



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2016



## CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY!

**Children's Party.** Brother Benno's is busy preparing for our Children's Christmas Party to be held on Saturday, December 17, for the children registered in our Brother Benno Family. Each child will receive a \$25 gift card, wrapped presents, and stocking stuffers.

While waiting to visit with Santa, they will be treated to refreshments, face painting, music, and other surprises. Members of the Brother Benno Auxiliary will be on hand to take care of all the details. Some have said it's their favorite activity of the year!

If you'd like to help us, we are in need of the following:

\$25 gift cards from Target, Walmart, or Toys R Us.

Unwrapped gifts for children ages 9 to 15. (especially needed are for boys and girls ages 12-15).

All donated items can be brought to the Brother Benno Thrift Shop, 3955 Mission Avenue, Oceanside. The Shop is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Program Party.** The Thrift Shop is also hosting a "shopping spree" on December 14 for the women and men in our Recovery Program. This is an opportunity for them to reach out to their families with Christmas gifts made available through donations and/or Thrift Shop items. For Brother Benno's, it's also a special way to show them how much we appreciate their hard work at the Shop and the Center. (The women and men at Brother Benno's are willing to seek recovery from their addictions by a complete involvement in Alcoholics Anonymous in exchange for serving the poor and needy by working at our Center, warehouses, and Thrift Shop.)

If you'd like to help by donating new items, we suggest things like wallets, after-shave lotion, jewelry, perfume, DVD's, books, gloves, etc. They can also be dropped off at the Thrift Shop.

The festivities on the 14th begin with dinner, followed by "shopping." Girlfriends Care will be on hand as personal shoppers and gift wrappers. They also pick up the tab for any gifts that need to be mailed, and they provide Christmas cards and stamps as well.

**Helen Parsons**, Board Member who acts as liaison with the Thrift Shop, said, "We are grateful for all our volunteers for their willingness to help, and for all our donors who make these Christmas parties possible!"

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## From the Book . . .

"Even though the Brother Benno center is housed in a huge warehouse, the inside looks more like a party place. Color is everywhere. Decorations appropriate to the season or holiday draw you in. Cupids and hearts. Shamrocks and leprechauns. Flags and firecrackers. Turkeys and russet leaves. Santa and holly.

Everything is clean—the food-serving area, the tables, the floor. People smile and laugh. Music plays—quietly in the background or right up front.

Table coverings in the dining room are the extra touch that say, You are our guest. . . . The stage in (the) corner has lights and microphones that beckon would-be entertainers."

*(From Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen by Harold Kutler, page 91).*

### FURNITURE AND CARING GO HAND-IN-HAND

Good stories keep coming in about people being helped in our "free furniture" warehouse next to the Center. "Jean" and her 14-year-old daughter moved into an apartment together after a year of being separated while she participated in our Recovery Program. We gave them a few of the basics—love seat, a couple tables, and a bright picture for the living room wall. It's just one of the ways Brother Benno's helps people get a fresh start in life.

"Janice," an older woman with cancer, moved from Florida to our area, where she felt she could get better medical treatment. She had entrusted most of her earthly belongings to a moving company. She arrived at her destination, but the movers never did.

"Gwen Acheson, our "furniture giver," said that for three weeks, Janice refused her offers to give her things. She was so traumatized by her loss that all she seemed to need during that time was someone she could talk to. Then, finally, Janice said she was ready to accept a few pieces of furniture. It's another example of our Guests' need for love, which is more valuable than things, and which Brother Benno's gives without reserve.

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dining room," Frank said. The players range in age from young adults to seniors. They told him how much they enjoyed playing at Brother Benno's, and they want to come back to play on a regular basis.

Serving the poor and homeless can be done in so many creative ways; and at Brother Benno's, the gifts shared by our friends and supporters are always special and much appreciated.

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Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or [smartinek@miracosta.edu](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)

### SATURDAYS ARE DAYS OF BLESSINGS

Saturdays at Brother Benno's are often blessed with people who come to share something with the poor. They just arrive "on our doorstep," bringing with them a positive spirit that tells our Guests that they matter and they are loved.

Frank Doherty, a volunteer who oversees Saturday activities, shares two stories that illustrate how fortunate we are that so many good people want to be part of the Brother Benno Family.

He calls the first story "Love in Action." A small group who call themselves Sai Baba show up around closing time, set up a table on the sidewalk in front of the Center, and hand out chicken burritos and bottled water to help tide our Guests over the weekend. They also give out socks—and every gift is given with smiles.



They don't preach or advertise anything; they are just there to serve. Their ministry's motto is "Love All and Serve All," and Frank says that's quite evident when you see the joy of serving in their faces.

His second story is titled "A Gift of Music." Ten members of the Sunset Strummers, a large group of ukelele players here in North County, came to play beautiful music for all ages for the duration of our Saturday brunch.



"Our Guests thoroughly enjoyed their music, which uplifted the entire atmosphere in our continued on page 2 left column ....

### GRANT-WRITING TEAM GETS RESULTS

Professional grant writer **Kaye Kelley** approached the Board of the Brother Benno Foundation with the hope of convincing them to hire her. By the time they made their decision not to spend money for her services, she had become so impressed with the mission and the people at Brother Benno's that she decided to donate her services as a trainer for a group of volunteer grant writers.

These volunteers all have excellent writing skills, Kaye said, but they needed to be trained in the finer points of grant writing. They meet together regularly as a group, where they are given a list of potential organizations to be contacted, then they work at home sending out grant requests via the Internet.

"This group has really bonded," Kaye said. "They've been together since January of this year, and they've all committed themselves to this outreach."

The money is out there," she added. "We contact potential donors that typically support other organizations that are similar to Brother Benno's."

Several grants have already been awarded as a result of the group's efforts.



**Richard Sturgill, Keith Way, Don LeMay, Frank Doherty, Kathleen Kelley, Barbara Collins, Kate Wimmer, and Brian Wimmer. (Not pictured: Debra Drew, Arline Kennedy, Windy Bravo, and Treena Brown)**

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### Prayer Partners

A group of people from Brother Benno's meets at the Prince of Peace Abbey the first Friday of every month to attend Mass and have lunch. The picture below was taken on August 5:



**Deacon Jun Perez, Abbot Sharbel Ewen, Emeritus Abbot Charles Wright, Brother Blaise Heuke, Harold Kutler, and Frank Doherty.**

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It's not what we give  
but what we share,  
For the gift without  
the giver is bare.  
~James Russell Lowell

**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

So much to report! New monthly group formed, 2017 slate of officers, updated bylaws, increased annual dues, knitting helpers, etc.!

**Kathleen Vizcaino** is chairing the new monthly, second-Wednesday (5-7 p.m.) after-hours Thrift Shop work crew that became such a hit in September. Call Kathleen (760-509-4555) if you would like more information.

Your 2017 Slate of Officers: Co-Presidents **Nita Rodriguez** and **Karen Gallagher**, Vice President **Edith Jones**, Secretary **Joyce Cerimele**, Treasurer **Joan O'Connell**, and Advisor **Carol Sanford** will be happily serving you, following the guidelines set forth in our newly updated by-laws.

For the first time ever, the annual dues will increase from \$10 to \$20 per year, as of January 1, 2017. Lifetime dues remain the same, \$150.

Last month's outreach for Knitters was a success! I mailed patterns to four ladies who called to inquire, and we welcome their help. They are: **Sue Cooper** of Carlsbad, **Carol McClelland** of Encinitas, **Greta Kertz** of Escondido, and **Judy Doose** of Oceanside. We look forward to meeting you!

**News Flash!** Oceanside Mayor **Jim Wood**, as well as **John Carney**, former Chargers kicker and Super Bowl winner for the New Orleans Saints, will be among the Fashion Show models at our Annual Luncheon event on Saturday, December 3, at the Sheraton Hotel in Carlsbad! All the last-minute announcements and ticket sales will be handled at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 16. Contact **Nita Rodriguez** (760-994-0355) for last-minute

### ticket information.

Remember, this November 16 meeting is the only one held on the third Wednesday. You won't want to miss the usual 1 p.m. socializing and snacks, plus the 1:30 meeting. Our mini-speaker will be **Dennis Martinek**, President of the Brother Benno Foundation Board. We will also be installing the 2017 officers. Be with us for this joyous occasion. See you there!

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### First Wednesday Serving Team Brother Benno Auxiliary



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

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

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

Ron Alexander	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Zeferino & Dancy
Frank Barnet	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Nares
Brother Benno	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Nysewander Family
Edith Blaiser	Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Squirrell Family
Andrea Boersma	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Donald Deffenbaugh
Roland Bond	Tom Hayward	Catherine L. Quinlan	Hildegard DeCarlo
Bill Boster	Elizabeth Holms	Dora Ramirez	Janetta Shumway
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Joe Koenn
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Phyllis
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Ann Sauer	John, Helen, & Matt
Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Hogan
Anna Correia	Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Gilbert Brown
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	Genevieve Simpson
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Ben E. Lewis	Milton Silver	Richard Parker
Frank S. Dolley	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	Tom & Dell Moriarty
Anita H. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl	Ann Grier Smith
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helene McGill	Margaret Stephan	Michael Sifferlen
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Michael & Monty	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Bob Strawbridge
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Mother Teresa	Our Veterans
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Mark Van Thyne
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Bernie Weiler
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	The Child I Used to
Richard Farhquar	Pope John Paul II	June Williams	Know

### Needs

Gently used furniture

Diapers

Reading glasses

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b>		<b>1</b> St. John Evangelist	<b>2</b> Brother Benno Auxiliary	<b>3</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>4</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>5</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2016</b>						
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>7</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>8</b> Team Wyndham	<b>9</b> 1st MLG FCPOA	<b>10</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>11</b> St. Patrick's	<b>12</b>
<b>Serving</b>	<b>14</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>15</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>16</b> Grace Anglican	<b>17</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>18</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>19</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>21</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>22</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>23</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving "Volunteers"	<b>25</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>26</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>28</b> Christ Church	<b>29</b> Welk Resort	<b>30</b> Soroptimist			

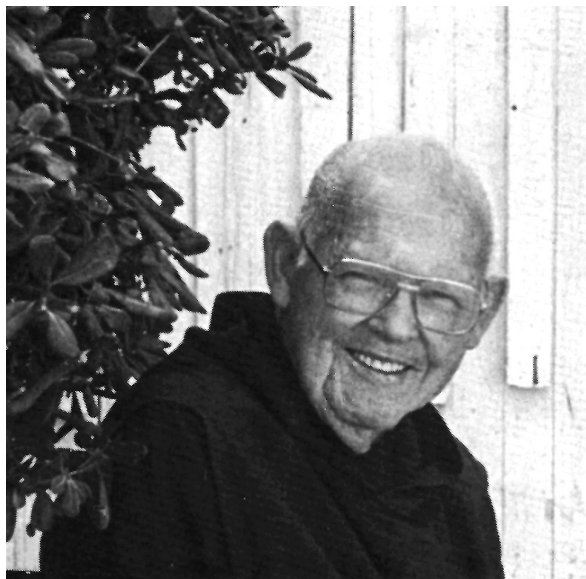
### Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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 2016	Our 32nd Year		September 2016	Our 32nd Year
Meals	12,945	3,951,915	Loads of laundry	23	27,463
Nights of lodging	923	278,806	Food packs	1,543	305,468
Articles of clothing	5,476	1,213,022	Blankets	154	40,854
Showers	1,150	224,357	Tarps	12	8,878
Haircuts	130	20,720	ID Vouchers	66	1,509
Bus passes	94	81,209	HUGS	1,800	928,444