



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2017



HOLIDAYS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIAL DONATIONS

Thanksgiving and Christmas tend to be times when our friends and donors like to give us specific items; so in keeping with their wishes, we offer the following suggestions:

FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

Good quality plastic knives, forks and spoons
Large quality napkins
Medium-size sturdy plates for pie
Turkeys
Dinner rolls
Stove-Top Stuffing
Canned yams
Turkey/chicken gravy
Tropical fruit punch concentrate
Instant mashed potatoes
Marshmallows

FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

New PJ's and new socks, sizes 2T to youth large
\$25 gift cards for Walmart and Target to help us with gift-giving

(We no longer give away toys. If we receive them, we re-donate them to Toys for Tots.)

As always, we appreciate all donations, and you can be sure they will go a long way toward making our Guests know that others care about them.

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SOMETIMES IT TAKES JUST A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT

by Frank Doherty

I recently attended a wedding in San Francisco where I met a man named Dan, who had an interesting story that got me thinking about the people we serve at Brother Benno's.

Dan's brother went to college with the full support of their parents and became a successful psychologist. Dan, on the other hand, dropped out of high school at the age of 14. His parents had pretty much given up on him, so he drifted from city to city, living in shelters; and he ended up in jail by the time he was 16.

No one seemed to care about Dan except his grandmother, who lived in Los Angeles. When he

had nowhere else to turn, he went to visit her. She told him he was a smart boy and just needed time to figure out what he really wanted in life. She said he was a late bloomer, and he would eventually find himself. She encouraged him to go back to school and get his diploma; and after he did that, he enrolled in a community college and eventually earned a degree in business.

Dan is married to a dentist and manages her office as well as a business of his own. They have a daughter with a master's degree who is soon to be married.

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The Brother Benno Foundation

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

www.brotherbenno.org

November 2017,

Dear Brother Benno Supporters,

Without your generous support, Brother Benno's would not have been able to carry out its Mission to feed the hungry, provide clothing, and offer many of life's basic needs to uplift the dignity of those we serve for the past 34 years.

Throughout the year, there is always a great demand for our services. We have found over time that during the holidays and the winter months, we have many more guests to serve and requests to fulfill.

In preparation for the winter months, we are anticipating an increase for all of our services. This would include food, tarps, ponchos, rental and utility assistance, and emergency housing. It is not just the homeless that will have to endure the outdoor winter conditions, but many people that make their wages in outdoor jobs will be having short checks, or no checks.

If you can assist us in providing "Soup, Soap, Hugs, and Hope" for those in need by monetary donations, requested items, or your time, it would be greatly appreciated. You can feel confident that your donation will be used wisely with love and compassion.

We continue to meet Charity Navigator's criteria as a 4 Star Charity. We hope that you will visit our web site and the Charity Navigator web site for more information.

All of us at Brother Benno's wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and prosperous New Year.

Harold Kutler

Harold Kutler

3260 Production Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92058 • (760) 439-1244 Fax (760) 439-1271



REFLECTIONS

by Barbara Ladwig

I used to think homeless people should be satisfied with whatever they're given. After all, everything we give them is free. So, the shirt isn't your favorite color? You want a pullover sweater rather than a cardigan? You prefer whole wheat bread to sourdough?

But now I look at it differently. Thanks to my involvement at Brother Benno's, I see the men and women we serve as being just as deserving of having preferences as I am.

A case in point came up recently at our monthly Communications Group meeting. Someone mentioned that our supply of knit caps is very low, and our male Guests simply won't wear a beautiful lavender or baby blue cap lovingly knit by a faithful donor! (But our female Guests will!) The men want the inexpensive kind that you can buy at a dollar store, and they want it in a dark color—black, brown, navy blue, dark gray.

Another preference-based story annoyed me at first. We have a large bowl on the desk in our reception area at the Center that we try to keep filled with small wrapped candies. Recently one donor brought in a big bag of sugar-free candy, and another dropped off a giant-sized box of granola bars.

"They won't take either one," a receptionist told me. "They want the sweet, sugary stuff."

"Well!" I said.

And then I got to thinking. If they want Hershey's Kisses or a two-bite-size Snickers bar, Why Not? In their current circumstances, they probably don't have many opportunities to splurge. And a little extra sugar won't be the worst of their health problems.

These experiences continue to challenge me to remember that the homeless are just as worthy as those of us who are more fortunate. "There, but for the grace of God . . ."

In our August 2017 newsletter on page 3, one of our most compassionate Staff members had this to say: "The interesting thing is that . . . we realize they are just like us. There really is no 'them,' it's all 'us.' We all go through the same emotions, and 'life happens' for all of us. Some of us are fortunate enough

to have skills we've been taught in order to deal with day-to-day issues. Some of us do not have these skills for various reasons. Let's hope those of us with skills are always willing to lend a hand to those without."

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FATHER STEHLY REMEMBERED FOR CONNECTION WITH BROTHER BENNO'S

The Reverend Thomas Stehly, a long-ago supporter and volunteer at Brother Benno's and life-long friend of Board Member **Richard Shlemmer**, died at the age of 86 on September 18 in Cypress, California.

At the time Father Stehly was involved at Brother Benno's, he also served at San Luis Rey Mission in Oceanside. Dr. Shlemmer remembers him for his humility, faithfulness, generosity, and great sense of humor. He listed Father's many achievements: farmer, athlete, much-loved parish priest, a degree in Mechanical Engineering, work with runaway teens, years of counseling, spiritual direction, leading retreats, and more.

"We talked almost daily on the phone," Dr. Shlemmer said. "He would update me on classmates, family, and friends. We would share our health issues, medications, and how each of our hearts were doing (not good). But rarely did he ever complain."

Father Stehly's memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church in Anaheim.

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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 Karen Gallagher & Nita Rodriguez

We had a blast! Our Cruisin' to Cabo cruise was a big success. A big shout-out to **Vikki Ramey** for coordinating this very special fundraiser for us.

Don't Miss Out! Buy your tickets now for our Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Saturday, December 2. Let's show **Harold Kutler** our love and appreciation as the Founder of the Brother Benno Foundation.

Table location choices are on a first-come, first-served basis, so talk to all your friends and reserve now. Ticket orders must be received by November 24. You can download a ticket form here: <http://bit.ly/2u1quoD> or call **Penny Sallee** (760-912-8566) for last-minute information. (The link takes you directly to a downloadable and printable form.) Tickets are \$75 per person or \$750 for a table of ten. **Helen Parsons** and **Michelle Hoppe** are preparing a Fashion Show that promises to be extra-special this year. We can't wait to see it in action!

We have been blown away by the positive responses from businesses, organizations, and individuals regarding our new **sponsorship opportunities**. New member **Debra Drew** has contributed greatly to reinvigorating and redesigning our Sponsorship offerings and promotional package. If you want more information, please contact **Nita Rodriguez** (760-994-0355).

Installation of 2018 Auxiliary Board Members and Guest Speaker Dennis Martinek, President of the Brother Benno Foundation Board, will highlight our meeting on Wednesday, November

15. We hope you can join us for this joyous occasion. (Notice for this month only, the meeting will be held on the third Wednesday).

Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? New members are welcome at any time. Download our Membership Application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>

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Dan told me he's been able to help other young people who are without hope, because he has his own story about the way his grandmother's love and belief in him changed his life.

A connection can be found between Dan's story and the people we assist at Brother Benno's. Many of the poor and homeless, as well as the men and women caught in the web of addiction, just need someone to believe in them, someone who will walk with them until they're able to manage on their own.

I know from talking with other volunteers that we all hope that, through our kindness and encouragement, we can make a difference in someone's life. We may never know the outcome of our caring actions as Dan's grandmother did, but chances are that many of our Guests have been able to improve their lives because we listened to them with unconditional love and offered the encouragement they haven't found anywhere else.

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Information & Online donations: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 _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Walter Brown
Dixie & Lou Bales	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Floyd Atkinson
Frank Barnet	Tom Hayward	Catherine L. Quinlan	Jack Gillen
Brother Benno	Elizabeth Holms	Dora Ramirez	Mark Van Thyne
Edith Blaiser	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Gilbert Brown
Andrea Boersma	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	John Hagan
Roland Bond	Richard Kurtz	Ann Sauer	Barbara LaMothe
Bill Boster	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	David Paxton
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Molly Wilbur
Bill Buckner	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	Smith Family
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Milton Silver	Patricia Rooney
Anna Correia	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	Mary Ann & David
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Joan Maloney	Ann Grier Smith	Mowery
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	Bob Strawbridge
Frank S. Dolley	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	Donald Deffenbaugh
Anita H. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	Miyuk Lynch-Shimada
Dorothy M. Donahue	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nares	Harold Thompson	Happy Birthday
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Nordstrom	Rosemary Tucker	Jane Drinkwalter
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nysewander Family	Walter Ulloa	
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	June Williams	IN HONOR OF
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Fred Williamson	Jan Roberts
Richard Farhquar	Kathryn D. Pent	Tom Grier	Barbara Papa-Driscoll
William & Vennita	Mary Peterson	Steve Reid	
Flanagan	Jane Pfau	Guillermina Oloni	
Louise Foussat	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Chance Hales	
Joe & Ida Friend			

Needs

Gently used furniture Liquid laundry detergent, HE Inexpensive knit caps in dark colors
 Extra-large warm gloves Warm blankets for outdoor sleepers Lg. toothpaste Diapers
 (Please see page 1 for special holiday needs)

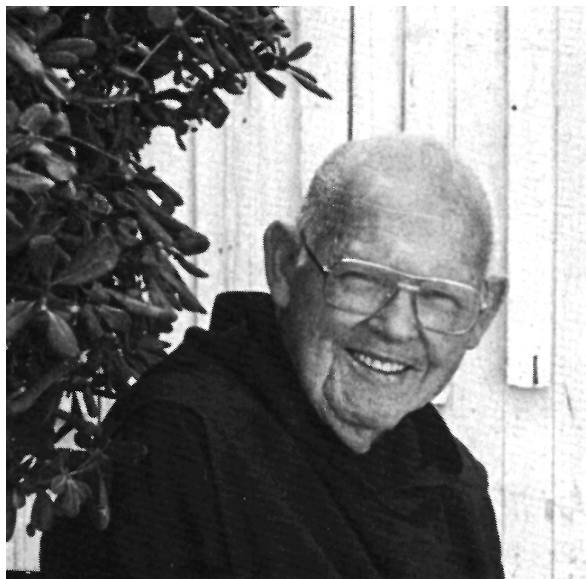
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November			1 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
2017						
Monthly	6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 1st MLG FCPOA	9 Oceanside Civitans	10 St. Patrick's	11 San Rafael
Serving	13 North Coast Methodist	14 Riverview Church	15 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	16 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
Team	20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 Christ the King Lutheran	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Pilgrim Creek	24 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	25 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	27 Christ Church	28 St. Mark's San Marcos	29 Soroptimist International	30 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop		

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

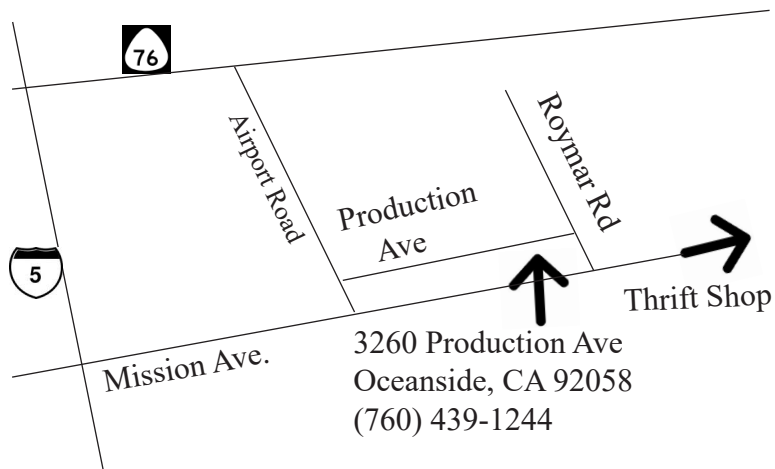
Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 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



Brother Benno's Services:

	September 2017	Our 33nd Year		September 2017	Our 33nd Year
Meals	12,868	4,110,561	Loads of laundry	29	27,806
Nights of lodging	861	289,193	Food packs	1,299	322,583
Articles of clothing	5,235	1,281,623	Blankets	159	43,062
Showers	1,036	238,664	Tarps	116	2,703
Haircuts	56	21,983	ID Vouchers	13	9,026
Bus passes	112	82,595	HUGS	2,250	952,744