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.

continued on page 2....

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

Ω

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.
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!

Ο

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 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.

Ω

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
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/2eM9C0W. 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!

Ω

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.

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_______________________

Harold Kutler, Gil & Lois Schwartz, Chuck Lowery
Memorials

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

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<td>Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Shiloh Church of God In Christ</td>
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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.
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 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

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www.brotherbenno.org
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

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

06-16 SM
PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving, sometimes referred to as gift planning, can range from simple bequests in your 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