



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

October 2019



A SPECIAL PLACE FOR CHILDREN

by Frank Doherty

On a recent Saturday, I was at the reception desk at the Center when a mother and child walked in. She was a young mother, perhaps in her early twenties, and was looking for food for her family. She said her refrigerator was empty, they didn't have enough money to buy food, and they hadn't eaten that day.

Our dining room was closed, so as we always do in emergencies, we gave her a bag of food to tide them over for the weekend and a list of our services and hours of operation so she could come back on Monday to sign up for a Brother Benno card.

What was interesting to me was the joy on the child's face when we gave her mother the food. You could see as much excitement in the face of that child as in the face of the mother. This is the type of situation that gives us such meaning in our service at Brother Benno's.

We celebrate special times with the children—the Christmas Party, complete with Santa Claus, stuffed stockings, and gift cards; Easter baskets; and backpacks filled with back-to-school items. We also distribute diapers and baby care supplies, as well as layettes and receiving blankets for newborns, thanks to the Brother Benno Auxiliary. Our Clothing Room at the Center, as well as the Brother Benno Thrift Shop, offer our families clothing free or at very reduced prices.

We don't always appreciate the impact we have on children. It's wonderful to see the little ones in their own place at the Center, the Children's Reading Room, where they can read a book or play a game after having a meal with their parents. They even get to choose several books to take home and keep.



Our Emergency Assistance Program helps qualifying families with one-time rent and/or utility payments, which prevents homelessness. The food boxes we distribute to over 700 families a month results in them having enough food to supplement what they can afford to buy themselves.

Helping the children of the working poor and homeless is perhaps one of the most beautiful and worthwhile aspects of Brother Benno's. Our Staff, Volunteers, and Auxiliary work together to make our Center a special place for children. We aspire to do God's work in serving the poor, and we have a special place in our hearts for the children.

(Editor's Note: Of course, all these services are possible only because of the unending generosity of our many donors—monetary and otherwise!)

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

We Celebrate. Birthdays are a big deal at Brother Benno's, especially those that fit the category of "Milestones." And what could be a bigger milestone than our long-time Board member **Dan Boone** reaching the ripe young age of 90! And speaking of Dan, I like to remember another volunteer named **David Crockett**. Honestly!

Our Craftsmen. Another nonagenarian at Brother Benno's is volunteer **John Jarvie**, who can turn any piece of wood into a work of art—furniture, wall niches, storage containers, whatever. He is ably assisted by a much younger **Ron Lamb**, carpenter-extraordinaire, who also does things like paint walls and install new flooring. Together, these kind-hearted men keep the Center and the Recovery Houses in good repair and looking great.

Recovery. Men and women who graduate from our Recovery Program sometimes come back as staff members or volunteers, where they are in a great position to mentor those who are currently in the Program. One particular occasion when many graduates join the Program Men and Women is at the Fourth of July Barbecue held at a local park. It's all about fellowship and support, and all our graduates know that they can come back to help out or to get a boost when they need it themselves.

Creative Fund Raisers. Since the Brother Benno Auxiliary decided not to continue their Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, they've come up with some new and interesting fund-raisers, such as an Ohana Luau, Sip & Paint, and the big Golf Tournament in September. Be sure to check the Auxiliary News every month to be sure you don't miss any of their creative (and fun) fund raisers.

Inspiration. Regular newsletter readers know that our Founders, **Harold** and **Kay Kutler**, are no longer with us. (Kay died in 2012 and Harold in 2018). Whenever those of us who knew them well are faced with decisions and challenges, we often ask ourselves, "What would Harold and Kay do?" and their example never fails to give us

the answers we need.

I often find myself pulling Harold's book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, off the shelf when I need inspiration. The following excerpt from Kay on page 205 reminded me that we all have something worthwhile to share with others, and we always get back more than we give:

Kay said, "Because of my perceived deficiencies, I thought I could never do anything seriously important. Sure, I could belt out a song before a big crowd, but that's entertainment. Yes, I could carry on a conversation with anyone. But if we ventured out beyond small talk, Ouch! So I judged myself a lightweight—until Brother Benno's came into my life.

"Finally my gifts of hospitality, entertainment, and empathy for the underdog gave meaning and fulfillment to my life that I had never experienced before. Soon I realized God did have something important for me to do, beyond marriage and motherhood. I became an instrument of love and hope to His needy ones."

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"Poverty doesn't only consist of being hungry for bread, but rather it is a tremendous hunger for human dignity. We need to love and to be somebody for someone else. This is where we make our mistake and shove people aside. Not only have we denied the poor a piece of bread, but by thinking that they have no worth and leaving them abandoned in the streets, we have denied them the human dignity that is rightfully theirs as children of God."

~Mother Teresa

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

FEEL-GOOD STORIES FROM OUR THRIFT SHOP

by Helen Parsons

Earlier in the year, the Thrift Shop employees and volunteers had the privilege of furnishing "Dan's" first home after many years of being homeless. We shopped with him, delivered all his furnishings the next day, and witnessed his utter joy! Dan sent all of us his gratitude in texts and emails. We had two more Guests scheduled to come in and "shop" that same month. Yes, that what your donations do—give a hand up to those most in need.

Another man we helped was "Charles." He'd been trying to save enough money to buy a bike and had already picked one out at the Shop. We encouraged him to buy a lock for it. Volunteers chipped in to pay for the bike and added a backpack and a warm hooded sweatshirt. He was one happy man!



Charles

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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.

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Donated Items: If you want your donations to be used for a particular purpose, please mark the bag or box in big, bold letters—Thrift Shop, Program Members, Poor and Homeless.

Money Donations: When we ask for help with a special project such as kitchen equipment, motel vouchers, new truck, etc., please include a note with your check.

Mailing Address Changes: Attach an address change to your check, or when asking to be taken off the mailing list. Please give us at least a month to make these changes.

Special Donation Requests: When sending a donation to remember the death of a loved one, make a notation that it's "In Memory Of" or simply IMO. Sometimes we get donations saying "In Honor Of" and we don't always know if it's a memorial or something else.

Thanks!

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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 Joyce Cerimele

September was spent in a flurry of activity, getting all the ducks in a row for the first Brother Benno Golf Tournament that was held on September 27. Silent auction items had to be finished up and packaged. Items for the "goodie bags" for golfers had to be filled. Posters for the entrance and signs for golf carts had to be finished. Etc, etc., etc.! We'll announce the results in the November newsletter.

Our members have still been spending their volunteer efforts and time on our ongoing activities such as the Breakfast Club (serving the morning meal once a month), Thrift Shop work parties, and layette gathering—all working tirelessly to help those who rely on Brother Benno's.

If you are not already a member of the Auxiliary and are interested in becoming one, please come to one of our upcoming meetings: October 23 and November 20. (There is no meeting in December). Social time starts at 1 p.m., meeting at 1:30, in the Center Dining Room.

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Would you like to volunteer at Brother Benno's and learn a new skill at the same time? We're looking for grant writers--and hopefully a Grant Data Base Administrator as well. Please call **Frank Doherty** (760-804-1948) to learn more about this opportunity.

Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

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

Mission Statement for Recovery Program

Harold Kutler had a special concern for men and women suffering from addictions, and he spoke eloquently about it in his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, (page 133):

"We must accept the reality that neither we nor anybody else can 'fix' them. The addict must make the decision to do whatever is necessary to crawl out of the ditch and work through the shame and destroyed self-esteem. This journey is almost impossible without a commitment to the Twelve-Step program of AA, along with the love, acceptance, forgiveness, and prayers of those who love and care about the addict."

Our mission statement:

"Feed the hungry. The addict needs physical food, but even more desperately, he needs food for the spirit.

"Give drink to the thirsty. The addict needs physical drink, but even more she needs to drink in love, acceptance, and support.

"Shelter the homeless. We not only shelter them, but we also provide them with a home and an extended family.

"Clothe the naked. We give them clothing to cover their bodies, and we reach out to clothe their spirit.

"Comfort the sick. Addiction is a disease that damages both body and soul. We provide a program to help them get well.

"Visit the prisoner. Being imprisoned by addiction is a living hell. By interacting with the men and women in our recovery program, we become part of the key that will open the gate to their freedom."

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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 _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	John, Helen, Matt
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	Hagen
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Dora Ramirez	H. Edward Smith
Brother Benno	Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Family
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Jeanne St. Amant
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Donna & Gilbert
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Brown
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Peggy Miville
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Frank Beeson
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Ruth Johnson
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Joe Galizio
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Dorothy & Fred
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	Seeuus
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Floyd Atkinson
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	Barbara LaMothe
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	Ben Osgrove
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	William Pry
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Harold Thompson	Happy Birthday
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	J. David Shlemmer
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Jacquelyn Montable	
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Josh	
Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Donald Deffenbaugh	

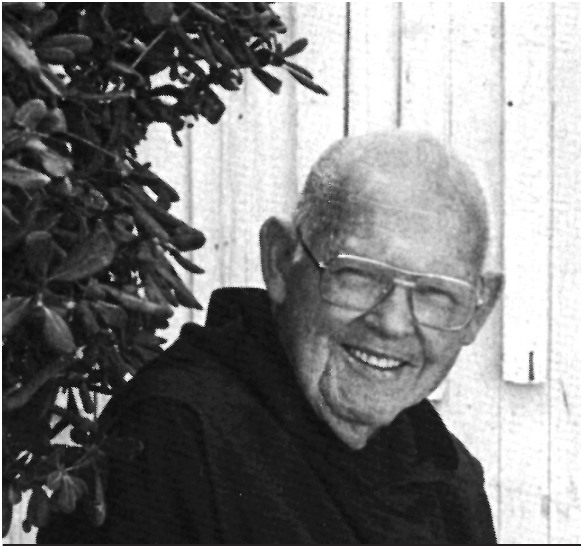
Needs

Gently used furniture
 P-38 can openers
 Blankets
 Baby diapers, Sizes 3, 4, 5, 6
 Polyfill (Pillow Stuffing)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
2019						
Monthly	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Riverview Church	9 Fairwinds	10 Oceanside Civitans	11 St. Patrick's	12 La Costa Valley Volunteers
Serving	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ the King Lutheran	16 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	17 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
Team	21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 Vista Hi-Noon Rotary	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Pilgrim Creek	25 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	26 Catholic Daughters
Schedule	28 St. Thomas More RCIA	29 Welk Resort	30 Soroptimist International	31 Brother Benno's Thrift Shop		

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-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 2019	Our 35th Year		August 2019	Our 35th Year
Meals	12,291	4,406,913	Loads of laundry	11	28,451
Nights of lodging	995	310,317	Food packs	784	347,529
Articles of clothing	4,383	1,391,872	Blankets	104	47,177
Showers	1,204	264,874	Tarps	94	5,240
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	43	9,657
Bus passes	120	85,039	HUGS	2,250	997,744