

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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



3260 PRODUCTION AVE.
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058
(760)439-1244

Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

October 2011



Brother Benno
1982
E.A.

FAMILY LEAVES COMFORT ZONE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HELPING OTHERS

John and Debbie Fredette want their children to become loving and caring adults—not all that unusual a desire. What might be different from some other parents, though, is their decision to actively pursue that goal by exposing the children to people whose lives are not as comfortable as their own.

“As a family, we’re very loving with each other,” Debbie said, “and we want to show our girls that we can all reach out to others who don’t have that kind of experience.”

One Saturday morning, Debbie and John brought **Maddie** (12), **Gracie** (11), and **Anna** (9) to the Brother Benno Center, where they became part of the newly adopted Immersion Program. After a comprehensive tour of the Center and all its outreach components, they got in line with our Guests, filled their trays with food, and sat down to share a meal with the men, women, and children who rely on Brother Benno’s to provide some of their basic needs.

They said they weren’t sure what this experience would be like, and the girls admitted to being quite uncomfortable at first.

“We didn’t identify ourselves as not being homeless or poor,” John said. “We just became part of the group.” Both parents said they were taken by the sense of community they saw and felt, and that many of the Guests seemed to know each other and interacted in ways they hadn’t expected. “They’d go up (to the microphone) and sing,” John said. “They were like a family.”

Maddie echoed her dad’s comments. “I was uncomfortable at first, talking to people, but then I felt like everyone was a big family.”

Gracie said she’s been enjoying telling her

friends that she helped feed the homeless. “We all used to be afraid of them and try to avoid them, but now I don’t feel that way.”

Anna agreed. “I tell my friends that a homeless person is just another person.”

John said it has occurred to him since being at Brother Benno’s that many families experience some kind of financial emergency, maybe once every three months or so. But the poor and homeless probably have that difficulty every three days, never being able to feel secure about how they’ll meet their needs day after day.

Since their Immersion experience, Debbie and the girls have decided to come to the Center on a regular basis to volunteer. Since the girls are home-schooled, they have a flexible schedule that allows them to come at different times. John said he’ll probably volunteer on Saturdays, and he’s open to whatever jobs are assigned to him.

The Fredette family also includes two adult daughters, **Shawna** and **Meghan**, as well as **Owen**, a special-needs son who died five years ago at the age of eleven. Everyone in the family cared for Owen, who was unable to talk, had to be fed, and was in a wheelchair. John said they all learned so much about compassion and selflessness, a lesson he wants to help his children continue to practice. Brother Benno’s is now benefitting from that commitment.

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Editor’s Note: If you’d like more information about the Immersion Program, please contact Dennis (760-439-1244, ext. 116, or dennispinnick@yahoo.com). If you’d like to schedule a Saturday morning tour and immersion, contact Suzy (760-439-1244, ext. 118, or suzymartinek@brotherbenno.org).

Brother Benno’s Services:

	August 2011	Our 28th Year		August 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	13,583	3,145,776	Loads of laundry	31	25,863
Nights of lodging	1,278	215,812	Food packs	2,528	170,868
Articles of clothing	4,438	883,237	Blankets	79	31,969
Showers	979	159,670	Prescriptions	55	6,621
Haircuts	150	13,047	ID Vouchers	12	8,180
Bus passes	109	74,828	HUGS	1,800	810,094

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

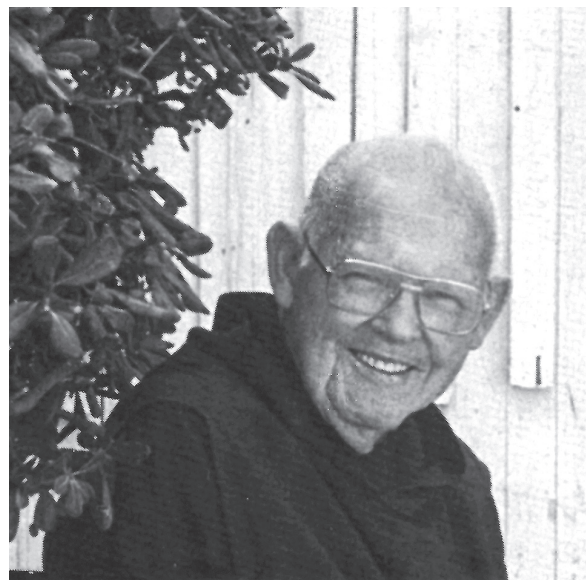
The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

A Willing Hand. Several months ago, **Rick Borg**, a Carlsbad attorney, helped us out with all the legalities for a proposed project by spending many hours reading through contracts, etc., while **Nick Sauer**, our Foundation attorney, was recovering from surgery. He's also on one of our monthly serving teams. Many thanks to Rick and his staff!

Out-of-State Supporter. A woman in Colorado received our September newsletter from her brother, because he thought she'd be interested in the call for knitters that we announced in the last issue. This woman phoned **Jean McMath**, who's heading up the project. "She'll send me the scarf she's working on," Jean said, "along with extra yarn she's not using."

In case you missed that article, Jean is looking for people who like to knit or crochet and would be willing to make warm scarves and caps for our Guests. You can call Jean for more information (760-722-4003).

Great Numbers. According to **Harold Kutler**, The Brother Benno Foundation completed it's 28th fiscal year on July 31, 2011, in the black for the 28th time! He credits our wonderful supporters plus generous bequests and grants for this success. "We have been blessed in so many ways," he said, "so to say we are most thankful is an understatement."

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR HAROLD!

Many of Harold Kutler's Brother Benno friends helped him celebrate his 85th birthday on September 22 with a lunch at the Center.



Denise Seymour and Harold



Tom von Betticher, Harold, Dixie and Lou Bales



Memorials

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Brother Benno | Frank Barnet | Dick & Terry Riley | Bud Maloney |
| Pope John Paul II | Frank S. Dolley | Bill Buckner | William Pry |
| Mother Teresa | Phyllis H. Dierlam | Mary Shankle | Agatha Johnson |
| Ann Sauer | Monty Nares | Walter Ulloa | William Flanagan |
| Joe & Ida Friend | Margaret Rossini | Fred Williamson | Marshall Button |
| Mary Nordstrom | Dorothy M. Donahue | Carole Kutler | Dancy & Zeferino Nares |
| Myron Eichen | Mary Teresa Carr | Will Skinner | Margaret Zachan |
| Alice Jordan | Ruth Hazel Pierson | Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB | Merle Stokes |
| Roseanne Dreibelbis | Elizabeth Holms | Fr. Luke Dougherty | Andrea Boersma |
| Richard Farhquar | Edith Blaiser | Naomi Shelton | Robert McCormick |
| Deacon Art & Mary Carr | Ben Kouns | Rosemary Tucker | Josephine & Charles Campbell |
| Don & Dorothea Daybell | Bill Lakoff | Ben E. Lewis | Bill Foran |
| Catherine L. Quinlan | Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver | Roland Bond | Floyd & Rose Caldwell |
| Kathryn D. Pent | Anita H. Donahue | Anna Correia | Gilbert Brown |
| Mary Pullman | Margaret Stephan | Geraldine Howard | |
| Joan Boyd | Bill Boster | Claire Flaxbeard | |
| Agnus Boyd | Louise Foussat | Jeanne Nickel | |
| Harold Thompson | Tom Hayward | Bob, Naia, & Richard Provost | |
| Bud & Blanche Ogle | Richard Kurtz | Geraldine Howard | |
| Bob Gleason | Helen Lucas | Squirrell Family | |
| Jane Pfau | Bill & Joan Maloney | Nysewander Family | |
| Ron Alexander | Dora Ramirez | | |
| Mary Peterson | | | |

Birthdays

Richard Shlemmer

Needs

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Permanent driver once a week (7-11 a.m.) | Men's clothing | Socks |
| Aluminum cans for recycling | Motel-size toiletries | Men's bicycles |

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2011						1 St. Thomas More
Monthly Serving Team Schedule	3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 Nativity Men's Group
	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Friends from Vista	12 Naval Hospital	13 Oceanside Civitans	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
	17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 Christ the King Lutheran	19 Grace Anglican	20 Carlsbad Rotary	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Catholic Daughters
	24 Christ Anglican 31 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	25 St. Mark's San Marcos	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Pilgrim Creek	28 Fallbrook Presbyterian	29 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

COUPLE HAS LONG HISTORY OF SERVICE TO BROTHER BENNO'S

Suzy and Dennis Martinek are on their "second tour" with Brother Benno's. They first got involved in the 1980's, when the entire operation was in a small house in downtown Oceanside and was known as Brother Benno's Kitchen.

"We were on a serving team there," Dennis said, "And Suzy did some of the cooking." They also donated furniture from their rental properties, which brought them in contact with Brother Benno at the Prince of Peace Abbey.

Family and other commitments for the couple intervened, and it wasn't until 2008 that Suzy reconnected with Brother Benno's. She received a general email looking for someone to replace Dixie Bales as Volunteer Coordinator; she expressed an interest and was accepted for the position. Suzy had known Dixie for 30 years, she said, so she wasn't daunted by warnings that Dixie's shoes would be hard to fill. In her characteristic way, she jumped in whole-heartedly, and soon found that she was being asked to perform other duties at the Center as well.

Dennis came on board again less than a year ago, when he became an assistant to Tom von Betticher, Operations Manager. After eight years, Tom was looking at cutting back his time at the Foundation, and Dennis began filling in. In September, he officially took over Tom's position. He already had experience working with the homeless, serving for twelve years on the San Diego Regional Task Force, part of that time as Chairman. "Our main purpose was to coordinate the efforts of the various charities in the area," he said.

Both Suzy and Dennis are teachers. Suzy has retired from teaching accounting and related business subjects as Mira Costa, Palomar, and UCSD. Dennis continues to teach business economics at Cal State San Marcos two days a week.

Dennis said he enjoys swimming, biking, and farming. They have several acres of fruit and nut trees, as well as vegetables. "It's a lot of work," Suzy said, "but he really enjoys it." Her leisure activities include skiing, cooking, and needlework. They both like to travel.

Both Suzy and Dennis said it's the people at Brother Benno's who keep them enjoying their work—staff, program members, volunteers, and

Guests. "It can be heart-breaking at times," Suzy said, "when you can't do anything to help; but then it's very gratifying to help someone take even a small step (toward improving their lives)."



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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 Vikki Ramey

The Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 3, at 11 a.m. at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Tickets are \$50 per person, a table of ten for \$500. This year's theme is "The Giving Spirit," and what better way to give than by making this luncheon a Christmas gift for your neighbors, friends, and family. There will be entertainment by "The Hot Flashes Folies," a delicious lunch, beautiful door prizes and opportunity baskets, and a silent auction—a day of fun for a good cause, supporting our two women's shelters. For information and reservations, contact **Vera Bayliss** (760-739-9061).

Members, please contact **Sharon Tasker** (760-597-2890) for opportunity baskets/monetary donations. Deadline is October 26. We still need donations of goods and services for baskets and the silent auction. Solicitation letters are available. Deadline is November 1.

Carol Richards is asking members to bring in items soon for teen baskets for girls at Christmas time. We'll be assembling them in November.

Our next two Auxiliary meetings will be on October 26 and November 16 (note the change for November).

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Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTER

by Helen Parsons

Yes, it's only October, but we are planning Christmas toys for at least 1,000 children on December 22 right at the Center!

Although we welcome new toys for all ages, we especially need toys, gift cards, etc. for our littlest children ages 0-3 and for boys ages 12-15.

We are working on an "angel project" where you will be given the name and age of a specific child in need. The info can be picked up at the Center or the Thrift Shop. The November newsletter will have more details. In the meantime, if you are out shopping and see a good sale on new toys, please feel free to go ahead and purchase them! We have a room set aside where we can begin to store collected toys. They can be dropped off at the Center on Production Avenue or at the Thrift Shop—both addresses are in the newsletter.

This is a difficult year for so many of our Guests. Let's shower them with love and generosity on this very special day!

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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 _____