



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2019



FUNDRAISING SUCCESS!

by Nita Rodriguez

The Brother Benno Auxiliary's Inaugural Golf Tournament held on September 27 at the Memorial Golf Course at MCCS Pendleton, was a great success. Teams comprised of Brother Benno supporters, their friend and family members, and sponsored military members, participated.

The Tournament began with an opening ceremony, which included the Marine Color Guard, the Star Spangled Banner sung by Auxiliary member **Alfreida Stevenson**, and a blessing by Brother Benno Foundation President **Father Charles Wright** of the Prince of Peace Abbey.

After a full day of friendly (and sometimes fierce) competition, at the closing ceremony, Emcee **Michael Lewis** recognized the winning teams and announced our Silent Auction winners.



3rd-Curtis Richardson, John and Weston Wohlmut

We thank all the Auxiliary members who volunteered their time to make this tournament so successful; also our donors and those who sponsored military members. A special thanks to **Norma “Abbie” Bachert** at Camp Pendleton, who guided us through all aspects for our first Tournament. And a big thank-you to **Michael O’Neil** and **Michael Lewis aka “Mike & Mike,”** for mentoring and supporting us in the process. It always amazes me how many “moving parts” there are to getting our fundraising events launched. Mike & Mike gave us this compliment: “WOW! You (Auxiliary members) know how to run a fundraiser. You make it look so easy!”

As we’ve previously shared, our Auxiliary members decided to try something different this year with our fundraising activities—replace the Winter Luncheon with a Golf Tournament and hold two additional fundraisers (Luau and Sip & Paint) in addition to our traditional Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast. From the feedback we’ve received, this overwhelmingly appears to be a winning strategy.

We look forward to presenting our 2019 fundraising proceeds to the Foundation at our

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1st-Mark, Dennis and Jake Martinek and Robert Acosta



2nd-Ryan Pippin, Jason Hong and Michael Lancaster

THRIFT SHOP LOVES VOLUNTEERS, GEARS UP FOR HOLIDAYS

by Michelle Hoppe

Students. School is back in session, which means a new round of student volunteers. We LOVE our students! They provide an invaluable service to us throughout the store. Some students continue volunteering even after they complete their hours.

Long-time student volunteer, **David Gottelli**, received an award from Mira Costa College for his 100 service hours at Brother Benno Thrift Shop—100 hours, two years in a row! If you are a student in need of service learning hours, we would love to have you. Please call us (760-967-7505) to find out how you can get started.

Another Award. Thrift Shop volunteer **Alison Kuhns** recently received a national award from the Marine Corps Association as the Wounded Warriors's "Family Caregiver of the Year." Congratulations, Alison! She also assisted in organizing the first annual "Military Spouse Appreciation Evening" at the Shop. They were treated to refreshments, and they shopped for evening gowns, shoes, and jewelry for the upcoming Marine Corps Ball.

The Thrift Shop provides free delivery on furniture to the Oceanside area for all military members who show their ID. We appreciate our military and thank you for your service.

We're Ready! The holiday season is fast approaching—a favorite time for us. We hold seasonal items all year long and put them out for sale in time for you to decorate your home. We also decorate our Shop in order to give our customers a beautiful shopping experience while snagging a bargain in the process.

Keep checking. We have different specials every day and offer 20 percent off everything every Thursday. New inventory is added daily, so visit us often to see what's new. Our hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 to 5. You can also check the daily specials on our Facebook page. Search and "like" Brother Benno's Thrift Shop to keep up with the latest sales, new items, and upcoming events.

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BROTHER BENNO'S RECEIVES HIGHEST CHARITY AWARD

The Brother Benno Foundation has been awarded a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the sixth consecutive year. A letter from **Michael Thatcher**, President and CEO, says in part:

"On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate the Brother Benno Foundation on attaining the coveted 4-star rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. . . . This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way. . . . Only 9% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations. . . ."

We proudly portray the Charity Navigator logo on the front of every newsletter. For more information, please visit www.charitynavigator.org

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WHAT A SURPRISE! WHAT A GREAT TIME!

The inaugural Golf Tournament put on by the Brother Benno Auxiliary was EXTRA-SPECIAL. The course at Camp Pendleton is beautiful. The staff was very friendly and helpful. Everything ran like a well-oiled machine.

Riding around on the course with my daughter-in-law and chasing our foursome (husband, two sons, and grandson) was a blast. We saw a coyote, lots of native plants, fresh air, and green "greens" on the William P. Bell-designed course (he also designed the Torrey Pines golf course.)

We all want to thank the Brother Benno Auxiliary for thinking outside of the box and doing something different. It is a wonderful way to introduce new people to the Brother Benno Foundation. I can't even imagine the amount of work put into this event; but what I do know, it was a lot! The baskets for the auction were lovely as well.

We will be back next year!

From Your Happy Golf Watcher!

(Editor's Note: The Happy Watcher wishes to remain anonymous.)

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SPECIAL HELP GIVEN UNDER CAREFUL GUIDELINES

One of the services we seldom provide for our homeless Guests is a bus ticket back home, and our Staff members are very careful in determining when it is appropriate. **Darryl Harris**, our Operations Manager, said that someone at Brother Benno's phones the family member or friend whose name is provided by the Guest to be sure that they are indeed willing to have the Guest return and will provide housing for them.

"We don't want to just move people from one homeless situation to another," Darryl said.

Becky, age 52, was homeless and living in a car with a boyfriend, and they'd been coming to Brother Benno's for a little over a year. At one point the relationship turned violent, and the police had to get involved. It was then that our Staff stepped in to see how they could best help Becky, and the bus ticket home was the solution.

Becky sent the following message to Darryl:

"I wanted to let you know that I made it back home to Idaho. I was going to call you, but I believe you are closed right now. "I want you ALL to know that I really, really appreciate you so very much!! I have no idea where I would be today without you (the entire Brother Benno Foundation.) Thanks!! To all of you! I will call next week to chat for a minute. Thanks again for everything! B.B."

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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>

GIRL SCOUTS PITCH IN TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

by Jenny Troyer

In August, Girl Scout Troop 1955 on Camp Pendleton discussed who in their community needed serving. After much discussion, the girls, along with their troop leaders, had the idea of serving the poor and homeless. Not many had served the homeless directly.

Troop leaders **Shannon** and **Sabrina** asked a mom, who is a volunteer at Brother Benno's, to speak to the girls about her experiences and the needs of the Guests who are served there.

After the presentation, the girls moved into action. Breaking into teams, each team had a different task. One group helped script and perform an online video to post on the local housing Facebook page asking for material. Another made signs to hang in the neighborhood listing items needed for collection and the dates and times troop members would pick them up. In both the video and signs, the girls asked for donations benefitting the Guests at Brother Benno's.

The girls, along with their leaders and parent volunteers, once again gathered to collect the donated items, walking the neighborhood aboard Camp Pendleton. They collected over 60 pairs of socks, 200+ toiletry items, two bikes, and four large boxes of clothing, which were brought to the Center and the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

In deciding to organize a drive to benefit Brother Benno's, the members of Troop 1955 learned the valuable lesson of service to the community.

(Editor's Note: Jenny is one of the parent volunteers.)

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"Bring beauty. If you can paint a picture or carve an image or plant a flower, you will have put something into the world that was not here when you came."

from *A Woman in the House* by William Barrett

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FROM THE BOOK:

The following story from Harold Kutler's book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, is about Chester, who successfully completed our Recovery Program and regained his life.

"Chester . . . (had) a difficult childhood, followed by alcohol, drugs, and jail, (which) led to a wasted life. He came to us at age 52, a heroin addict for 30 years, with no work skills. When he entered our program, he had reached the point where he either had to surrender to recovery or accelerate his death march.

"It took Chester a long time to come out of the fog so that he could deal with reality. His progress was slow, but he hung in there. Eventually we promoted him from the scullery to the warehouse. Then we dragged him, kicking and screaming, into our computer lab, where he discovered he was able to learn how to use a computer.

"Soon Chester was driving our vehicles, and we could see his self-esteem start to grow. Little by little, he took each next step, until he was finally ready to venture out into the world again. One day he came back to the center to tell us he had a job he really liked—driving a van for retarded children.

"Thanks for everything you did for me," he said.

"You're the one who did it, Chester, we said. 'We gave you the opportunity, but you made it happen.'

"We hugged each other, and once again I thanked God for the priceless opportunity to be part of an addict's journey out of his tomb to start a new life."

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November meeting. Co-Presidents **Joyce Cerimele** and **Nita Rodriguez** will be making an annual report to the membership. Also at this meeting, the 2020 Auxiliary Board will be installed. The meeting will be held on November 20 in the Center Dining Room, 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting. All are invited to attend and bring a friend. Reminder: no meeting in December.

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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, 760-941-1876 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

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.

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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Donna & Gilbert
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	Brown
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Dora Ramirez	Steve Gallagher
Brother Benno	Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Alexander Hill III
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	W.X. & Carolyn
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Ross
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Bill Daley
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Molly Wilbur
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	James Johnson
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Morgan Mallory
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Frank Beeson
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Robert Buchach
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	Barbara LaMothe
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Carreen Golden
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	Merle Beckman
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	H. Edward Smith
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	Family
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Elvira Oviedo
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Harold Thompson	Hugh Murphy
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	Donald Deffenbaugh
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	IN HONOR OF
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Doug & Della Hayden
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Jacqueline Montable	
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Peggy Miville	
Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Fr. Brad Dusak	

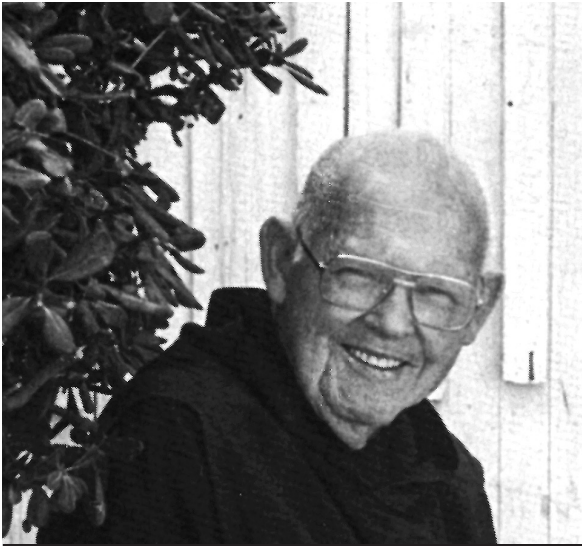
Needs

Gently used furniture Blankets Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
2019						
Monthly	4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Work Partners
Serving	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 Fairwinds	14 Oceanside Civitans	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Team	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ the King Lutheran	20 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	21 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	22 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	23 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	25 St. Thomas More RCIA	26 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Happy Thanksgiving	29 King of Kings Lutheran	30 Shiloh Church of God in Christ

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

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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 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 2019	Our 35th Year		September 2019	Our 35th Year
Meals	11,820	4,418,733	Loads of laundry	14	28,465
Nights of lodging	805	311,122	Food packs	761	348,290
Articles of clothing	4,030	1,395,902	Blankets	158	47,335
Showers	1,110	265,984	Tarps	100	5,340
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	39	9,696
Bus passes	119	85,158	HUGS	1,800	999,544