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.

continued on page 4....
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

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

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.
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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....continued from page 1

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

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

Happy Birthday

Jane Drinkwalter

IN HONOR OF

Jan Roberts
Barbara Papa-Driscoll

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>7 St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>1 Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>3 San Luis Rey Mission</td>
<td>4 St. Thomas More</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>14 Riverview Church</td>
<td>8 1st MLG FCPOA</td>
<td>9 Oceanside Civitans</td>
<td>10 St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>11 San Rafael</td>
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<td>20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
<td>21 Christ the King Lutheran</td>
<td>15 Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>16 Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>18 Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td>27 Christ Church</td>
<td>28 St. Mark’s San Marcos</td>
<td>22 San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>23 Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>24 Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>25 Catholic Daughters</td>
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<td>29 Soroptimist International</td>
<td>30 Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop</td>
<td>31</td>
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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.
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Brother Benno’s Services:</th>
<th>September 2017</th>
<th>Our 33rd Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>12,868</td>
<td>4,110,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights of lodging</td>
<td>861</td>
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<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
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<td>Haircuts</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
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<td>Loads of laundry</td>
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<td>Food packs</td>
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<td>Blankets</td>
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<td>Tarps</td>
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<td>HUGS</td>
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Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049