



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

October 2018



BEACON ON A HILL

by Elana Bagley

Imagine you are "**Gloria**," a 25-year-old woman with a drug addiction, living in your car. You have arrived in Oceanside from the Los Angeles area where your two children, ages two and four, have been taken from you and put into foster care. You are currently eight months pregnant with your third child. You are scared and have no idea what to do. The only thing you know is that you need help. You have gone to many agencies seeking help and have been handed referrals and other "stuff"; but as far as you are concerned, none of it gives you any tangible solutions.

Because you are pregnant and have many visible tattoos, no one will hire you. You are discouraged, frustrated, and skeptical. And you are desperate!

This was the state Gloria was in when she walked through the door of the McAlister Institute and into the office of **Carlos Monsanto**. She related her situation and frustration, and he told her he would help her. "If you give me a chance and you don't give up on me, I won't give up on you," he said. He pointed to a picture of a lighthouse on his wall and told her, "I am the lighthouse on a cliff and you are in a boat. I will guide you to land, but you have to steer the boat. Is that a deal?" She agreed.

Because Carlos has built relationships with many community providers, he was able to secure a bed for her that day in **Serenity House**, a residential treatment program. But first he made sure all her basic needs were met, and that's where **Brother Benno's** came in. We were able to give her all the clothes, hygiene items, and food that she needed before she entered the program. Over the next several months, Carlos

continued to work closely with the staff at Serenity House and **Interfaith Community Services** to advocate for her.

Within eight months of her first meeting with Carlos, this lost and desperate young woman had completely turned her life around. She delivered a healthy baby, completed a six-month residential treatment program, was reunited with her two preschoolers, was gainfully employed, and had permanent housing. All this was the fulfillment of what Carlos had told her was possible at their first meeting—if she was willing to do the work.

About this time, Carlos received a phone call from Gloria's mother. She thanked him profusely and told him none of this would have been possible without his help. Mostly, she thanked him for the opportunity to be a mother and grandmother again. Carlos said that was the first time he had cried because of a client's successful outcome. As he was relating this portion of the story to me, he got choked up again. (I admit, I did too.)

Even though the part that Brother Benno's played was small, some may even say negligible, we share in the joy and celebration of the outcome. When we work together, each community provider doing what they do best, we contribute to the final outcome.

Sometimes it takes just one person to act as a champion, to be willing to go long and deep to help those who are lost and drifting on a sea of despair—one person to be that beacon on a hill, to guide them back to shore.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Gratitude. A recent post on Brother Benno's Facebook page is from **Krissy**: "Brother Benno's is amazing and is the foundation of where we are today (well, God is first); but if not for Benno's, I don't know what our lives would have been like when we were homeless. Today I have two part-time jobs. . . . We are forever grateful to Benno's for their help and support!!!"

The message was followed by three hearts. And we say, Thanks for your kind words.

Reaching Out. We have just one opening left for a new serving team on the 4th Tuesday of each month; so if you'd like to get a group of seven to ten people together who can come in from 6:30 to 8 a.m., give Suzy a call (760-941-1876). Maybe it's your family, friends, neighbors, service club, fellow employees, or any other group looking for a fun and worthwhile experience but can serve only once a month—we'd love to have you!

Part of the Solution. We have reported several times this year about Brother Benno's role in addressing the outbreak of Hepatitis A in San Diego County by welcoming nurses and other health workers to our facility to administer the preventive immunizations to staff, volunteers, and Guests.

A recent letter from **Helen Robbins-Meyer**, Chief Administrative Officer for the County, said in part: "I would like to thank you for your organization's contributions to the hepatitis A outbreak response. Your hard work and dedication have been an integral part of the efforts to address the outbreak throughout the San Diego region."

Thirsty! We continue to have a need for donations of bottled water to be used by our staff members, volunteers, and Recovery Program men and women. Unfortunately, we have had to stop handing them out to our homeless Guests, because they tend to toss the empty bottles everywhere throughout the area of our Center. They do have access to water, however, at the drinking fountain inside the Center.

Elana Bagley, one of our Recovery Program mentors, shared a resource for those interested in learning more about homelessness in San Diego County. It's a podcast called "Homeless in San Diego," and it's hosted by **Greg Anglea**, CEO of Interfaith Community Services, a huge provider of services for the homeless. They interview not only homeless people, but also those working on the front lines to provide services and make policy that directly impact the homeless population. Every episode ends with a "Call to Action," which is a way for listeners to become part of the solution.

A Loving Collaboration. A small interfaith group that calls itself "All About Love" comes to the Brother Benno Center almost every Saturday to hand out bag lunches to our Guests as they leave after our Saturday spaghetti feast. According to **Christan Hummel**, a member of the group, it is comprised of Buddhists, Quakers, Christians, and Hindus, who found out that since we aren't open on Sundays, there was a need to "tide folks over until Monday." In an email to me, he added, "Since the folks at Benno's have been more about helping than about ego, they of course responded with an enthusiastic 'Yes' (when we offered to help); and the two-year partnership has been the result."

In addition to bag lunches, the group gives out hygiene kits, socks, and blankets several times a year. And members are always happy to listen to the Guests' stories and offer moral support.

Christan shared stories he'd heard from a few of our Guests who'd been taken care of by

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Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving preparations are already underway, and many of our supporters are wondering how they can help. The following is a list of food items that will greatly help us serve up a beautiful feast:

- Frozen turkeys
- Large cans of turkey/chicken gravy
- Large cans of cranberries
- Good quality plastic knives, forks, and spoons
- Sturdy medium-size plates for serving the pie
(We use trays for the main meal.)

All items can be dropped off at our warehouse at the back of the main Center, Monday through Friday between 6:30 and 12:30, and on Saturday between 8:30 and 12.30. (We need the turkeys no later than November 14.)

As always, we thank you for your generosity!

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Carlos Monsanto and Regina Saldana

(Carlos Monsanto and Regina Saldana are a Homeless Outreach Team from McAlister Institute who come to the Brother Center every Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. to serve our Guests.)

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Brother Benno's. There was one about a woman and her two daughters who'd had to flee their home because of threats from her drunken husband, another from a disabled vet who'd lost his home in a fire but after a year was still on a waiting list with HUD, and one about a woman who worked full-time cleaning apartments but didn't have enough money to buy food for her and her son. He also said he'd talked to a man who had finally turned his life around by going into rehab, but after finishing the program had nowhere to go.

These are situations that really challenge our staff members and volunteers. Sometimes they have to accept the fact that they can't find solutions, at least not right away; but solving any of them is cause for great joy.

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Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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 Nita Rodriguez

Eight to twelve Auxiliary members make up a Brother Benno Thrift Shop work party that volunteers on the second Wednesday of every month. "You know, we can do two things at once," said **Rosie McDaniel**, "work and talk!"

Jack Bruzas added with a wink, "We love hanging around," as he hangs shirts on a rack. **Frank Cerimele**, who coordinates the group, said that volunteers get into a rhythm and usually fill nine large racks of clothing during their two-hour shift. Everyone says they love the camaraderie as they give service to Brother Benno's. And Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe** says these work parties are very important, because they help her put more products for sale on the floor. **A big shout-out of thanks to all!**



Front L to R: Amy Salgado, Sally Callahan, Rosie McDaniel, Joyce Cerimele
Back L to R: Rosemary Hodgson, Dorine Meade, Linda Boyd, Jack Bruzas, Juanita Hughes, Frank Cerimele

Tickets are now on sale for the Auxiliary's **Annual Luncheon on Saturday, December 1, at noon.** (Doors open at 11). It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we invite all of you to join us. It's at the Westin/Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa (new name, same place). Tickets are \$75 per person, \$600 for a table of 8. Valet parking is included. Table location choices are first-come, first-served, so talk to your friends and reserve now.

You can download ticket order forms here: <https://tinyurl.com/yam6r72y> or call **Susan Westlund** (206-349-1371) if you want an order form mailed to you.

Sponsorships are an important component of the Luncheon. There are several levels beginning at \$500, and each level enjoys benefits, such as luncheon seats and tabletop program advertising. For a sponsorship packet or more information, please contact **Deb Drew** (760-617-6762) or dldrew@sbcglobal.net

Members need to be present at our October 24 meeting to vote on Auxiliary Board Officers for the coming year. Social time and snacks begin at 1 p.m., meeting at 1:30. We welcome all at our meetings.

Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? Download our membership application at <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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

Ron Alexander	Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Eric Boehle
Dixie & Lou Bales	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Robert Kutler
Frank Barnet	Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	May Taylor
Brother Benno	Tom Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Bob Strawbridge
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Robert Buchach
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Marie Atkinson
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Ann Sauer	Barbara LaMothe
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Jack Gillen
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Stacey Diet
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Peggy Miville
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Agatha Johnson
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	Happy Birthday
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Squirrell Family	Richard Shlemmer
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Mike Stendahl	
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Margaret Stephan	
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Harold Thompson	
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Carol & Herb	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Thornberg	
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson	
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Robert DiCario	
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Joan Jones	
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Bruno Acosta	

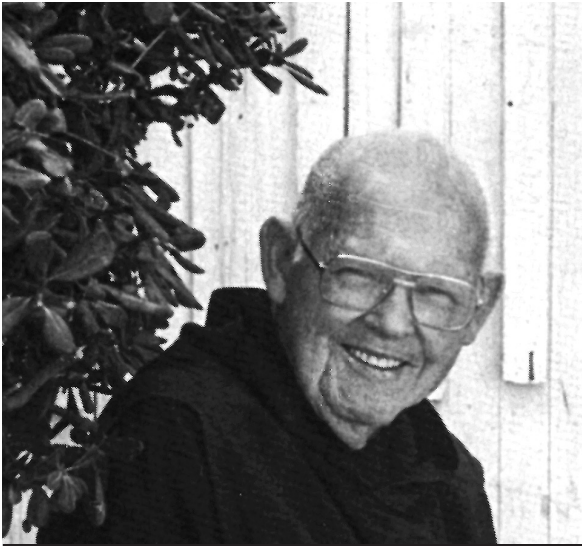
Needs

Gently used furniture Reading glasses - 1.5 to 4.0 Sunglasses
 Camp tents - one to four persons Bottled water Thanksgiving food (see page 3)
 Plastic bags Books

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2018 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Riverview Church	10 Fairwinds	11 Oceanside Civitans	12 St. Patrick's	13 San Rafael
	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	18 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
	22 St. Thomas More RCIA	23 Looking for a team	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	27 Catholic Daughters
	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Welk Resort	31 Soroptimist International			

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

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Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Tue-Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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:

	August 2018	Our 34th Year		August 2018	Our 34th Year
Meals	13,764	4,253,436	Loads of laundry	26	28,115
Nights of lodging	878	299,444	Food packs	1,097	335,435
Articles of clothing	4,123	1,335,639	Blankets	161	45,292
Showers	1,171	251,713	Tarps	135	3,929
Haircuts	98	22,460	ID Vouchers	28	9,207
Bus passes	122	83,818	HUGS	1,800	973,894