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Ream Braegger
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Naomi Shelton	Carol Peterson
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill Lakoff	Rosemary Tucker	Raymond Koenig
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bernice, Samuel &	Ben E. Lewis	Lavi Lobo
Kathryn D. Pent	Milton Silver	Roland Bond	Judy Florka
Mary Pullman	Anita H. Donahue	Anna Correia	Kevin Flynn
Joan Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Geraldine Howard	
Agnus Boyd	Bill Boster	Helene McGill	Birthdays
Harold Thompson	Louise Foussat	Andrea Boersma	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Tom Hayward	Ben Osgrove	Harold Kutler
Bob Gleason	Richard Kurtz	Alan Port	Louise Lakoff
Jane Pfau	Helen Lucas	Gilbert Brown	
Ron Alexander	Bill & Joan Maloney	Paul Collins	

Needs

Christmas decorations (see page 1) food (see page 1) blankets
 socks and underwear new toys children's Shoes
 gently used furniture diapers

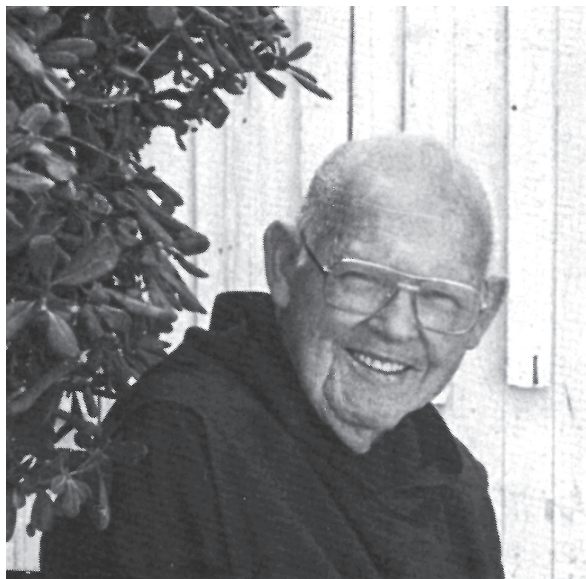
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
2013						
Monthly	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Mira Costa College
Serving	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Hawkes Home	13 Stew's Crew	14 Oceanside Civitan's	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Team	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Grace Anglican	21 Carlsbad Rotary	22 Fallbrook Presbyterian	23 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	25 Christ Anglican	26 St. Mark's San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Thanksgiving "Volunteers"	29 King of Kings Lutheran	30 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

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

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- 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, 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:

	November 2013	Our 30th Year		November 2013	Our 30th Year
Meals	12,497	3,473,749	Loads of laundry	24	26,526
Nights of lodging	919	242,945	Food packs	2,235	233,687
Articles of clothing	6,884	1,019,377	Blankets	153	35,348
Showers	1,142	184,138	Prescriptions	10	7,166
Haircuts	133	16,042	ID Vouchers	9	8,464
Bus passes	134	77,324	HUGS	1,800	858,694