

**Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation**

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, case-worker referrals, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	July 2010	Our 27th Year		July 2010	Our 27th Year
Meals	11,743	2,985,866	Loads of laundry	27	25,457
Nights of lodging	995	200,470	Food packs	2,390	140,070
Articles of clothing	4,599	825,922	Blankets	66	30,695
Showers	859	147,951	Prescriptions	48	6,022
Haircuts	177	11,371	ID Vouchers	16	8,044
Bus passes	106	73,253	HUGS	2,250	784,894

*Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.*

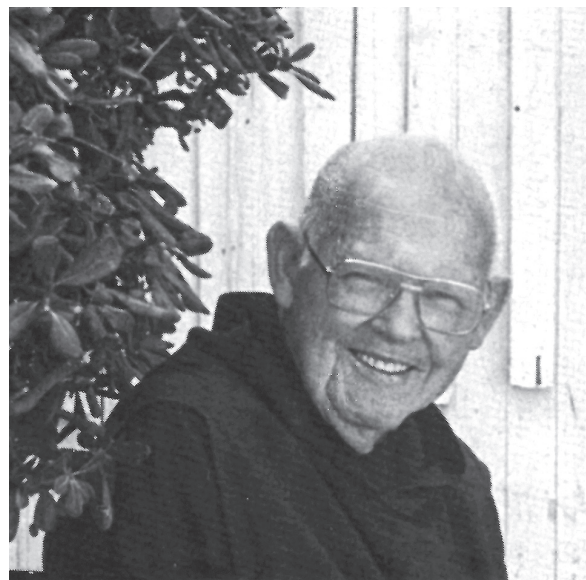
**The Thrift Shop**

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

September 2010



Brother Benno's Auxiliary  
Fall Luncheon  
featuring  
**THE HARMONETTES**

in a  
**SALUTE TO SERVICE**

October 16, 2010 11:00 a.m.  
MCCS South Mesa Club  
Oceanside, CA

**BUY TICKETS NOW!**

(For more information, see page 4)

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## HOW'S KAY?

This is the question I get every day, and it is difficult to answer. She has touched the hearts of so many, and they want to reach out and touch her back. When I give them the latest report, their answer is, "I am praying for her."

Parkinson's is a progressive disease that slowly takes your life away from you, but the one saving factor is that there is no pain involved from the disease itself. Kay has reached the stage where she now needs the wheelchair to get around, and she needs our help to do most everything.

With all these negatives, you would think she'd be sad, angry, depressed, or some other negative feeling, but not Kay. She can't give you one of her famous hugs, but she can still give you her million-dollar smile. When she gives one to me, I get all emotional. It makes me realize that she is indeed an angel.

Please keep praying for her.

*Harold Kutler*

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Harold and Kay, February 2008

**"I HAVE A LIFE! I DON'T JUST EXIST!"**

*(The following letter, dated July 23, 2010, was written by a former Program Member.)*

"May the Lord Jesus always bless the staff, members, donors, and all who walk in seeking help at Brother Benno's. I will always have B.B.F. (Brother Benno Foundation) in my heart and my prayers. I am, and always will be, grateful to Brother Benno, Harold, Wayne (former Program Director), and the daily hug I got from Kay. I pray for her every day.

"You're probably thinking, who is this person that knows names and Kay's hugs. Well, I went to the B.B.F. June 30, 2008, a heroin addict, meth addict, pill-popper—and to top it all off, on methadone for over 25 years. Wayne said to me that I was just a rock—hard, rough, and dirty—but that some place inside this rock was a diamond—yes, a diamond—and he was going to find it. But I had to help myself, also. So here I stand, clean for two years. Brother Benno's is in my heart. Jesus is in my heart.

"I now have given out 1,350 lunches on Sundays.\* Our Lord put Brother Benno's in my life (and they) showed me that if you are in need, help the needy. When you're alone, visit someone. And always give from the heart; that's the Brother Benno way. I know that I can only keep what I have by giving it away.

"Wayne told me one morning . . . 'Stay clean for one year, and if you don't like it, I'll refund your misery.' I never forget that. I now say that to people at NA groups. Well, now two years later, I don't want a refund. I love life. I am 45 years old. I have a life. I don't just exist, I LIVE LIFE NOW! Clean of drugs and booze.

"THANK YOU BROTHER BENNO'S. God bless you all. And please print this letter that it may help someone, I pray. R.A.E."

*\*(Editor's Note: In our September 2009 newsletter, we printed a letter from R.A.E. in which he said, "On Sundays, I make up 25 lunches and give them to the homeless. I ask them if I can help them with clothes or shoes, and I'll do my best to get it for them. I give them their lunch and tell them they don't have to live this way.")*

**HAROLD AND KAY'S INFLUENCE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE**

Vallie Gilley and her family were neighbors and friends of the **Kutler family** as the kids were growing up. Now Vallie owns Jitters Coffee Pub in Oceanside, and she says that **Harold and Kay's** influence all those years ago, and still to this day, have been a big part of how she runs her business and lives her life.

"Harold has been such an inspiration to me," she said. "I went to see him when I was thinking about setting up a charitable foundation, and he shared his passion for giving back and for the importance of unconditional love."

The foundation that Vallie eventually established is called Feeding the Soul Foundation, and one of its first recipients was Brother Benno's. Vallie donated the proceeds from a sold-out concert in March, and she's planning to do another fundraiser or collection for us in the near future. In the meantime, her foundation has supported other charities by way of concerts, an album release, and the screening of an independent film, "May I Be Frank." The film documents the transformation of a man who was obese, depressed, and addicted, but who turned his life around with a helping hand from a café in San Francisco. It will be screened again on September 17.

Harold and Kay and their children continue to be part of Vallie's life. They stop in at her coffee house whenever they can, and she's always delighted to see them. "Kay still has that wonderful smile in spite of her illness," she said, "and she loves to remind me that my birthday and that of their long-ago pet cat are on the same day!"

*(Jitters Coffee Pub is at 510 North Coast Highway in Oceanside.)*

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**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?**

Join us on any first Saturday of the month at 9:30 for a tour of the Center.

No need to sign up—just come on down!

**Memorials**

Brother Benno	Jane Pfau	Louise Foussat	Hartley Lowe
Pope John Paul II	Ron Alexander	Tom Hayward	Frank Onstott
Mother Teresa	Mary Peterson	Richard Kurtz	Marie Carey
Ann Sauer	Frank Barnett	Helen Lucas	Robert Desmond
Joe & Ida Friend	Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Joan Maloney	Daniel O'Connell
Mary Nordstrom	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Dora Ramirez	Dolores Murchison
Myron Eichen	Monty Nares	Dick Riley	James O'Keefe
Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Bill Buckner	Josephine & Charles Campbell
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Shankle	Dave Stookey
Richard Farhquar	Mary Teresa Carr	Walter Ulloa	April Burgess
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Fred Williamson	William Flanagan
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Elizabeth Holms	Carole Kutler	Margaret Huddy
Catherine L. Quinlan	Edith Blaiser	Will Skinner	Frank Stasio
Kathryn D. Pent	Ben Kouns	Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Ralph Boldt
Mary Pullman	Bill Lakoff	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Stanley LaMonte
Joan Boyd	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Naomi Shelton	Zeferino & Dancy Nares
Agnus Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Floyd & Rose Caldwell	
Harold Thompson	Margaret Stephan	Bill Goresky	
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Bill Boster		
Bob Gleason			

**Needs**

Volunteer Drivers	Men's clothing, socks for all ages
Aluminum cans for recycling	Motel-size shampoo & soap

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sept.</b>			<b>1</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2010</b>	<b>6</b> Closed Labor Day	<b>7</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>8</b> Naval Hospital	<b>9</b> Oceanside Civilians	<b>10</b> St. Patrick's	<b>11</b> St. Francis
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Friends from Vista	<b>15</b> Grace Anglican	<b>16</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>24</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>25</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>27</b> 5/11 Marines	<b>28</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>29</b> Soroptomists International	<b>30</b> Grace Anglican		
<b>Schedule</b>						

**Brother Benno's Furniture Sales**

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-439-1244 x115 **Open Tue. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org), click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

## VIRGINIA FINDS MANY WAYS TO SERVE AT BROTHER BENNO'S

When **Virginia Sylwestrzak** started volunteering at Brother Benno's in 1994, she said she'd do anything but work in the kitchen. "I was a waitress and ran a restaurant for 25 years," she says now, by way of explanation, and her many other talents have been put to good use over the years.

Virginia's first job at the Center was in the Clothing Room, where she established a much-needed procedure to be sure guests were being held accountable for the items they took. "Some people were taking loads of clothing and reselling them," she said, "so I set up a system that kept track of who was taking what, and how often." That system has proved to be valuable to this day.



Her next area of service was in the warehouse, where she was manager for several years. She oversaw a regular inventory and ordered needed items. Eventually the two jobs were separated, and now Virginia is the purchasing agent for the Center. She orders all the food that is not provided by donations from supporters and markets in the area—items that are served to guests and put into the lunch bags, as well as the things needed for the food boxes that are given out monthly to needy families, seniors, and the handicapped. She is also responsible for ordering office supplies for the Center.

**The Perks.** One of the things Virginia likes best about being at Brother Benno's is her interaction with Program Members and guests. "Even if I haven't worked with them for a long time, they still make it a point to stop in my office and say hello," she said. "That makes me feel really good."

She laughed. "A couple of the former Pro-

gram Guys who are now on staff really give me a hard time when they come to my house," she said, "because I have all these collections, and there's hardly room for anything else."

Her most notable collection is in what she calls her Christmas Room, where she has a decorated tree year-round, plus about 600 Santas. "One Santa is from Germany," she said, "but all the rest are from somewhere in the U.S. I have a Green Beret Santa, one on a motorcycle, one that sings, another that dances—and lots more." Other collections include roosters, ducks, rabbits, and pitchers—all on display somewhere in the house.

**Family.** When Virginia isn't volunteering at the Center, she keeps busy with her big family—ten children, 23 grandchildren, seven greats, and one great-great. With a smile, she said she lives alone, but she almost always has one or more family members sharing her home for short periods of time. She also volunteers at New Song Community Church.

Two of Virginia's passions as a child and teenager were dancing and writing. "I sometimes wish I could have pursued them but I didn't," she said. "Fortunately, some of my children write, and that sort of makes up for it."

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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 Vikki Ramey

**Backpacks.** Our back-to-school event on August 14 actually started back in July, when Auxiliary members assembled pencil boxes/pouches and other school supplies that went into 800 backpacks for children in K-12. We are grateful to **Kay Lemonovich** for her generous donation of 105 backpacks, plus additional supplies.

We also received school supplies from RBF Consulting in Carlsbad as part of their "Good Works" community program. This is their second year of providing not only supplies, but also people to help on distribution day. We were happy to see **Tim Thiele**, his wife **Heather**, and their children, **Trevor** and **Justin**. And a big Thank You to Auxiliary members who took the time to go from store to store to find excellent bargains. Together we did a great job!



Thiele Family

On the day before the distribution of backpacks, we had help from 12 members of Youth United and young people from St. Francis of Assisi Church helping with the assembling. A special thank-you to **Joe Casagrande** for signing up the children ahead of time, and to **Greg and Dennis**

in the warehouse for making sure everything was ready for us and giving us needed assistance.

**Fall Luncheon.** Ticket sales for our Fall Luncheon on October 16 are underway. The Harmonettes, a female trio, will be singing songs from the 40's and performing skits. Men are always welcome at this fun event. Tickets are \$45 each or \$360 for a table of 8. Proceeds will benefit Brother Benno's Women's Houses.

If you'd like to help with up-front expenses, become a Brother Benno Angel. Or become a Sponsor with an ad in the Luncheon program—\$500 for a full-page ad, \$1,000 for a full-page ad plus a table for eight.

Please contact **Vicky Squires** (760-724-7371) for information, tickets, or to become an Angel. Call **Vikki Ramey** (760-803-6267) or **Debbie Knight** (949-368-3526) about being a Sponsor.

There will be several opportunities at the Luncheon to go home with great items:

- \* opportunity baskets,
  - \* share-the-wealth cash drawing,
  - \* a silent auction that will include two VIP tickets to see a taping of "Dancing with the Stars," and three separate items for a stay at a timeshare,
  - \* chance to win a cabin for two on a Royal Caribbean Cruise Line to Alaska . (Tickets are \$25 each, and only 100 will be sold.)
- ..... and lots more!

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**Information & Online donations**  
  
**brotherbenno.org**

**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...

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