



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

October 2020



HELPING BROTHER BENNO'S BY WORKING FROM HOME

by Frank Doherty

Inside each one of us is a treasure of talent. In this time of pandemic, when we are limited in what we can do, there is an opportunity for you to use your talent and to find a real sense of meaning by joining the Brother Benno's Grant Writing Team. This is a volunteer position that requires you to have some computer skills and allows you to work from home.

Grant writers will tell you that there's a great amount of personal satisfaction from having a grant request awarded. You will be doing something that can greatly contribute to providing the funding needed for Brother Benno's to help the poor.

Grant writing is a skill that can be learned by doing. Grant applications are, for the most part, done online. A lot of the information needed has already been developed and can be accessed and copied into a new grant application. While the preparation of a grant application can take some time, you will find yourself learning skills that continually improve with each grant request you do.

Brother Benno's is very fortunate to have one of the most capable professional grant writers in San Diego—**Kaye Kelley**—leading our grant writing team. You will receive training and guidance from Kaye online. We also have copies of previous successful grant applications to help guide your own preparation. You will enjoy meeting other members of the team in a Zoom meeting on the second Saturday of every month.

Your pathway to finding purpose can be greatly enhanced by opening yourself up to new possibilities. Contributing your talents by writing grant applications will help you find meaning and make a significant difference in the lives of the poor.

If you have an interest in joining the Grant Writing Team or have questions, please email Kaye Kelly at kayekelley@outlook.com.

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Brother Benno Auxiliary
“Pay It Forward Fundraiser”
Donations accepted until October 15
brotherbenno.org/golf-2020

This fundraiser is new! We are asking supporters to donate money that will be used to buy a round of golf for our active-duty military service members at Camp Pendleton. When he or she goes to the golf course at the Camp, they are told that—SURPRISE—the Brother Benno Auxiliary is paying for their round of golf! It's a great way to show our protectors that we appreciate what they are doing and raise money for the Foundation at the same time.

If you have questions about this event, please contact **Nita Rodriguez** (310-795-7627) or auxiliary@brotherbenno.org.

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A LOVING SUCCESS STORY

The following message was posted on our Facebook page recently by a man named **Ben**.

“I wanted to share a story about how y’all helped my family get back on our feet. About ten years ago, my wife, two kids, and myself found ourselves in hard times. A series of events we were not ready for resulted in us living in our van in Southern California.

“We visited the Brother Benno Center for a free lunch and ended up helping out by sweeping up the delivery area and doing some light chores. We got invited back for another meal, and I volunteered myself to work in the kitchen. Within days we were regulars at the Center, helping out with meals and pitching in where we could assist. The staff clearly bonded with us, and within a couple weeks my two teenage kids were also helping out. We were offered showers, haircuts, toiletries, and most importantly, given a chance to earn our keep and be a part of something important and good.

“When we discovered an opportunity to work on a large farm, our journey took us north, and things slowly got better and better for us. But I will never forget the staff at the Center seeing us off with hugs, notes of encouragement, and plenty of food to get us by for a couple weeks. We have never forgotten the lessons we learned there, and we continue to serve and help others every way we can.”

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THRIFT SHOP OPERATING HOURS

Shopping: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 10-5

Donations: Tuesday and Thursday – 10-2

Furniture Donation Pick-ups – Wednesday and Saturday, 10-5

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HELP WANTED

PURCHASING. Volunteer needed at the Brother Benno Center to help with purchasing, ordering, managing inventory, and keeping track of food and supplies. In addition, this volunteer would communicate with “Feeding San Diego” and the “San Diego Food Bank” to provide reports as needed. If interested in learning more, please contact **Darryl Harris**, Operations Manager, at the Brother Benno Center: 760-439-1244, ext. 102.

TRUCK DRIVER. This paid position is for a truck driver to work 32 hours a week for the Thrift Shop. Applicants must have a driver’s licence and be able to pick and deliver furniture. Please drop off a resume at the Thrift Shop, 3955 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AND HELP RECEIVED

Our new VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR is **Barbara Driscoll**, who previously offered her services for many years at the reception desk. If you have questions about volunteering for Brother Benno’s, please email Barbara at volunteersatbb@gmail.com or call the Center at 760-439-1233, ext. 104, and she will get back to you.

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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, 760-941-1876 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

SPOTLIGHT: MEET MICHELLE HOPPE

by Helen Parsons

Michelle Hoppe has been Manager of the Brother Benno Thrift Shop since November 2010, after being a volunteer there for about a year. She started by helping out at the Center at Christmas-time with her mom and step-dad, then jumped at the chance to volunteer with her mom at the Thrift Shop. In June of that year she was hired as a cashier, and in November she enthusiastically accepted the position of Manager. Over these ten years, she's been instrumental in expanding the Shop from 3,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet.



Born in Illinois, the oldest of three, Michelle started volunteering at a young age. She was involved in Girl Scouts, 4H, and her church choir. She moved to Arizona in 1977, where she finished high school and attended college, majoring in business. She took a job at a nearby prison as a secretary in the hospital. She said she loved working for the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. She served as a labor relations specialist, background investigator, crisis team member, and was part of their hostage negotiations team.

"Shelly," as her friends and family call her, received many accolades from those who know her.

"She is an absolute treasure. She is a sun-beam that shines through the darkest places. She seeks out needs and provides (for) them. She has the gifts of hospitality and compassion, a fairy godmother! The world is a better place just because she's in it. (And) her keen sense of style and cre-

ativity is amazing."

"I am . . . pleased to have a manager like Michelle to work with. Her deep concern and care for us is hardly found in this competitive world. You are a mentor to me and I feel really lucky to have a manager that I can rely on and know she trusts me."

"When I first got hired, I hadn't worked in several years. I was a terrible employee! But Michelle has always been patient and works with me. This built my self-esteem. I'm not the only one. I witness her doing this with other employees and volunteers. She always makes time when needed."

"She makes everyone feel important, like part of a family on a great mission. I love her to the moon and back!"

"She is loving, caring, fun, and very creative."

(From Helen Parsons, Board member who oversees the Thrift Shop): "I have worked side by side with Michelle for the past ten years. She is our sunshine committee, never failing to recognize our volunteers, whether they are recovering from an illness or celebrating a birthday, or 'just because.' I thank God for her managerial skills and her leadership every day. Michelle is a gift for all of us at Brother Benno's!"

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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

Our "Christmas in July" gift card fundraiser is still going on because we believe we'll have more children this year due to the unstable economy. We want to see a lot of happy faces in December at the distribution of the cards.

Helen Parsons is working on what the "party" will look like, since we can't do things the way we've always done in the past.

If you'd like to help, please send us \$25 gift cards from Walmart or Target, or send a check and we'll purchase the cards. Mail cards or checks to: Brother Benno Auxiliary, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068.

Our mask-making project has been a success. We give a big Thank You to everyone who made masks for us, especially **Maryann Resendez** who led the group in making over 1,400 masks for the Center, and **Frank Cerimele** who made more than 1,350. We are taking a break, since the Center staff say they have enough for a while.

We will continue with Zoom meetings. Everyone who joined us said they enjoyed seeing each other, even though it was only on a screen. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary, send a check for \$25 to the address above. Be sure to include a note with your name, address, primary and cell numbers, and email address.

Again, we hope you are all staying safe, and we look forward to meeting new members in the near future. Follow us here in the newsletter for updates.

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WHAT IS COMPASSION?


Compassion is something other than pity. Pity suggests distance, even a certain condescendence. I often act with pity. I give some money to a beggar on the streets of Toronto or New York City, but I do not look him in the eyes, sit down with him, or talk with him. I am too busy to really pay attention to the man who reaches out to me. My money replaces my personal attention and gives me an excuse to walk on.

Compassion means to become close to the one who suffers. But we can come close to another person only when we are willing to become vulnerable ourselves. A compassionate person says: "I am your brother; I am your sister; I am human, fragile, and mortal just like you. I am not scandalized by your tears, nor afraid of your pain. I too have wept. I too have felt pain." We can be with the other only when the other ceases to be "other" and becomes like us.

~ Henri J. M. Nouwen
Here and Now

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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.

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

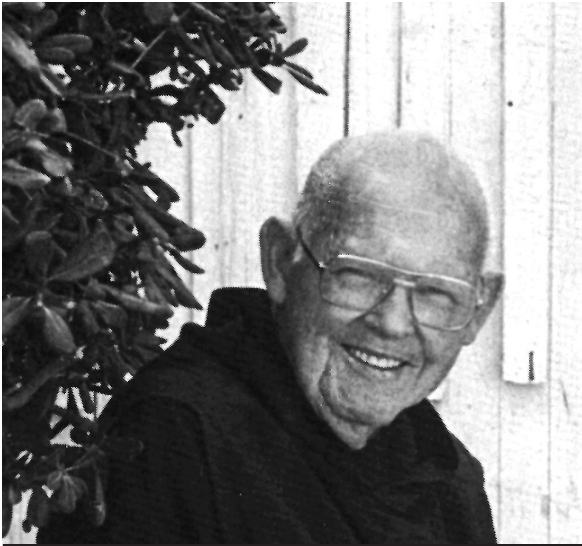
Ron Alexander	Chance Hales	Dora Ramirez	Hugh Murphy
Dixie & Lou Bales	Tom & Louise	Dick & Terry Riley	Ruth Johnson
Frank Barnet	Hayward	Margaret Rossini	Ace & Polly Cole
Brother Benno	Elizabeth Holms	Ann Sauer	Barbara LaMothe
Edith Blaiser	Alice Jordan	Nick Sauer	Gertrude Kidd
Andrea Boersma	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Dorothy Barnell
Roland Bond	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Richard
Bill Boster	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Rossmassler
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Harold & Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Jean St. Amant
Bill Buckner	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Ronald Beckman
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Andy & Betty
Anna Correia	Helen Lucas	Alva & Frances	Domingo's parents
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Bill & Joan Maloney	Snider	Robert Buchach
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Helene McGill	Squirrell Family	James Johnson
Frank S. Dolley	Michael & Monty	Mike Stendahl	Gilbert & Donna
Anita H. Donahue	Nares	Margaret Stephan	Brown
Dorothy M. Donahue	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Alva & Frances
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Nares	Harold Thompson	Snider
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb	John, Helen, & Matt
Fr. Abbot Claude	Nysewander Family	Thornberg	Hagan
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	Robert Beckman
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	Molly Wilbur
Richard Farhquar	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams	Andrew Krantz
William & Vennita	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson	Agatha Johnson
Flanagan	Jane Pfau	Karen Mehlick	
Louise Foussat	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Floyd & Marie	
Joe & Ida Friend	Alan Port	Atkinson	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Edward Smith	
Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Family	

NEEDS

small bags of chips
 fruit cups
 protein bars
 crackers
 bottled water
 small juices
 Gatorade
 Plastic grocery bags

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

Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday and Thursday 10-2

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 2020	Our 36th Year		August 2020	Our 36th Year
Meals	9,606	4,536,427	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	761	321,174	Food packs	405	356,275
Articles of clothing	1,319	1,421,406	Blankets	98	48,612
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	29	6,076
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	12	9,950
Bus passes	21	86,036	HUGS	0	1,011,244