



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2018



## THRIFT SHOP SERVES MANY, THANKS TO DONORS

by Helen Parsons

The Brother Benno Thrift Shop continues to thrive, thanks to the generosity of our donors. We want to send a heartfelt "Thank You" for the gently used or new clothing, household goods, linens, and furniture. Not only are we providing for those in need at our Center and those who shop with us, but your donations often become extended giving to other agencies.

After our 50% off sale the last Saturday of every month, we are able to reach out to other facilities that help people in need, thus keeping our own inventory fresh and new. Some examples of this "re-donating" are: children's clothing to orphanages, furniture to Catholic Charities that aids victims of drug trafficking, clothing to a men's homeless ministry in Ventura County, and household items and clothing to St. Thomas More Church in Oceanside, which distributes them to Indian Reservations not owning casinos. We also help one of our long-time volunteers who ships children's clothing and toys to the Philippines. (We answer the calls for help from many other local organizations as well).

We hope you will continue to support us with your donations, especially furniture. We pick up and deliver—just call 760-967-7507 to schedule a time. We count our donors among our blessings, along with our faithful, hard-working volunteers.

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS ARE UNDERWAY

The Jolly Old Elf and his helpers, also known as Brother Benno Volunteers, are busy getting ready for our big Children's Christmas Party; and we're inviting anyone who wants to join in the fun to donate any of the following items:

\$25 gift cards from Walmart or Target (These will be given in place of toys).

Pajamas for girls and boys, sizes 10-16.

Stocking stuffers, especially for ages 10-15, such as teen make-up, hair trinkets, brushes and combs, flashlights, playing cards, pocket games, pens, .....

Please mark all donations **Children's Christmas** and drop them off at the Center Monday through Friday 6:30 to 12:30, Saturday 8:30 to 12:30; or at the Thrift Shop (see address and hours on back page).

Each child will receive a stuffed stocking, new pajamas, new stuffed animal, and a gift card. **Helen Parsons**, who oversees this annual event, said, "It's such a blessing to be able to work with many others to provide a joyful day for our children!"

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**Guided tours of the Brother Benno Center are held on the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. No need to sign up – just come!**

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**We Thank You!** Three volunteers come to the Center once a week to address thank-you cards or letters to everyone who sends us a monetary donation. It's something **Harold and Kay Kutler** started way back in the beginning in 1983, and it continues to be an important part of our connection with our donors. Some donors, however, have told us we don't need to send this thank-you, and we respect their wishes to save us a little postage. If you're one of those people, just let us know with a note, and we'll add you to our "Do Not Send" list.

**A Hand Up.** People continue to share their experience at Brother Benno's via Facebook. **Aldine Averill** recently wrote: "Agape Love is what Brother Benno's is all about! They continually give it freely and joyfully, day in and out, to the brothers and sisters in our area that need a hand up, not a hand out!"

**Need Professional Advice.** We're hoping to redo our men's and women's showers at the Center, and we'd appreciate hearing from an expert who'd be willing to volunteer his or her time to advise us. **Frank Doherty** is the person to call if you'd like to help, or just want more information. 760-804-1948.

**First Holiday Feast.** If you'd like to help with our Thanksgiving meal, here's a list of our needs:

Frozen turkeys  
Large cans of turkey/chicken gravy  
Large cans of cranberries  
Good quality plastic knives, forks, and spoons  
Sturdy medium-size plates for pie (We use trays for main meal.)

All items can be dropped off around the back of the Center Monday through Friday 6:30 to 12:30, or Saturday 8:30 to 12:30. (We need the turkeys no later than November 14.) Many thanks!

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## HOMELESS GUESTS REACH OUT IN UNCHARACTERISTIC WAY

by Eileen Costa

The Guests who come for breakfast generally sit in the same place every day. Two or three may sit together and chat, but most people sit alone, don't talk to anyone, and leave when they are finished.

One day, Michael showed concern, because Pat, a frequent Guest, had been missing for a few weeks. Michael tracked Pat down at a nearby rest stop and found him to be disoriented, had lost weight, and would not leave the picnic table where he'd been sitting the past few weeks.

Michael talked to several other homeless people, trying to get help for Pat. They had never talked to one another before and had serious problems themselves, but they listened and quickly formulated a plan of action. Against all odds, one of them was able to convince a police officer to take Pat to the hospital. He was severely dehydrated and disoriented, and the doctors gave him proper treatment. Then against even greater odds, a shelter placement was made for him.

The latest report was that Pat was recovering nicely due to the love, care, and concern of the homeless people who knew him.

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**Brother Benno Foundation**  
**Recovery Program for Men and Women**

760 439 1244 ext. 101

Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps  
of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## "I WANT TO REPAY THAT GIFT IN ANY WAY I CAN"

"John" spent most of his 57 years abusing alcohol and drugs, starting when he was only 17. Finally, three years ago, when he was living in a tent in the woods with a bagful of dirty clothes as his total worldly goods, he called his brother "Allen," who lived several hours away and who had told John repeatedly that if he didn't get help, he'd die.

At Allen's house, John suffered a major seizure when he tried to quit cold-turkey. Allen, himself a recovering addict, knew about Brother Benno's, so he put in a call to our Recovery Team. They interviewed John, sent him to McAlister for detox, then set him up in one of our First Phase Houses.

John said he knew immediately that he was in the right place. Everything about Brother Benno's felt right. "I could tell they knew what they were doing," he said. "And I felt safe for the first time in many years."

As they do with all Program men and women, the Recovery Team told John that if he needed something, ask for it. Do what you're told. Trust the process. Coming from a military family, he said he was used to structure, so this advice gave him a feeling of security. "I was open-minded and willing and grateful," he said. He also found that being of service to others was an important part of his recovery.

Seeing homeless guys at the Center, being able to share his own struggles and successes with them, gave him a sense of purpose—and it still does. "I owe my life to Brother Benno's—literally—and they're my family now. I stop in at the Center once or twice a week and help out wherever I can. I worked in the kitchen most of the time when I was in the Program, so that's usually where I end up!"

Since graduating from the Program, John has a full-time job, a car, a nice place to live, and a bank account. "And my bills are always paid on time!" he said.

He can't say enough about what Brother Benno's means to him.. "There's love and compassion and caring here," he said. He cited the old tale about the lion that was suffering greatly with a thorn in its paw. When a runaway slave took shelter in the lion's den, he removed the thorn; and in gratitude, the lion—instead of harming the slave—took care of the man for

the rest of his life.

"That's how I feel about Brother Benno's," John said. "I was hurting and they took care of me. I want to repay that gift in any way I can."

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## WHAT IS COMPASSION?

Compassion is something other than pity. Pity suggests distance, even a certain condescendence. I often act with pity. I give some money to a beggar on the streets of Toronto or New York City, but I do not look him in the eyes, sit down with him, or talk with him. I am too busy to really pay attention to the man who reaches out to me. My money replaces my personal attention and gives me an excuse to walk on.

Compassion means to become close to the one who suffers. But we can come close to another person only when we are willing to become vulnerable ourselves. A compassionate person says: "I am your brother; I am your sister; I am human, fragile, and mortal just like you. I am not scandalized by your tears, nor afraid of your pain. I too have wept. I too have felt pain." We can be with the other only when the other ceases to be "other" and becomes like us.

~ Henri J. M. Nouwen

*Here and Now*

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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 Nita Rodriguez

The first Wednesday of each month, a group of Auxiliary members called the **Breakfast Club** are at the Center at 6 a.m. to serve breakfast to our Guests. **Thelma Hendrix** has been the coordinator of this group for more than seven years; and when asked why she does it, she says, "To those who have been given much, much is required."

"This is the most joyful thing I do for the Auxiliary!" said **Carol Sanford**. And **Lillian Adams** said, "The Guests are so grateful." For **Doris Nyman**, it's important to give hellos and smiles to the Guests along with the food. All the volunteers shared how grateful they are to be able to participate in this activity.



**1st Row LtoR Carol Sanford, Thelma Hendrix, Rosie McDaniel**  
**2nd Row LtoR Juanita Hughes, Louise Lussier, Doris Nyman, Matel Gaye, Dottie Craghon**  
**3rd Row LtoR Al Nyman, Lillian Adams**

We thank **Betsy Taxera** and **Elana Bagley** for coming to our September meeting and singing "Imagine," the lyrics written by Board Member **Helen Parsons**. It was so inspiring: imagine a world with no homeless people. Betsy talked about her continuing success story, and Elana shared her activities for helping the people who

have completed the Brother Benno Recovery Program.

### DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER ON DECEMBER 1!

**Bea Palmer**, Service Learning Coordinator at Mira Costa College, will be our guest speaker. There will be the popular "Opportunity Baskets," as well as other ways you can become a big winner—all to support the work of Brother Benno's. It will be held at the Westin/Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa (same place, new name) on Saturday, December 1, at noon. Door open at 11.

Tickets are \$75 per person, \$600 for a table of 8. Valet parking is included. You can download ticket order forms here: <https://tinyurl.com/yam-6r72y> or call **Susan Westlund** (206-349-1371) if you want an order form mailed to you.

We will install the 2019 Board Members at our meeting on Wednesday, November 14. **Richard Giroux**, Foundation Board President, will be guest speaker. (Note: for this month only, the meeting will be on the second Wednesday). Social time and snacks start at 1 p.m., meeting at 1:30. Why don't you check us out? It's a great way to start helping people at Brother Benno's.

Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? Download our membership application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>.

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**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	Chance Hales	Dora Ramirez	Molly Wilber
Dixie & Lou Bales	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Angie Fitzgerald
Frank Barnet	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Dorothy Seeuws
Brother Benno	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Elaine Port
Edith Blaiser	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Robin McMullan
Andrea Boersma	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Debbie Hagen
Roland Bond	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Bob Strawbridge
Bill Boster	Harold & Kay Kutler	Will Skinner	Toni Keane
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Ann Grier Smith	Rickie Antonucci
Bill Buckner	Ben E. Lewis	Squirrell Family	Mary Gregush
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Helen Lucas	Mike Stendahl	Robert Buchach
Anna Correia	Bill & Joan Maloney	Margaret Stephan	Donald Deffenbough
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helene McGill	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Richard Bruinsma
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Michael & Monty Nares	Harold Thompson	Lou & George
Frank S. Dolley	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Carol & Herb Thornberg	Casperson
Anita H. Donahue	Mary Nordstrom	Rosemary Tucker	Bill Daley
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nysewander Family	Walter Ulloa	Bert Manuel, Jr.
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Bud & Blanche Ogle	June Williams	Correia Family
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ben Osgrove	Fred Williamson	Russell Family
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Kathryn D. Pent	Joseph Carver	Jeff Giggenbach
Myron Eichen	Mary Peterson	Jack Gillen	Anne Dempa
Richard Farhquar	Jane Pfau	Donna Brown	Bill Pry
William & Vennita Flanagan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	David Mowery	Eric Behalves
Louise Foussat	Alan Port	Frank Beeson	William Ross, Jr.
Joe & Ida Friend	Mary Pullman	Mark Maras	Matt Hogan
Mary Gerrity	Catherine L. Quinlan	Manuel Mancillas, Jr.	
Bob Gleason			<b>Happy Birthday</b> Steven Ross

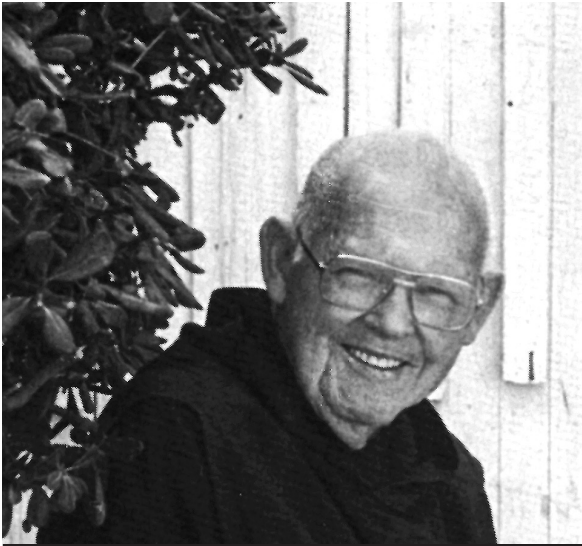
### Needs

Gently used furniture                      Reading glasses - 1.5 to 4.0                      Sunglasses  
 Bottled water                                  Camp tents - one to four persons

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b>				<b>1</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>2</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>3</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2018</b>						
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>5</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>6</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>7</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>8</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>9</b> St. Patrick's	<b>10</b> La Costa Valley Volunteers
<b>Serving</b>	<b>12</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>13</b> Riverview Church	<b>14</b> Fairwinds	<b>15</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>16</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>17</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>19</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>20</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>21</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>22</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>23</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>24</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>26</b> St. Thomas More RCIA	<b>27</b> Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	<b>28</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>29</b> Brother Benno's Thrift Shop	<b>30</b> King of Kings Lutheran	

**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-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up**

**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 2018	Our 34th Year		September 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	11,396	4,264,832	Loads of laundry	29	28,144
Nights of lodging	743	300,187	Food packs	973	336,408
Articles of clothing	3,933	1,339,572	Blankets	150	45,442
Showers	1,062	252,775	Tarps	101	4,030
Haircuts	60	22,520	ID Vouchers	30	9,237
Bus passes	92	83,910	HUGS	2,250	976,144