



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2020



GIVING THANKS AND CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

Brother Benno's has been blessed with an incredible outpouring of support from so many in our community in 2020. As we head into the holiday season in this unusual, extraordinary year, we have asked ourselves how to feed and help our Guests while keeping everyone safe. We've decided to offer two days of giving this Thanksgiving:

Wednesday, November 25 – “Thanksgiving in a Box.” – Starting at 10 a.m., Brother Benno's (in collaboration with Feeding San Diego) will be distributing a food box (including a turkey) for people to take home and prepare their own Thanksgiving dinner. This event is first-come, first-served.

Thursday, November 26 – “A (Mostly) Traditional Thanksgiving Meal.” – Although the Brother Benno Center is still unable to utilize its dining room, our kitchen staff, led by **Pelon**, will be preparing a delicious, hot Thanksgiving meal to be distributed in clamshell boxes “to-go.” The meal will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon. Some outdoor seating in our parking lot will also be available.

We are limiting the number of in-person volunteers this year, due to risks associated with COVID-19. However, if you would like to help, we are accepting donations of food items from Wednesday, November 11, until Thanksgiving. Drop them off at the parking lot between our two buildings. And many thanks for your help!

Turkeys
Dinner rolls
Instant Mash Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce
Turkey or Chicken gravy
Stove Top (or other) Stuffing Mix
Canned yams
Marshmallows
Pies
Bottled water

If you have questions, please contact Kathleen Diehlmann at Kathleen.diehlmann@gmail.com

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GRATEFUL GUEST REMEMBERS KINDNESS AT BROTHER BENNO'S

(Nicole from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, posted the following on FaceBook recently):

“Several years ago, my boyfriend and I and our dogs got stuck in Oceanside, living in our jeep for about five months. Thank God for Brother Benno's! They even gave us dog food and flea medicine for the pups and kept us fed and able to have a shower every day until we could get back home. I've never met nicer people in my life than the people at Benno's; and the homeless community I had breakfast with there every day were actually the happiest bunch of people I've been around, too. Happy and grateful to be there.”

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SPOTLIGHT: MEET DARRYL HARRIS

Darryl is the Brother Benno Center's Operations Manager, which means he oversees the daily operations of the Center. This requires him to work with staff, volunteers, and Program members. He is a mentor to the Program participants and helps Guests "behave themselves." His responsibilities also include scheduling the trucks that go out for food donations, working with the San Diego Food Bank and Feeding San Diego, and assisting with coordinating community services providers. Basically, anything that happens at the Center is under his jurisdiction.



"There's always so much going on at the Center," said **Nita Rodriguez**, Auxiliary Board member. "Whenever I've need help with getting access to storage areas, getting the speaker system in the dining room to work, or setting aside parking for members on our meeting days, it's Darryl who makes things happen for us."

Darryl's journey with **Harold and Kay Kutler** and **Brother Benno** began in 2003. Reflecting on those times, Darryl shared that he was doing "bad stuff" and wanted to turn his life around. After reading an article in the newspaper that described how the people at the Good Samaritan House (one of Brother Benno's Recovery houses) helped the police catch a robber, his mother said to him, "You need to go down there with those heroes." Darryl followed her advice. Harold welcomed him into the Program; Kay hugged him; and

Darryl's journey into recovery and service began.

When he completed the Program, Harold told him, "My son, you need to work here at the Center and also get your high school diploma." Darryl says he didn't know what to do, so he asked for guidance from his AA sponsor, who said, "You better do what Harold says." Darryl did, and in 2006 he received his high school diploma.

But it seems Harold had more in store for Darryl, when he challenged him again. "Now you need to get a college degree," he said. In 2014, Darryl earned his Associate Arts degree from MiraCosta College.

Over the years, Darryl has held a variety of positions at Brother Benno's, including Manager of the Recovery Houses and staff, Program mentor, Warehouse Manager, and truck driver picking up and delivering furniture for the Thrift Shop.

Co-worker **Pete Watson** shared, "I watch Darryl and I want to be like him. He humbly helps others without expectation. He gives gentle solutions for problems."

Helping people that no one else wants to help is what Darryl likes best about his work at Brother Benno's. He credits Harold and Kay for showing him loving principles and mentoring him in service for others. "Harold taught me that helping people is a 'stubborn business'; you've got to be in it for the long haul." He says he stays close to the principles he learned early on, and those who work with him are witness to his embodiment of those principles.

Jim Shlemmer, Men's Recovery Program lead, describes Darryl as "calm, composed, and compassionate" when he interacts with the homeless, those with mental health issues, and those with addiction problems.

Jan Roberts, Women's Recovery Program lead, offered these observations: "The thing is that Darryl is one of a kind. He is very patient and kind to all, even the ones who call him names and disrespect him and Brother Benno's. He understands that this person might be having the worst day of their lives, or that life has been so hard on

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The Brother Benno Foundation

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

November 2020

Dear Brother Benno Supporters,

On behalf of all of us at Brother Benno's, I hope this letter finds you healthy, happy, safe, and looking forward to the holiday season.

It has been quite a year! As you are probably aware, this season and coming year will be a particular challenge for many families and individuals in our community. Whether due to a job layoff, rent coming due or struggles with health due to COVID-19, many may not be able to celebrate the coming holidays. In addition, with winter upon us, Brother Benno's will have an increased demand for our services as we do each year.

One thing we have deeply missed in 2020 are our volunteers. The Brother Benno Foundation values and prioritizes volunteer labor and thinks of itself as a volunteer organization. However, due to risks associated with the virus, Brother Benno's has been forced to suspend hot meals in the dining room. This has meant that our amazing serving teams have been unable to volunteer for several months. In addition, many of our volunteers across our organization are in a "high risk" category for COVID-19, so with reluctance, we have asked many to stay home. As soon as it is safe to do so, we welcome back our volunteers with open arms and hugs. (Again, when it is safe to hug.) We think Harold and Kay Kutler would want that.

Without your generous support, whether financially or with your time (or both), Brother Benno's would not be able to carry out our Mission to feed the hungry, provide clothing and offer many of life's basic needs to uplift the dignity of those we serve over the past 37 years. All of us at Brother Benno's wish you a wonderful holiday season and prosperous New Year.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Diehlmann
President, Board of Directors
The Brother Benno Foundation

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



AUXILIARY NEWS

Our Golf Fundraiser was a huge success! Our sponsors included several generous individuals and businesses. Visit brotherbenno.org/golf-2020 to see a list of sponsors and pictures of the sponsored golfers. Fifty-three active-duty military members were surprised with a free round of golf. We are grateful to all who donated. Thank you for your generosity!

A big shout-out thank-you to the following Auxiliary members who used their talents to make this fundraiser a success: **Amy Selich, Deb Drew, Karen Gallagher, Louise Lussier, Linda Engstrom, Linda Donahue, Belinda Smith, and Sue Westlund.** And special thanks to **Norma "Abbie" Bachert** from Camp Pendleton, and **Kathleen Diehlmann**, President of the Brother Benno Foundation, for their help and support.

Our "Christmas in July" gift card fundraiser is still going on. We have reached our goal from last year, but we really believe we will have more children this year due to the unemployment of their parents. We want to see a lot of happy faces in December at the distribution of the cards. **Helen Parsons** is working on what that distribution will look like this year, since we can't have an actual party. We are asking for \$25 gift cards from Walmart or Target. If you prefer giving money and letting us buy the cards, that's fine, too. Please send checks made out to Brother Benno Auxiliary and send them and/or cards to: Brother Benno Auxiliary, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068.

We will continue with Zoom meetings. Everyone who joined us so far has said they enjoyed seeing each other, even though it was on a screen. Our October meeting was held in the evening so our working members could be there.

If you are interested in becoming an Auxiliary member, just send us \$25 for dues to the address above. Be sure to include a note with your name, address, primary and cell phone numbers, and email address.

Again, we hope you are all staying safe,

and we look forward to meeting new members in the near future at one of our regular monthly meetings. Follow us here for information on when that will be.


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them that they can't manage to be nice to anyone, even if we are bending over backwards to help them. Most of the homeless love him because he's so understanding. Even when he goes home after work, he is of service to others. Because of COVID-19, almost all the women at the Center are working from home on computers, and he helped them get set up so they could do their jobs. He's just a great asset to Brother Benno's."

Seventeen years sober, seventeen years of service at Brother Benno's, and seventeen years following the principles that guided Harold and Kay Kutler and Brother Benno. Darryl Harris, your Brother Benno family is proud of you!

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<p>Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org</p> <p>Follow Brother Bennos online:</p> <p> Facebook.com/BrotherBennos</p>
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<p>Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do</p> <p>My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: \$_____ (make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)</p> <p>In memory of: _____</p> <p>Please send a card to:</p> <p>(name) _____</p> <p>(address) _____</p> <p>For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.): _____</p> <p>Send a card to: (name) _____</p> <p>(address) _____</p> <p>Or, donate online at http://brotherbenno.org</p>
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Memorials

Ron Alexander	Mary Gerrity	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Bob Gleason	Alan Port	Helen (Nan) Phillips
Frank Barnet	Chance Hales	Mary Pullman	Karen Mehlick
Brother Benno	Tom & Louise	Catherine L. Quinlan	Mary Vernaci
Edith Blaiser	Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Virginia & Ray Walz
Andrea Boersma	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Gilbert & Donna
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Brown
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Ann Sauer	Jay Pry
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Nick Sauer	Robert Buchach
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Frank Beeson
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Harold & Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Alfa & Frances
Anna Correia	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	Snider
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben E. Lewis	Milton Silver	Molly Wilbur
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	John, Helen, Matt
Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Ann Grier Smith	Hagen
Anita H. Donahue	Helene McGill	Alva & Frances	Hugh Murphy
Dorothy M. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Snider	Reann Braegger &
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nares	Squirrell Family	Tom & Louise
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Zeferino & Dancy	Mike Stendahl	Toni Keane
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares	Margaret Stephan	
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Nordstrom	Virginia Sylwestrzak	MARRIAGE
Myron Eichen	Nysewander Family	Harold Thompson	Linda Wolff & Peter
Richard Farhquar	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Carol & Herb	Fusselman
William & Vennita	Ben Osgrove	Thornberg	
Flanagan	Kathryn D. Pent	Rosemary Tucker	
Louise Foussat	Mary Peterson	Walter Ulloa	
Joe & Ida Friend	Jane Pfau	June Williams	

Needs

Thanksgiving items (please see page 1).

For the children at our "Christmas Party" -- stocking stuffers for all ages and **new** pj's in all sizes including teens. Items can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop, 3955 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Snack foods, small juices, and bottled water for our daily sack lunches.

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:

The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

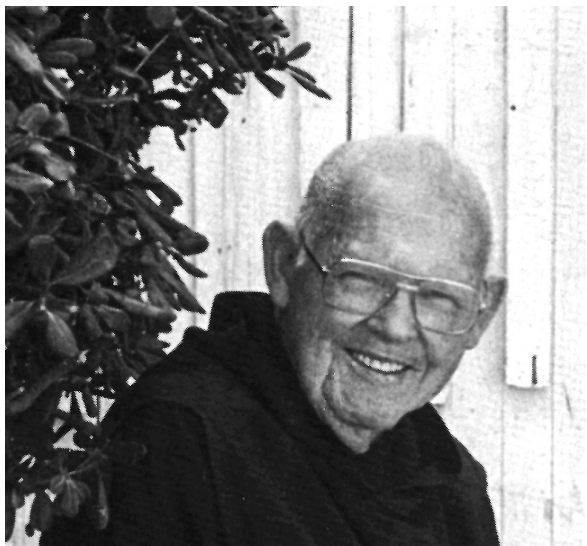
This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
 Number of copies _____

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2

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

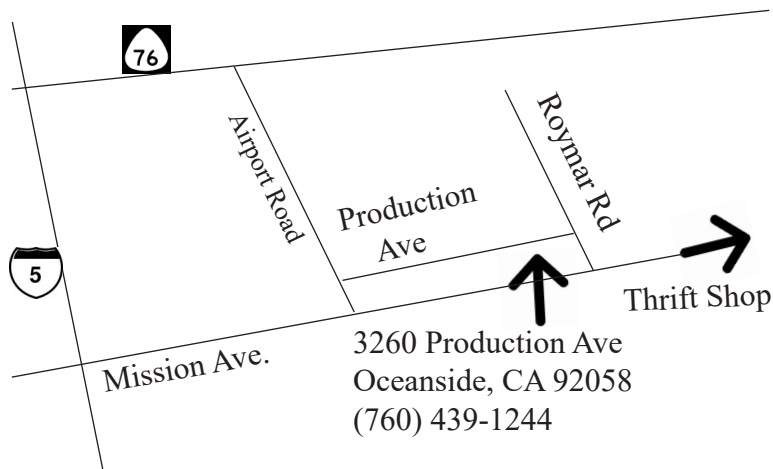
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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 2020	Our 36th Year		September 2020	Our 36th Year
Meals	9,300	4,545,727	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	775	321,949	Food packs	322	356,597
Articles of clothing	1,320	1,422,726	Blankets	75	48,687
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	36	6,112
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	11	9,961
Bus passes	23	86,059	HUGS	0	1,011,244