



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

October 2016



INTAKE OFFICE IS “LIKE A TRIAGE CENTER”

The women and men who work in the Intake Office at the Brother Benno Center never know from one day to the next, or even one minute to the next, what to expect. Sometimes those coming for help just need something simple, like picking up their mail. Other times, their stories are so heart-wrenching that it takes all the energy they can muster to stay calm and help the Guests sort through their dilemma.

Julie Petrie, a volunteer, has been at it for five years, and she trains the staff members and other volunteers who come in part-time each week. She said she and the others probably spend as much time on the phone as they do with those who come to the intake window.

“One time she talked with a woman on the phone for about 45 minutes,” said **Joan Slaughter**, who volunteers two days a week.

Julie nodded in agreement. “That woman was about to be evicted from her senior-living apartment because her son wouldn’t move out, and the rules say no one under the age of 50 can live there permanently,” she said. “I tried to help her to see that she had to do what was best for her, asking her where she’d live if she were evicted.”

Julie never learned the outcome of that conversation, which is also pretty typical. Unless the person calls back for some reason, those trying to help are left to wonder. But that’s OK, they say. They do what they can as long as they’re needed, and then they have to let it go.

They listen, assess the problem, offer encouragement, and try to figure out the best way to help. “We’re kind of like a triage center,” Joan said.

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PLANNED GIVING

HAPPY OCTOBER!

This newsletter includes a brochure on Planned Giving. There are many different ways to support the Brother Benno Foundation: donating your time through volunteering your expertise and knowledge in a variety of subjects and disciplines, donated items, and monetary donations that may include Planned Giving.

Planned Giving can have many benefits, both present and future, for the donor, as well as providing support to Brother Benno’s ongoing mission of serving the poor. The brochure gives a brief overview of the more common ways to accomplish such goals.

We are fortunate to have two well-respected attorneys who specialize in trusts and estate planning agree to donate a half-hour consultation with those who may be interested in learning more about Planned Giving. Or, if you have a financial advisor or attorney, perhaps that is where you may want to seek additional information.

Please do not hesitate to call me for a referral or for additional information (760-439-1244, ext. 116).

Thank you,

Suzy Martinek, Board Member/Volunteer

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Change Alert. The Thrift Shop has changed its days and hours of business. It will now be open **Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Check out their frequent specials and sale days on [Facebook.com/Brother-Bennos](https://www.facebook.com/Brother-Bennos).

UPDATE ON HAROLD KUTLER

(The following was written by Harold's son Jim)

To everyone in our Brother Benno community, September 22 was my Dad's 90th birthday. My Mom Kay, as many of you might remember, needed only the slightest reason to get everyone together for a great time. Bless her! My Dad and I are more about celebrating things with a nice quiet chill day. In addition to that, my Dad has less extra energy for long social situations, so that's why we didn't have the big party many of you may have thought would be fitting.

I came up with something that seems better for him and for all of you. I'm going to organize phone calls and visits for him this fall so that as many of you who would like to speak to him or see him personally can get that chance. If there's something important you want him to know quickly, please call me directly: Jim Kutler, 619-708-3491.

For the "saying hi" calls and visits, please call, text, or email me (jimkutler@gmail.com) and leave your phone number and when it's best for you to be reached. When we connect, we'll work out a good time for you to talk to or see my Dad. If you want to know the days we'll be at the Center or at a Brother Benno function, let me know that, too.

You can, of course, always send Dad a card or letter: Harold Kutler, P.O. Box 261, Oceanside, CA 92049.

Our best wishes to all of you and yours.
Peace and Love!

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Jim and Harold Kutler

....continued from page 1

Often the best help they can give is to refer someone to another agency that offers services Brother Benno does not, such as long-term shelter. Occasionally we're able to give someone a voucher for a night or two in a hotel, while some other non-profits run their own shelter or have the resources to put up an individual or a family in a hotel for a longer period of time.

In order to qualify for a bus pass at Brother Benno's, the Guest must show proof of a doctor appointment or a scheduled time at the DMV, where many Guests go to get an official ID card.

The police sometimes come to the Center, hoping to locate a missing family member. If possible, they furnish us with a photo of the person, which is posted in the Intake Office, so that if someone comes in who resembles a picture, they can try to get the Guest and his/her family back in contact. Sometimes that leads to the homeless person realizing that the family still cares, and a reunion ensues.

Julie and Joan said it's amazing how many people have no skills when it comes to managing their lives. Instead of just doing everything for them, they try instead to ask questions that often lead the person to figure out a solution. That realization empowers them, and hopefully they can draw on that experience when the next crisis occurs.

Others who help in the intake office are **Carol Brown, Bunny Lupica, Elana Bagley, Jan Roberts, Thom Kirk, Michelle Rickwald, and Darryl Harris.**

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Cargo Van. We often hear that our donors like to know when we have a special need for a large item. Currently the Thrift Shop needs a cargo van, new or used, to transport items to and from the Shop's storage warehouse. If you'd like to help, please contact **Dennis Martinek (760-439-1244, ext. 102).**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

This is the story about two men who were powerless over alcoholism and drug addictions.

“James” attempted three recovery programs in another city, graduating each time; but he continued to relapse and could not stay clean and sober. He drank until the end, according to his wife.

“Mark” went through Brother Benno’s Men and Women’s Recovery Program three times, and the third time he finally “got it.” He’s been clean and sober for more than seven years, and he’s gone from what some have called a selfish and self-serving man to one who is all about working a program of recovery.

What’s the difference?

James went back to his old way of life and failed to make any changes. He continued to live the life he always lived—same friends, going to the same places, doing the same things he used to do, even getting his old job back.

Mark has found a power greater than himself and has chosen to stay in touch with many of the people at Brother Benno’s who’ve helped him along the way. He has a sponsor who has taken him through the 12 Steps and the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. He has support groups in AA and at Brother Benno’s that he stays in touch with on a daily basis. He goes to meetings and lives in a sober-living house where he has the day-to-day support of other men who are also clean and sober. He gives back what has so freely been given to him.

Admittedly, there are other factors that have played into the success and failure of these two men. But Brother Benno’s has learned a great deal about men and women with alcohol and drug addictions over the past thirty-plus years. It all starts with a decision to change their lives, to admit they are powerless over drugs and alcohol. They have to surrender to win.

The Brother Benno Recovery Program is 26 weeks. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous is a daily reprieve based on one’s spiritual condition, so to maintain their spirituality every person has to find God of their understanding, or what AA calls a “power greater than themselves.”

All the participants live in Brother Benno

Houses (we currently have four for men and three for women), and all their basic needs, including food and transportation, are provided so that they can focus entirely on the work of recovery. They also work at the Center and/or Thrift Shop five days a week, which gives them the opportunity to learn the value of service to others.

After completing our Program, the men and women are encouraged to come back to the Center and be of service to those who are less fortunate and those who are new in the Program.

The Mentors and other graduates, all of whom are in Alcoholics Anonymous, have learned how to live life without having to drink or use. They have a daily reprieve from the obsession because of their relationship with their higher power. The work of recovery is endless, and Brother Benno’s is committed to being there for everyone who is serious about changing and living a clean and sober life.

Donations from our many supporters, along with grants from local businesses and other entities, are what make it possible for Brother Benno’s to offer what many call the most successful Recovery Program in San Diego County.

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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 Carol Sanford

All hands on deck! At our September meeting, a request was made for some Auxiliary members to put in two evenings of after-hours help at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop to get out more clothing for display. This was a new activity for us, and the ladies just loved the camaraderie, the snacks, and the warm feelings that came with "doing good" for a cause. Thank you, **Michelle (Hoppe)** and **Helen (Parsons)** for being such great hostesses, and thanks to all the members who participated. I have an idea this activity will bear repeating at various times in the future when the need arises.

Knitters, are you hiding out there somewhere? The Auxiliary has always donated little "blankies" and caps for the newborns at Camp Pendleton Hospital, as well as knitted crutch covers for the Wounded Warriors there. Patterns are available; all we need are your nimble fingers and a desire to help our Military in times of joy/need. If interested, call 760-757-5212 for details and patterns. Warm scarves, caps, and fingerless gloves are also needed for the Center's Guests, per **Carol (Muehe)** in the Clothing Room. Her supply has dwindled.

This month's meeting on Wednesday, October 26, is very important. It's snacks and socializing at 1 p.m., meeting at 1:30. We will be voting on the 2017 Board of Directors, and we will also vote on the proposed by-laws as amended this year by a hard-working group of members. Be There!

Tickets continue to be sold for our Luncheon Fundraiser, "Celebrating 20 Years of Giving," on Saturday, December 3, at the Sheraton

in Carlsbad. Contact **Nita Rodriguez** (760-994-0355) for additional details on tickets and table selections. \$60 per person, \$600 for a table of ten, includes **free valet parking**. You can download the ticket order form by using this link: <http://bit.ly/2cM9C0W>. You won't want to miss this year's version of the lively Thrift Shop Fashion Parade that so entranced even the MEN who attended last year! Come one, come all! The hotel will be all decked out in holiday splendor, so start your "season of giving" by having fun with us. See you there!

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Congratulations and Thank You!

Lois Schwartz has been volunteering two days a week for 17 years at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. When she and her husband **Gil** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past August, the couple was surprised when several dozen staff and volunteers gathered to recognize their anniversary and volunteer work. **Harold Kutler**, our founder, presented them with a proclamation, as did Oceanside City Councilman **Chuck Lowery**. The *San Diego Union-Tribune* featured Lois and Gil in an article on September 4, 2016.



Harold Kutler, Gil & Lois Schwartz, Chuck Lowery

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	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Zeferino & Dancy
Frank Barnet	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Nares
Brother Benno	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Nysewander Family
Edith Blaiser	Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Squirrell Family
Andrea Boersma	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Philamena Consul
Roland Bond	Tom Hayward	Catherine L. Quinlan	Brad Dusak
Bill Boster	Elizabeth Holms	Dora Ramirez	Agnes Metz
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Gilbert Brown
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Rose & Floyd
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Ann Sauer	Caldwell
Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Gwen Simpson
Anna Correia	Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Joe Koenn
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	James Peterson
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Ben E. Lewis	Milton Silver	Mary Kennedy
Frank S. Dolley	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	Pat Halibozek
Anita H. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl	Georgina
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helene McGill	Margaret Stephan	McCormack
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Michael & Monty	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Bill Pry
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Mother Teresa	Bill Foran
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	Clay Pardee
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Dorothy Quinn
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Bob Strawbridge
Richard Farhquar	Pope John Paul II	June Williams	Bill Severy

Needs

Gently used furniture	Diapers	Reading Glasses, Sunglasses
Sturdy walking shoes for men and women	Men's jeans	Men's belts
Hand-Knit Goods (see details on page 4)	Cargo Van	Plastic and Paper Grocery Bags

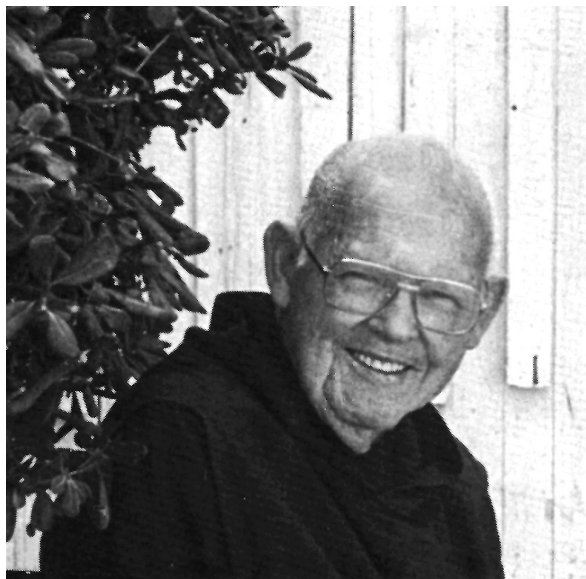
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2016 Monthly Serving Team Schedule						1 St. Thomas More
	3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 TVIA
	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Team Wyndham	12 1st MLG FCPOA	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 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Catholic Daughters
	24 Christ Church	25 St. Mark's San Marcos	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Pilgrim Creek	28 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	29 Shiloh Church of God In Christ

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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 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:

	August 2016	Our 32nd Year		August 2016	Our 32nd Year
Meals	13,165	3,938,970	Loads of laundry	26	27,440
Nights of lodging	928	277,883	Food packs	1,543	303,925
Articles of clothing	5,797	1,207,546	Blankets	146	40,700
Showers	1,272	223,207	Tarps	104	1,443
Haircuts	144	20,590	ID Vouchers	12	8,866
Bus passes	124	81,115	HUGS	1,800	926,644

GONE FROM MY SIGHT

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone" Gone where? Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast, hull and spar as she was when she left my side. And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me - not in her. And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone," there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!" And that is dying... Death comes in its own time, in its own way.
Author Unknown

MISSION STATEMENT

The Brother Benno Foundation is dedicated to distributing the generous gifts entrusted to it by the community and to uplift the dignity of those we serve in North Coastal San Diego County.

Our mission is to continue Brother Benno's ministry of serving the needs of our guests with love and compassion. We strive to provide a non-judgmental atmosphere, and to treat our guests with unconditional love. Within the limits of our resources, we try to provide them with life's basic needs.

Our over-riding philosophy is to assist our guests in attaining self-sufficiency.



The Brother Benno's Foundation is non-denominational and welcomes all people.

The Brother Benno Foundation is a private, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Video highlighting Brother Benno's can be viewed at www.brotherbenno.org

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THE BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?



*Uplifting the Dignity of
Those We Serve*

3260 Production
Oceanside, California 92058
760-439-1244
www.brotherbenno.org



PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving, sometimes referred to as gift planning, can range from simple bequests in your trust or will to a major gift that uses current tax laws to maximize the gift's impact on the organization and return financial benefits to the donor. It enables philanthropic individuals or donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income.

Planned gifts can result in immediate income, income to charity over time or serve to delay a gift for life or other period of time while the donor or others retain income and/or access to the assets used to fund the gift. Because of the current or future charitable benefits, a number of state and/or federal income tax, capital gains, estate and gift benefits are associated with giving in this way.

TYPES OF PLANNED GIVING

Choosing the right Planned Gift depends on your personal circumstances and financial goals. Here are a few of the options available for Planned Giving.

BEQUESTS & ESTATE PLANNED GIFTS

You may make a bequest or gift through your estate by including a provision in your will or living trust, or by naming The Brother Benno Foundation as a

beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. The amount left to Brother Benno's can be expressed as a dollar amount or as a percentage of the assets to be given. This type of Planned Giving is flexible and easy to establish.

ENDOWMENTS

A financial endowment is a donation of money or property to a nonprofit organization for the ongoing support of that organization. Usually the endowment is structured so the principal amount is kept intact while the investment income is available for use, or part of the principal is released each year, which allows for the donation to have an impact over a longer period than if it were spent all at once. An endowment may come with stipulations regarding its usage

LIFE INSURANCE

Life insurance allows you to make a much larger gift to Brother Benno's than you might otherwise be able to afford. Although the cost to you (your premiums) is relatively small, the amount the charity will receive (the death benefit) can be quite substantial. Since life insurance proceeds paid to a charity are not subject to income and estate taxes, probate costs, and other expenses, the charity can count on receiving 100 percent of your gift. Giving life insurance to charity also has certain income tax benefits. Depending on how

you structure your gift, you may be able to take an income tax deduction equal to your basis in the policy or its fair market value, and you may be able to deduct the premiums you pay for the policy on your annual income tax return.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

A CRT lets you convert a highly appreciated asset like stock or real estate into lifetime income. It reduces your income taxes now and estate taxes when you die. You pay no capital gains tax when the asset is sold. When you transfer an appreciated asset into an irrevocable trust this removes the asset from your estate, so no estate taxes will be due on it when you die. You can also receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction.



We are a Four Star charity on Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is an American independent charity watchdog organization that evaluates charitable organizations in the United States. Please visit charitynavigator.org for a full review of Brother Benno's financials. You can rest assured that every dollar you give from a Planned Gift will be used to continue the The Brother Benno Foundation's Mission.

For additional information, please contact Suzy Martinek at 760-439-1244 Ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu