



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

September 2013

SERVANTS OF THE POOR PROVIDE SPECIAL CARE

Brother Benno's Servants of the Poor make a commitment to give at least one year of service at Brother Benno's, and for that commitment they receive room and board and a small discretionary allowance. Each Servant is expected to work at the Center five days a week, but it's not uncommon for them to put in extra hours when needed; and it happens quite often that they continue to serve long beyond that first year.

Servants of the Poor come to us from all walks of life and every part of the country. One of the "Brother Benno Miracles" is that when a particular need makes itself known, the perfect person to fill that need walks in the door and says, "I'm a (fill in the blank), and I'd like to volunteer!"

Because Servants are not "hired," but come instead to serve those in need, these men and women put not only their individual skills to work but also their hearts and souls. The families who come in need of food or rental assistance or school shoes for their children aren't given what they need and then forgotten. Each person who interacts with them feels a sense of responsibility to find the best solutions for their problems, and they experience frustration and sometimes even anger when they realize that there are limitations to the help we are able to provide.

Sometimes those limitations have to do with funds not always being readily available. Another consideration has to do with the fact that some problems are best handled by professionals, especially in the area of physical and mental health; and our volunteers make every effort to connect our Guests with the appropriate person or agency that can provide long-term solutions.

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SCHOLARSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RECENT RECIPIENT

Harold Kutler shares the following thank-you letter he received from a woman who was the recipient of one of Brother Benno's scholarships:

"Dear Brother Benno Foundation, I cannot begin to share with you the gratitude I have for receiving this scholarship. I must say, it has been a long and difficult journey, and reflecting on my past, I remember how much Brother Benno's has helped me. I remember my aunt who used to go to Brother Benno's for help. This Foundation helped me live and eat when I was younger, and now it is providing me with help to go to college. For that, I am sincerely thankful.

"I hope you realize how much of a positive impact this scholarship will have on my studies. It feels really good to know there are people who believe in me. Now, I do plan to give back. I feel that is the best way I can repay (you). I plan to come back to where I grew up and help change . . . the bad reputation of downtown Oceanside; because if there is one thing I have learned from (Brother Benno's) it would be to help those that can't help themselves right now, because when they are able to sustain themselves they will go back and help others. . . .

Thank you for all you do, and thank you so much for this scholarship. Sincerely, N."

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Life's most persistent and urgent question is:
What are you doing for others?"

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Always Helping. With the San Onofre Power Plant in the process of closing, it's heart-warming to know that their employees are still reaching out to Brother Benno's as they've been doing for many years. **Debbie Knight**, who is also a member of our Auxiliary, has spearheaded many drives for much-needed items, and her most recent effort added 200 rain ponchos and 75 pocket-size flashlights for our homeless Guests.

Debbie credits **Lynn Sakamoto** for the additional donation of \$1,058 that was raised at an Employee Appreciation Event, where promotional items were sold at their SONGS DOLLAR STORE. "Lynn made up table signs that said all proceeds would go to the Brother Benno Foundation," Debbie said, "and our folks loved that and were so generous!"



Harold Kutler, Debbie Knight and Michele Hoppe, Thrift Shop Manager

Teens In Service. On July 27, a group of high school boys and girls put on a "Jeans for \$2 a pair" event at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop. They belong to Teens Care, which is under the auspices of Girlfriends Care, a group of loving and seemingly indefatigable women who never cease to amaze me with their creative outreach to Brother Benno's. **Ellen Clark** of GFC leads the teen group.

The teens prepared for the big sale by sorting 1,000 pairs of jeans, making signs, and writing a plan on paper showing how they would conduct the sale. They set up everything on the sidewalk in front of the shop, then made and gave out free root beer floats to all customers. **Helen Parsons**, the Board member who oversees the Thrift Shop, said: "They made \$192 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.; but

most of all, they showed all our customers what a bright future our country will have with this caring, smart, and capable generation!"



Can You Help? **Heather Pine**, who leads our outreach to several nursing homes, is asking for help in three areas:

- 1—Men who would enjoy playing pool, checkers, chess, or cards with the residents.
- 2—Anyone who could donate bingo prizes such as costume jewelry or hygiene products like moisturizers and colognes.
- 3—Men and women who would enjoy working with seniors in a variety of capacities on a more or less regular basis.

Please contact Heather for more information or to volunteer (760-433-8623 or heathert-pine@yahoo.com).

Tech Updates. Did you know that our newsletter can be found online? Just go to brotherbenno.org and click on Newsletter. There you'll see all the issues from August 2010 up to the present. Thanks to **Roy Batchelor**, a computer whiz and Brother Benno volunteer, the current issue appears on the website days before it makes it to your mailbox. And of course, if you want it to arrive as an email instead of snail mail, just send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com and be sure to include your full name and mailing address so we can take you off the mailing list. With all these ways to keep up with happenings at Brother Benno's, now's the time to encourage family and friends to see what we're all about.

WE CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF LOVING SERVICE!

By Barbara Ladwig

Thirty years ago, in October of 1983, **Brother Benno** brought a huge cauldron of soup that he'd prepared at St. Charles Priory (now called the Prince of Peace Abbey) to an old two-bedroom house on Minnesota Street in Oceanside, where 18 street people ate the first meal served by **Harold and Kay Kutler** and a few of their friends. Brother continued to bring the meal for the next few weeks, until that first band of volunteers got a handle on cooking their own food.

The meal was served in the evening in the back yard, where picnic tables and benches had been set up. At first, Harold thought the Guests should be served restaurant-style, but he soon discovered that they were more comfortable going through a line with a tray. Kay got up on a makeshift stage to greet the diners and to sing while everyone ate. She invited anyone who wanted to, to come up and sing with her, sing alone, play an instrument, or tell a joke. This impromptu entertainment feature became very popular, and it added to the homey feeling that Harold and Kay wanted to create.

We Grow. Today, in 2013, some things have changed but many remain the same. The Guests still carry their trays through the food line, but now it's in our huge Brother Benno Center on Production Avenue. A staff made up of Program Members cook all the food in a state-of-the-art kitchen, and local groups numbering about eight people each—from various churches, civic clubs, mobile home parks, the Auxiliary, and neighborhoods—dish out the food.

Until she became ill a few years ago, Kay—on a stage dubbed Kay's Korner—led the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lord's Prayer, and the Serenity Prayer, welcomed everyone with her contagious smile, and sang her heart out. And she still invited anyone who was so inclined to join her on stage to perform with her or alone. Kay died on February 15, 2012, but she still greets everyone through the miracle of technology, as someone had the foresight to record her opening and closing greetings and songs.

The Book and More. In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Brother Benno Foundation in 2003, Harold Kutler published a book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-*

Changing Soup Kitchen, which chronicles the history of the Brother Benno Foundation. It includes a short bio of Harold and Kay and Brother Benno and how they all met, and it tells wonderful stories about the not-so-smooth path they had to tread in order to get their ministry off the ground. It tells about the people who are served, the vast majority now being families with small children. There's information about how the services have expanded over the years—going from serving one meal a day to providing clothing, food boxes, showers, laundry facilities, haircuts, blankets, rent, utility, and prescription assistance, and occasional nights of lodging.

In addition to the book, Brother Benno's has a website full of information about everything one could possibly want to know: brotherbenno.org. It includes copies of recent newsletters and links to Facebook and Twitter, and there's info about becoming a volunteer.

This year, the 30th anniversary will be celebrated at the Annual Luncheon put on by the Brother Benno Auxiliary on Saturday, October 26, at the Sheraton Carlsbad. The theme is "Harvest Gold," an appropriate reference to 30 years of loving service to those in need. (Details about the Luncheon can be found in the Auxiliary News on page 4).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH BROTHER BENNO'S IN ANY WAY!

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At the present time, Brother Benno's has eleven Servants of the Poor. Each one is assigned a particular area for service, but they are always willing to step in at a moment's notice when a new need arises. Through regular meetings and days of retreat, these men and women form a bond that not only makes their work more efficient, but also provides a support system that benefits them—and in turn, benefits other volunteers and our Guests.

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AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed an afternoon tribute to Hollywood musical movie classics. It was a sold-out performance, and everyone had a wonderful time. We hope to do this again next year.

The time is NOW to get your tickets for the Brother Benno Auxiliary Luncheon on Saturday, October 26, at 11 a.m. at the Sheraton Carlsbad. The theme is "Harvest Gold," celebrating 30 years of service by Brother Benno's. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$600 for a table of ten, and reservations are going fast. The silent auction will have items such as Disneyland tickets, golf package, exotic plants, art work, and much, much more. There will also be opportunity baskets, cash drawings, and entertainment by The Harmonettes. For reservations, please contact **Vera Bayliss** (760-295-0059).

Are you interested in becoming a Board Member or Committee Chair? Several positions will be open for 2014. A Nominating Committee will be announced at the September 25 meeting, and the slate of officers will be voted on at the October 23 meeting.

SAVE THE DATES

- September 25 – General Meeting, 1 p.m. social, 1:30 meeting
- October 23 – General meeting
- October 26 – Annual Luncheon
- November 14 – Installation of Officers

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Vikki Ramey, Vera Bayliss, Mary Vernaci, Suzy Martinek and Denise Seymour checking a center-piece for the tables at the Annual Luncheon.

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>

Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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



[Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.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 _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Ron Alexander	Helen Lucas	Gilbert Brown
Pope John Paul II	Mary Peterson	Bill & Joan Maloney	Elizabeth Weber
Mother Teresa	Frank Barnet	Dora Ramirez	Frank Onstott
Kay Kutler	Frank S. Dolley	Dick & Terry Riley	Harold Diot
Ann Sauer	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Buckner	Dennis Paquin
Joe & Ida Friend	Monty Nares	Mary Shankle	William & Vennita
Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Rossini	Walter Ulloa	Flanagan
Myron Eichen	Dorothy M. Donahue	Fred Williamson	Jeanne Nickel
Alice Jordan	Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	Nysewander Family
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Will Skinner	Squirrel Family
Richard Farhquar	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Abbot Claude	Lorraine Ybarra
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Edith Blaiser	Ehringer, OSB	John O'Conner
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Dancy & Zeferino
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Nares
Kathryn D. Pent	Bernice, Samuel &	Rosemary Tucker	Alice Condren
Mary Pullman	Milton Silver	Ben E. Lewis	Mike Stendahl
Joan Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Roland Bond	
Agnus Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Anna Correia	IN HONOR OF
Harold Thompson	Bill Boster	Geraldine Howard	Abbot Charles Wright,
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Louise Foussat	Helene McGill	OSB
Bob Gleason	Tom Hayward	Andrea Boersma	
Jane Pfau	Richard Kurtz	Ben Osgrove	

Needs

Gently used furniture
 Women's feminine products, especially tampons
 Men's shaving products (disposable razors, shaving cream)
 Diapers
 Large bottles of shampoo and conditioner
 Men's pants and shorts (sizes 30-36)

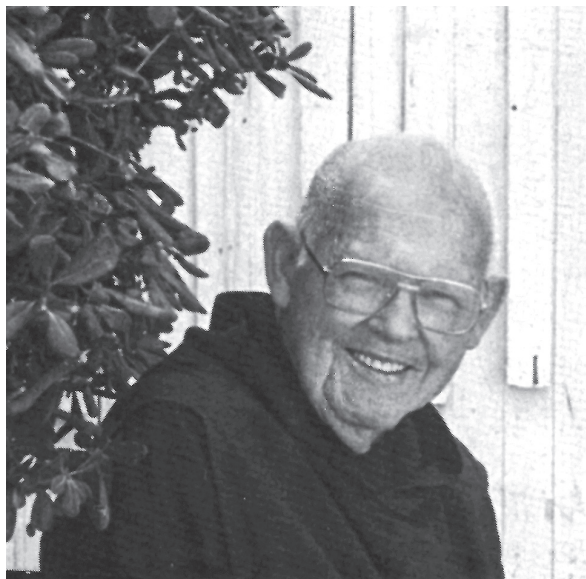
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September	2	3	4	5	6	7
2013	Closed Labor Day	St. John The Evangelist	Brother Benno's Auxiliary	Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	San Luis Rey Mission	St. Thomas More
Monthly	9	10	11	12	13	14
Serving	St. Elizabeth Seton #1	Hawkes Home	Stew's Crew	Oceanside Civitanis	St. Patrick's	San Raphael
Team	16	17	18	19	20	21
Schedule	North Coast Methodist	Christ the King Lutheran	Grace Anglican	Carlsbad Rotary	St. Elizabeth Seton #2	Girlfriend's Care
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	St. Mark's San Marcos	San Luis Rey Methodist	Pilgrim Creek	Fallbrook Presbyterian	Catholic Daughters
	30					
	Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis					

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

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 Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, 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:

	July 2013	Our 29th Year		July 2013	Our 29th Year
Meals	13,852	3,447,490	Loads of laundry	27	26,476
Nights of lodging	1,152	240,879	Food packs	2,328	229,113
Articles of clothing	7,604	1,005,015	Blankets	141	35,058
Showers	1,177	181,838	Prescriptions	4	7,148
Haircuts	169	15,763	ID Vouchers	13	8,444
Bus passes	150	77,042	HUGS	1,800	854,644