



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2015



## WE ARE GETTING READY FOR A BIG CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last year, Brother Benno's "streamlined" the **Children's Christmas Party**, and it worked so well that it will be handled in the same way this year. The big day will be at the Center on Saturday, December 19.

Parents who are already being helped by Brother Benno's are given an opportunity to sign up their children for the party. Each child will receive a gift certificate, one or more pairs of socks, one age-appropriate toy, and a stuffed stocking. There will be face painting (a big hit last year), balloon animals, music, refreshments, and Santa.

As always, our kind supporters are the ones who make this party possible. If you'd like to help, we are looking for \$25 gift certificates from stores like Target and WalMart, gifts for a child aged one through 15, (the Auxiliary is taking care of gifts for our teenage girls), gift bags, tissue paper, wrapped candy, and children's socks.

All donated items can be dropped off at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. The Shop is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other opportunities to help us for the holidays include the following:

**Turkeys for the Thanksgiving dinner** for our Guests. We need frozen turkeys no later than Monday, November 23. Also, monetary donations can go toward all the other goodies that go into this annual feast. Turkeys can be dropped off at the Center Monday through Saturday mornings.

**Gifts for our Program Men and Women to send to their families for Christmas.** This

"shopping spree" will take place at the Thrift Shop on December 16, and we are hoping to receive new items like men's wallets, after-shave, women's jewelry, perfumes, DVD's, new books, gloves, etc. Selected items from the Shop will also be available to the Members. **Girlfriends Care** will be on hand to help with the "shopping," and they'll wrap (and mail, if necessary) all the gifts. Thrift Shop personnel will also provide dinner.

As we've noted before, sending these gifts to parents, spouses, and children will often be the first contact they've had in years. Again, your donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop.

**Everything Brother Benno's does during the holidays, and, in fact, throughout the year, tell our Guests and Program Members that we respect them as valuable members of our community.**

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### WOW!

A very generous donor has brought us more than half way to our goal of \$30,000 for our Kitchen Equipment Campaign. Many thanks! As we noted in last month's newsletter, the money set aside to replace and upgrade old kitchen items (some as old as 20 years) had to be used to buy a refrigerator truck instead, when the old one gave out.

It is hoped that renovations in the kitchen will begin by the first of next year. If you'd like to help, just mark your donation "Kitchen Equipment Campaign." And Thank You to all who are helping.

## NEWS FROM OUR OF THRIFT SHOP

By Michelle Hoppe, Manager

Have you been to our **Last Saturday of the Month Sale**? You don't know what you're missing! Everything in the store is 50 percent off our already low prices, and it helps move out the old merchandise to make room for new items. There are tons of great deals on furniture, household goods, shoes, designer clothing, jewelry, collectibles—too much to list! We also give away free bread to each family that walks in the door, while supplies last.

If you get to the Shop just before it opens, you will see our staff and volunteers having a brief meeting and doing a little dance to get motivated before opening the doors. We love this day and are excited to see all the people. Remember, it's the last Saturday of every month!

With the holidays fast approaching, we are working on getting the holiday decorations and other items ready for our shoppers. We will once again be having a special **Christmas Boutique Opening on Wednesday, November 11, from 4 to 8 p.m.**, with refreshments, live music, and entertainment for our customers. Cost of admission? A package of new socks.

We'd like a Brownie or Girl Scout Troop—or just any group of girls who want to help us—to volunteer to **refurbish Barbie dolls, Disney Princesses, and other dolls that need some TLC**. The dolls need to be cleaned, dressed, and have their hair combed. There are many little girls who would love to have a “fresh” doll! If you can help, please call Michelle at the Thrift Shop (760-967-7505).

Children can complete their **service learning hours** at the Thrift Shop. All children under the age of 18 who volunteer at the Shop or at the Brother Benno Center need to have an adult accompany them while they are serving. We also require both adults and children who want to volunteer to take the tour at the Center on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30. No need to sign up, just show up! At the end of the tour, you'll be

asked to fill out a short form on which you can indicate where you'd like to volunteer. Individuals who need to complete community service hours can do so at the Center only.

We have some frequently asked questions, such as:

“How do you determine prices?” We research ads and sites like Ebay, and we visit other thrift stores in our area. Regular visits indicate that our prices are comparable.

“Why do you hang pants sideways?” So customers can easily see the size without pulling the pants off the hanger. It looks funny, but it works great!

“When do you mark down furniture?” Furniture is 20 percent off on Thursdays and Saturdays. Then on the last Saturday of the month, it's 50 percent off. If it's still there after the 50 percent off sale, additional markdowns are taken.

“Do you deliver and pick up?” We offer delivery at \$30 for Oceanside and up to \$45 for places like San Marcos. For picking up donated furniture, call 760-967-7507. Leave a message, and someone will call back to arrange the pickup.

Regular donated items can be brought to the **donation truck in front of the store** between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. We ask that you do not leave donations when we are not open, as they are sometimes stolen.

**Our motto at the shop is: “Helping the poor one sale at a time!” We know that our donors entrust their donated goods to us to sell in order to bring in money to help the poor and homeless in our area. We work hard to make sure we are doing just that!**

*The Thrift Shop is located at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside, just east of Albertsons. (760-967-7505).*

## STUDENT SHOWS EXEMPLARY PASSION AND COMMITMENT

**Tessa Stapp** is a tenth-grader at Oceanside High School. In a paper she wrote as part of her application for membership in the National Honor Society, Tessa wrote:

*“Volunteering is something I have always been passionate about. Fifteen years ago, my grandmother was a drug addict and alcoholic living in the streets of North County. The Brother Benno Foundation helped her get off the streets. The Foundation housed her, helped her apply for jobs, and acclimated her into society. Even though she is no longer homeless, there is still a rampant homeless population in my community to serve.*

*“I have volunteered with the Brother Benno Foundation for as long as I (can) remember. On Saturdays I work as a receptionist, answering phone calls and scheduling appointments. Then on holidays I serve meals to the Guests and greet them upon arrival. The workers at the Foundation are like my family. It takes a lot of people to run such a large organization, and it's an honor to be involved in it.”*

Tessa was accepted into the National Honor Society!

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“Everybody seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater development and greater riches, so that children have very little time for their parents. And parents have very little time for their children and for each other. So the breakdown of peace in the world begins at home.”

~ Mother Teresa

## LAST CALL FOR LUNCHEON!

by Carol Sanford

This Saturday, November 7, is the date of the Auxiliary's major fundraising event of the year, our Annual Luncheon, this year including a Fashion Show featuring quality and name-brand clothing from the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. You can still get a last-minute ticket by calling **Penny Sallee** (760-912-8566) or **Lyn Standefer** (760-3909-2010) and we'll find a place for you.

If you cannot attend but would like to support the Auxiliary's efforts, you can always be an "Angel" by writing out a check, payable to Brother Benno's Auxiliary, and mail it to **Carol Sanford**, 3890-42 Vista Campana S., Oceanside, CA 92057.

The net proceeds of this event will help to fund the very important and ongoing Men's and Women's Recovery Programs. As a matter of fact, one of the Women's Program recent graduates will be a model in the Fashion show. She now has over one year of sobriety, and she is a valued presence with her work at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

Your donations and support are the very lifeblood of our organization. Charity Navigator recently awarded Brother Benno's a top rating of 4 \* \* \* \* Stars, the highest possible rating among charitable groups in the U.S. Your donations really do go a long way toward helping those in our community who need assistance. We thank you!

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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 Carol Sanford

Come one, come all, to the Wednesday, November 18, Auxiliary membership meeting! If you haven't been to a meeting lately, please come to this one. It's time to elect and install the new Auxiliary officers for 2016, and it's also a time for reporting on and celebrating the successes of 2015, honoring those who helped make it so successful. Socializing is at 1 p.m., meeting at 1:30.

We will also be handling the details for the upcoming Christmas Party at the Center, and we'll be looking for volunteers to help before and on that fun day!

Without all of your hearts and hands, this Auxiliary could not exist. There is no way I can thank each individual enough for the assistance you have offered to support the goals and mission of the Brother Benno Foundation through the good work of the Auxiliary. I salute you, each and every member, and I look forward to working together with everyone again in 2016 when I'll be a member just like you.

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**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)

### Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in October



**Jim & Ronnie Czuleger**



**Jo Grady**

### 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...

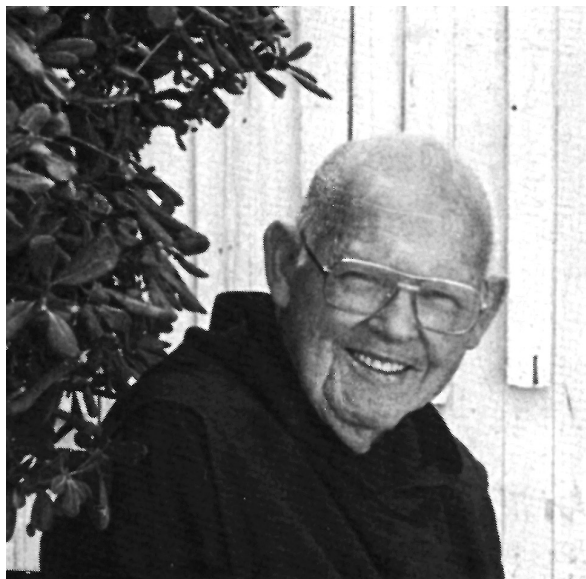
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**Brother Benno's Thrift Shop**

(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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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 2015	Our 31st Year		September 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	12,949	3,792,746	Loads of laundry	32	27,162
Nights of lodging	1,084	266,926	Food packs	1,659	286,320
Articles of clothing	5,634	1,145,737	Blankets	141	39,094
Showers	1,085	210,036	Prescriptions	1	7,268
Haircuts	103	19,203	ID Vouchers	16	8,775
Bus passes	111	79,726	HUGS	1,800	905,494