



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

October 2014

## WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

by Dennis Martinek

We had a flood on Monday, September 8, from a burst water line in the laundry room. Because of the quick work of Program men and women, Staff, and Monday volunteers, damage was kept to a minimum; but some floors will have to be replaced.

In addition to the laundry room, the water went into the dining hall, clothing room, children's reading room, intake office, three offices to the right of the entry area, and through the chapel wall where it continued into the accounting office and Harold Kutler's office.

Only quick action by the Brother Benno team prevented major damage that would have closed the Center for an extended period. We can't thank the Monday crew enough for their hard work in mopping, moving tables, lifting boxes, and getting everything else off the floor and out of the water. Within a couple of hours, the water was removed; and many fans were on the floors drying things up. Breakfast was cancelled, but sack lunches were given out. The insurance adjustor was very impressed by the effort to minimize the damage.

I regret that we were so busy that no one thought to take pictures.

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Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.

Team means Together Everyone Achieves More!

## THIRTY-ONE YEARS

... AND COUNTING ...

by Barbara Ladwig

Every October, we celebrate the beginning of the Brother Benno Foundation, which has been in existence for 31 years. Even though many of our readers know at least part of the story, we like to feature the highlights in October for anyone who happens to be new to our newsletter. And for readers who want the full story of the first 20 years, we offer Harold Kutler's book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*. (It's available for a donation in any amount. See page 4.)

Little did **Harold** and **Kay Kutler** know, when they served homemade soup and freshly baked bread to 18 homeless men on October 21, 1983, that they were starting what would become one of the most compassionate and well-known ministries in San Diego County. The soup and bread were made by **Brother Benno Garrity**, a Benedictine monk at what is now called the Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside. The meal was served in the back yard of an old two-bedroom house in downtown Oceanside. Eventually, groups from churches, service clubs, businesses, mobile home parks, and the military became regular monthly serving teams; and a few of those original teams (usually with new members) continue to serve today.

By 1991, it was obvious that the growing ministry needed more space, and the Foundation moved to a 12,000-square-foot warehouse in an industrial park, where it is still housed today. In addition to serving a hot meal six days a week, we provide used clothing, showers, haircuts, laundry facilities, bus passes, blankets, and supplementary

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Appreciation.** The Thrift Shop staff does a good job of letting their volunteers know how much they are appreciated. Back in April, they held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in recognition of National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe** said, "We could not operate without the combined efforts and hard work of our volunteers. I love and appreciate each and every one of them and thank them every day for their service."



Lois, Brigitte and Michelle Hoppe



Ruthie, Debbie and Angie

**Boo!** Speaking of volunteers, the Young Adult Group from St. Margaret Parish in Oceanside spent a Saturday at the Shop, preparing it for



Halloween. **Jessie Gambrell**, coordinator of the Group, sent a note to Board Member **Helen Parsons**, saying: "Thank you again for the fun opportunity today!" It's so great when people who help others want to thank someone for being allowed to help!

**Student Volunteers.** Brother Benno's has a good relationship with MiraCosta College when it comes to providing volunteers. **Denise Seymour**, our Volunteer Coordinator, introduced me to **Lucy** and **Angel**, students who are translating for Guests who don't have a good command of English. They come in once a week for now, and Denise is setting up a schedule for other students so that every day is covered.

"We never know when they'll be needed," Denise said. "Some days we have no one needing translating, and other days there might be a dozen lined up." That's the nature of just about everything at the Center—we never know what to expect—but our crew is always up to the challenges.

**A Little Levity.** I asked **Mary Holguin**, who works with people needing assistance with rent and utility bills, if she'd come across anything unusual lately. "Nothing in particular," she said. But then she added, "One day everything was so crazy around here, I was sure it was full moon, and nobody had taken their meds!"

### THEATER GIVES PATRONS A CHANCE TO HELP THE NEEDY

by Dennis Pinnick

**Chelsea Westerhold** and **Jacob Pasene**, along with their wonderful staff at the Carmike Cinemas Mission Marketplace Theater in Oceanside, are once again hosting a canned food drive for Brother Benno's.

Each year around this time for the past four years, Mission Marketplace Theater has collected canned goods during a movie run and offered something to their patrons in return for the kindness. Chelsea and the management staff have decided to carry on this tradition because of "all the good that Brother Benno's does in our community."

The movie this season is "The Boxtrolls," a PG film that tells the story of an orphaned boy names Eggs, who was raised by underground, cave-dwelling, trash-collecting trolls. The Boxtrolls are targeted by an evil exterminator named Archibald Snatcher, and Eggs has to save his family from him.

The movie premiered on September 26 and will run about a month. Everyone who brings canned food donations during this event will receive a raffle ticket for some fun prizes.

Thank you to all the folks at the Carmike Cinemas Mission Marketplace Theater for thinking of those less fortunate! (The Theater is located at 431 College Blvd. in Oceanside.)

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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>**

### "FOUND" CAT MAKES EVERYBODY'S DAY

by Julie Petrie

**Donna**, one of our homeless Guests, lives in her car with her cat Boots. Anyone who loves animals knows how attached we can become to our little furry friends. I think this is especially true for the homeless, because they have so little they can really call their own, and pets offer so much comfort to those who face life every day living on the streets.

Boots has been cared for and tenderly loved by Donna for more than twelve years, but suddenly one day she jumped out of the car and wandered away. Donna tried to find her for four long days, and she was in an understandable panic as she couldn't find her precious cat anywhere.

When she told me about this, I asked if she had a picture of Boots, and she did—it was actually a painting made by a friend. I made a few copies of it and pinned them up around Brother Benno's. Also, one of her friends posted the same picture on Craig's List, and "presto magico"—within a day the cat was found!

Donna was so happy to have her little Boots back that she brought her in so we could share in her joy. We were all so happy for her and her amazing luck in getting her little kitty back. I thought I could hear happiness in Boots' purr and see it in her eyes—and I believe she was grinning from ear to ear, too!

*(Julie works in our Intake Office.)*

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### IT'S SO TRUE

I think each one of us needs to recognize that we can make a difference and find real meaning in our lives. That may require getting more involved at Brother Benno's, or simply performing "random acts of kindness" toward the poor—perhaps just giving someone a smile. When I do that, I usually get a smile in return, as well as a feeling that I am in the right place to try to make a difference.

*~ Frank Doherty, our Operations Manager on Saturdays*

### AUXILIARY NEWS

The big event of the year is fast approaching—our Annual Luncheon—which will be held on Saturday, November 1, at the beautiful Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Over the years, this event has brought many men and women supporters together to enjoy a great meal, fellowship, and many opportunities to go home with high-quality prizes. Contact **Penny Sallee** now to make your reservation ([pensal49@hotmail.com](mailto:pensal49@hotmail.com)). It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and almost always sells out.

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### YOUNG THOUGHTS

A group of seventh graders took a tour of the Brother Benno Center several years ago, and the letters they wrote to our staff after that tour are worth revisiting. Here are just a few of their thoughts:

“Packaging food for people was my favorite part, knowing that I just helped feed a hungry family.”

“Wow! You guys are awesome! Giving so much of yourselves to the homeless is amazing. Those people must be so grateful God put them in your loving hands. I must admit I was a little scared at first, but now I want to help out. Knowing that you are willing to help makes me know that God is with all those homeless people. When I'm older, I want to make a difference in the world like you.”

“It really made me understand that anyone can make a difference. It was truly an honor to meet Mr. Kutler. It was like being in the presence of a Saint!”

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food packs—all free to the homeless and needy. Rent and prescription assistance are also available on a restricted basis as funds become available. While we started serving only the homeless, today the vast majority of our Guests are working poor families with children.

Most supporters of Brother Benno's are individuals, businesses, corporations, and churches. They donate money, food, and clothing, as well as household items and furniture which are given to the poor or sold in our Thrift Shop, where all profits are turned back into the Foundation.

Harold Kutler continues to be an active presence at Brother Benno's. His beloved wife Kay died on February 15, 2012, after a long illness; but her loving spirit is felt everywhere and is being carried on by many others. Kay had a contagious smile and a beautiful singing voice, but she was most known for the hugs she gave to every person who walked in the door. Even after she was confined to a wheelchair, she continued to reach up to everyone as they came near. And many of us believe that our angel Kay continues to watch over us from above.

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**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)

**Follow Brother Bennos online:**

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

 [Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.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

Brother Benno	Ron Alexander	Helen Lucas	William & Vennita
Pope John Paul II	Mary Peterson	Bill & Joan Maloney	Flanagan
Mother Teresa	Frank Barnet	Dora Ramirez	Virginia Sylwestrzak
Kay Kutler	Frank S. Dolley	Dick & Terry Riley	Alan Port
Ann Sauer	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Buckner	Louise Lakoff
Joe & Ida Friend	Monty Nares	Mary Shankle	Gilbert Brown
Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Rossini	Walter Ulloa	Floyd & Rose
Myron Eichen	Dorothy M. Donahue	Fred Williamson	Caldwell
Alice Jordan	Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	Bernie Weiler
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Will Skinner	Zeferino & Dancy
Richard Farhquar	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Abbot Claude	Nares
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Edith Blaiser	Ehringer, OSB	Harriet Fried
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Andrew & Jane
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Yandura
Kathryn D. Pent	Bernice, Samuel &	Rosemary Tucker	Nysewander Family
Mary Pullman	Milton Silver	Ben E. Lewis	Squirrel Family
Joan Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Roland Bond	Charles Blanchard
Agnus Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Anna Correia	William Pry
Harold Thompson	Bill Boster	Geraldine Howard	Lucille Meyer
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Louise Foussat	Helene McGill	Ruth & Claude
Bob Gleason	Tom Hayward	Andrea Boersma	Sarah McPherson
Jane Pfau	Richard Kurtz	Ben Osgrove	

### Needs

Gently used furniture  
 Non-alcoholic mouthwash  
 Baby powder and shampoo  
 Large shampoo and body wash for men in Program  
 Diapers  
 Hotel-size shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap  
 Disposable razors  
 Women's hygiene items--pads and tampons

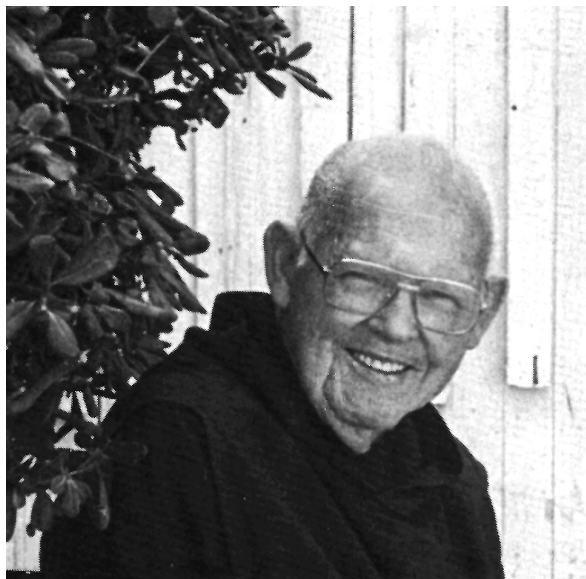
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October</b>			<b>1</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2014</b>						
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>6</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>7</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>8</b> Stew's Crew	<b>9</b> Oceanside Civitanis	<b>10</b> St. Patrick's	<b>11</b> Church of the Nativity
<b>Serving</b>	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Hawkes Home	<b>15</b> Grace Anglican	<b>16</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Team</b>	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>24</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>25</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>27</b> Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	<b>28</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>29</b> Soroptimist International	<b>30</b> Grace Anglican	<b>31</b> King of Kings Lutheran	

### Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

**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 Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- 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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:**

	August 2014	Our 30th Year		August 2014	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,365	3,619,878	Loads of laundry	25	26,835
Nights of lodging	1,033	253,573	Food packs	2,218	260,804
Articles of clothing	5,027	1,078,962	Blankets	126	37,047
Showers	1,295	196,066	Prescriptions	9	7,239
Haircuts	177	17,505	ID Vouchers	9	8,592
Bus passes	91	78,303	HUGS	2,250	880,294