



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

November 2014

## CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNED FOR "GUEST" FAMILIES

Brother Benno's will not be doing its usual toy giveaway this Christmas. Instead, we will have a party for the families who are served throughout the year. Each child will receive special gifts and a Christmas stocking filled with good things. There will be face painting, balloon animal artistry, music, refreshments—and of course—Santa!

The party will be held on Saturday, December 20, from 10:30 to 12:30. Parents must sign up at the Center to receive an invitation, which will be their admittance to the party.

Instead of toy donations as in years past, we are hoping our supporters will help us this year with gift cards from stores that sell toys, all sizes of gift bags, wrapped Christmas candy, and tissue paper. If you would like to donate any of these items, they can be brought to the Brother Benno Thrift Shop at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. The Shop is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Co-Chairs of this event are **Helen Parsons**, Board Member; **Vikki Ramey**, Brother Benno Auxiliary; and **Michelle Hoppe**, Thrift Shop Manager. Helen reports that the Auxiliary will be providing "man power" and refreshments for the party, as well as a monetary donation.

*(Editor's Note: Since our beginning in 1983, everyone who comes to Brother Benno's for help is referred to as a "Guest," as a sign of respect.)*

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## PROGRAM MEMBERS TO HAVE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE

One of Brother Benno's long-time traditions at Christmastime is the shopping spree we offer to the men and women in our Recovery Program. They get to choose gifts for their family—parents, spouses, and children—all for free. For many of them, it will be the first contact they've had in years.

Members of Girlfriends Care will again be on hand to act as personal shoppers and gift wrappers, and they'll mail out-of-town gifts when necessary. They will also provide Christmas cards and take care of the mailing.

This event will be held on Sunday, December 14, at the Thrift Shop. Donated items will be displayed on special tables, intermingled with "other special gifts." If you'd like to donate gifts, we suggest things like perfume, bath accessories, after-shave, wallets, and anything that would appeal to teens. They can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside, Monday through Saturday, 10 to 5.

"Girlfriends Care does this project with such loving kindness year after year," said Board Member, **Helen Parsons**. "And the Staff at the Thrift Shop will be serving lunch, thanks to Manager **Michelle Hoppe**," she added.

Helen also has a message to our supporters: "It is your spirit of giving and kind hearts that make it possible for Brother Benno's to continue our mission of helping those in need. Thank You!"

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Being of Service.** As I wandered around the Center one morning, I noticed two women working industriously in the prep area in front of the kitchen, putting various salad items into a huge bowl. I asked them how often they came in to help out. “Five mornings a week,” they told me. “Wow, that’s quite a commitment,” I said. “And every afternoon, we work at the Thrift Shop,” they added.

At that, something clicked in my mind. “Are you by any chance in our Recovery Program?” I asked. “Yes, we are!” they said, with what seemed to me a sense of pride.

I’ve seen the Program Guys working everywhere around the Center for many years, and now I realized that, of course, the women would follow the same path.

What has always struck me about that part of recovery—being of service to those in need—is that the men and women who succeed in their fight against addiction are those who understand that giving to others brings joy and satisfaction to themselves.

**Happy Birthday!** People who donate money to Brother Benno’s sometimes come up with a clever way of doing it. Recently, the five grown children of a long-time supporter wanted to do something special for her 88th birthday. Knowing how much she appreciates the work of the Foundation, they each donated \$88, saying, “We are humbled, proud, and excited to make this small donation in her honor. Carry on your good work!”

**Community Support.** Whole Foods Market at 687 S. Coast Highway in Encinitas has chosen Brother Benno’s to be one of the recipients of their Feed 4 More program during the month of November. Feed 4 More is an annual community food drive where customers donate cash at the register to help purchase non-perishable foods “for non-profits in our community fighting hunger.” We will have an update in the newsletter when the results of the drive are known.

**Full Circle.** When a group from Sabra Dipping Company in Oceanside came to volunteer at Brother Benno’s, they were asked to sort and label Christmas items at the Thrift Shop. **Debbie Knight**, a long-time volunteer who’s been helping at the Thrift Shop herself, gave the group a short tour of the Center, then took them to the Shop and showed them what to do.

Debbie shared the following note from one of the Sabra volunteers: “We had such a great time volunteering at Brother Benno’s. We really did accomplish a lot and were so happy to help with the holiday sorting. Hopefully we can make a regular occurrence!

“(The day after we volunteered,) one of the employees told me how awesome it was that we were able to volunteer at Brother Benno’s, and that we should figure out a way to let employees volunteer there more often, or maybe do collection drives.

“He went on to tell me that years ago, he and his family were recipients of services at Brother Benno’s when he was unemployed and they weren’t able to make ends meet. He said ‘they saved my family and got us through some really tough times. It was so cool to be able to repay them yesterday, and hopefully I can continue to repay them with Sabra’s support.’

“I thought this was the coolest thing, and so glad he shared it with me.”

**New Floors.** As the insurance money becomes available, some of the floors have been replaced that were damaged in September when a burst water line flooded the Center. So far we have beautiful new flooring in the laundry room, chapel, and Children’s Reading Room. **John Jarvie**, our 90-something wonder worker, is still right in there doing much of the work. John was one of the featured volunteers in Harold Kutler’s book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, in the chapter titled “The Golden Years.” The book came out in 2003, and John is the only one from that illustrious group who is still active at Brother Benno’s.

### HAPPINESS IS IN A HAIRCUT

In a contest to determine which Brother Benno volunteers have the most fun, three women who spend every other Saturday morning in our barber shop would definitely be contenders.

Sisters, **Alice** and **Betsy Jacobson**, started volunteering at the Center several years ago for Thanksgiving. Betsy, a licensed hair stylist, noticed our barber shop and thought it would be fun to get involved there, too. They brought their friend **Linda Lough** into the picture; and since January of 2014, the three of them have been "thrilled to be here."



*Alice, Betsy and Linda*

The women carry on a steady stream of banter with all their "customers." **James**, who was getting his regular buzz cut, said he gets the smoothest cut he's ever had. And he doesn't mind the "rules" that are enforced by Alice. "I'm OK with that, because then we know what to do," he said.

Alice admits to being in "marketing, management, and promotion." She sees to it that everyone signs in; and when things slow down, she walks around the Center, gently suggesting to various Guests that maybe they'd like a haircut. Betsy said they serve between 8 and 11 people on any given Saturday morning.

Linda says the only thing she's good at is giving buzzes, which are the most requested cut by the men; and sometimes—for a woman with long hair—she'll start the cut and then turn her over to Betsy for fine-tuning.

"The people here know us," Alice said. Even if they don't need a haircut, Guests often stop

in just to say Hi, or to check up on some event in the women's lives. Maybe one of them went on vacation, so the Guest will ask about it.

A little girl of 6 or 7, with long hair, walked in one morning and plopped down on a chair. "Are you here for a haircut?" someone asked. "Just my bangs," she said, making a cutting gesture with her hand over her forehead, "just the bangs!"

The women shared a story about a woman with very long, thick hair who came in about a month ago. She had brought her friend along—a woman with short, close-cropped hair—and she said, "That's what I want!"

"It was quite a challenge," Betsy said, "but I managed to give her exactly what she wanted." She came back four weeks later, still beaming with joy, and Betsy gave her a trim. Other regulars at the Center have remarked what a change the haircut made—the woman's entire demeanor improved.

These three women have a goal of helping everyone feel good about themselves, and a haircut can go a long way in providing that. "Being here is both heart-breaking and heart-warming," Alice said. "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

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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 Vera Bayliss

Our Annual Luncheon is now over, and I want to thank everyone involved for making it a great success.

First, the Co-Chairs, **Cathy Brennan** and **Penny Sallee**. So many meetings, so many details. You both did a fantastic job, from the table decorations to the ticket sales, and so much in between. You thought of every detail and took care of every issue. Thank you so much for all the time and all the work you did.

Next I'd like to thank all the Chairs for the various parts of the Luncheon: **Vikki Ramey** and **Judy Calagari**, silent auction; **Vicky Squires**, name game; **Maureen Tutino**, opportunity baskets; and **Terri Keys**, door prizes. Thanks to each of you and all your helpers for your efforts. Everything went well, and we sold lots of tickets. We couldn't have done this luncheon without you.

Thanks also to **Pamela Langness** for the printing, and for all the time you spent coaching us. We appreciate what you have done for us; we couldn't have done it so easily without your help.

As for the entertainment, **Emily Craig** was amazing, and speakers **Jan Roberts** and **Jim Shlemmer** gave us their perspective on the Foundation and the Auxiliary. Thanks to you, too!

Lastly, but very important, a big thank you to all our members and friends who attended the Luncheon. Our goal could not have been achieved without you. The support you provided will assist the Foundation in its mission of "UPLIFTING THE DIGNITY OF THOSE WE SERVE."

The next Auxiliary meeting will be on November 19. I hope to see you all there.

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*Auxiliary Fundraiser at Vista Broadway Theater*



*Claire Carter and Karen Gallagher with Doug Davis (co-owner of Broadway Theater)*

**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**



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

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

Brother Benno	Ron Alexander	Helen Lucas	William & Vennita
Pope John Paul II	Mary Peterson	Bill & Joan Maloney	Flanagan
Mother Teresa	Frank Barnet	Dora Ramirez	Virginia Sylwestrzak
Kay Kutler	Frank S. Dolley	Dick & Terry Riley	Paul Alberton
Ann Sauer	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Buckner	Nysewander Family
Joe & Ida Friend	Monty Nares	Mary Shankle	Squirrell Family
Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Rossini	Walter Ulloa	David Riordan
Myron Eichen	Dorothy M. Donahue	Fred Williamson	Zeferino & Dancy
Alice Jordan	Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	Nares
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Will Skinner	Frank Forthoffer
Richard Farhquar	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Abbot Claude	Alan Port
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Edith Blaiser	Ehringer, OSB	Gilbert Brown
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Joseph Schubert
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	
Kathryn D. Pent	Bernice, Samuel &	Rosemary Tucker	
Mary Pullman	Milton Silver	Ben E. Lewis	<b>Happy Birthday</b>
Joan Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Roland Bond	Dorothy Kane
Agnus Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Anna Correia	
Harold Thompson	Bill Boster	Geraldine Howard	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Louise Foussat	Helene McGill	
Bob Gleason	Tom Hayward	Andrea Boersma	
Jane Pfau	Richard Kurtz	Ben Osgrove	

### Needs

Gently used furniture                      Diapers                      Bottled Water  
 Gym bags                                      Backpacks                      Rolling suitcases

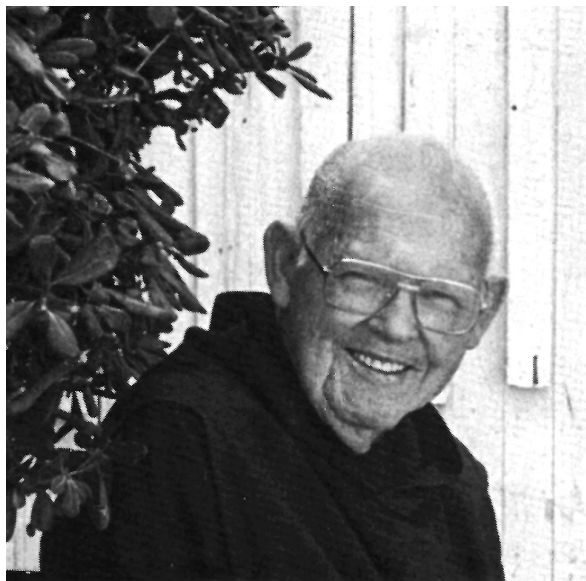
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b>						<b>1</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2014</b>						
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>3</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>4</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>5</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>6</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>7</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>8</b> Riverview Bonsall
<b>Serving</b>	<b>10</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>11</b> Hawkes Home	<b>12</b> Stew's Crew	<b>13</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>14</b> St. Patrick's	<b>15</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>17</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>18</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>19</b> Grace Anglican	<b>20</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>21</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>22</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>24</b> Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	<b>25</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>26</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>27</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>28</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>29</b> 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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	September 2014	Our 31st Year		September 2014	Our 31st Year
Meals	12,800	3,632,678	Loads of laundry	24	26,859
Nights of lodging	1,000	254,573	Food packs	2,090	262,894
Articles of clothing	4,738	1,083,700	Blankets	129	37,176
Showers	1,086	197,152	Prescriptions	4	7,243
Haircuts	130	17,635	ID Vouchers	10	8,602
Bus passes	105	78,408	HUGS	1,800	882,094