



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers  
Making a Difference in This World

September 2014

## THE BIRTH OF A THRIFT SHOP

The early history of the Brother Benno Thrift Shop has been brought to people's attention recently because of its amazing success that continues to bring much-needed dollars to the Brother Benno Foundation.

The original Shop (two doors west of its current location) was opened in October of 1990 by **Rosemary Tucker** and **Louise Western**. They were members of the Ocean Hills Country Club that had a Service Club, which gave members the opportunity to volunteer in nearby communities. Louise joined a serving team at Brother Benno's when it was still in a little house in downtown Oceanside, and she also volunteered with Rosemary at the Cancer Society Thrift Shop in Vista. "That's where we became familiar with the operations of a thrift shop," Louise said.

The two women decided they'd be interested in starting a shop for Brother Benno's, so Rosemary took the proposal to the Foundation's Board. At first, Board members were leery of the idea, but Rosemary was so sure she could make it work that she offered to provide the start-up funds. If the shop was a success, the Board could reimburse her; if not, it would be her loss. By December, Rosemary got her money back!

Another Service Club member, **Betsy Allen**, soon joined Rosemary and Louise in setting up and running the Shop. Betsy had been in the antiques business, and she owned a van; so she was a great help in identifying valuable donations and in transporting the racks, cabinets, and merchandise to the Shop. Their families, along with other Service Club members, started collecting clothing and other items—everything except furniture was OK with the City of Oceanside. (Now, furniture is also sold at the Shop, and this addition

has proven to be very lucrative.)



*Betsy Allen, Rosemary Tucker & Louise Western*

Louise and Rosemary shared the duties of Shop Manager for the first three years and were also made members of the Brother Benno Foundation Board. They continued to work as volunteers, as did everyone else connected with the Shop. Betsy also took a turn as Manager for a few months but had to resign due to health issues and because she eventually moved away from the area. At that point, **Lucy Thew** became Manager one day a week.

Rosemary took care of finances, and Louise was in charge of clothing and was also coordinator of volunteers. Early on, most of the volunteers were members of Ocean Hills Country Club, then were joined by people from Oceana and various Oceanside churches.

During the three years that Louise and Rosemary ran the shop, it was very profitable; and it was decided that because of the nature of the work, it was time to hire a full-time Manager. The first person to hold that position was **Mary Lou Casperson**, who had been a volunteer at Brother Benno's for a long time and was in need of employment at the time.

Continued on page 3...

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Kind Words.** We love hearing nice things about Brother Benno's and sharing them with our readers. The following came from a man who sent samples of merchandise-tagging materials to the Thrift Shop, and he had this to say: "We happily send you (the samples.) Unusually, I took the time to look at your website and video. What a phenomenal ministry you have. (We send you) our prayers that God richly blesses you and the others at Brother Benno's."

**Quick Response.** Last month, we asked if any of you would like to designate your donation for a much-needed new refrigerator truck costing \$65,000. As of August 20, we have already received \$18,950! Thank you so much! If others want to help, just put a note on your check or on a separate paper saying FOR REFRIGERATOR TRUCK. The truck will be used to transport donated items from various markets and restaurants in our area.

**Happy Update.** In April of this year, we told you the story of **Giovanna Visconi**, who had been wrongfully convicted of a crime and spent more than three years in prison. When she was released, she was helped first by Serenity House in Escondido, then by Brother Benno's, where she lived in one of our Women's Houses for a year.

I recently received an update from Gio, who is now managing a Wellness Clinic as Supervising Medical Aesthetician and Director of Marketing. She said, "Brother Benno's and all those who support the cause are largely responsible for my being able to put my life (back) together."

**Comfort of Pets.** Our homeless Guests have so few comforts that the rest of us take for granted, and one of those comforts is sometimes a pet. Due to their circumstances, they struggle to feed their dog or cat; and pet food donations are few and far between. One of our volunteers has stepped into this void by obtaining pet-food samples from Dexter's Deli in Del Mar.

**Toby Demain**, Manager of the store, said

the volunteer is a long-time customer; so when she approached Toby about possible donations, Toby was able to make arrangements with one of their distributors for these donated samples. "It's a collaboration between distributor, store, and volunteer," she said, and it all benefits the pets and their owners.

An added connection to this story is **Lois Schwartz**, Toby's mother, who is a regular volunteer at the Brother Benno Thrift Shop.

**Art Dollars.** Oceanside watercolor artist **Walter Bruning** continues to donate all the profits from the online sales of his paintings to Brother Benno's. You can see his beautiful work at [abigbrushwithnature.com](http://abigbrushwithnature.com). I am the happy owner of one of his colorful nature scenes.

**Check It Out!** Are you one of those people who have never set foot in Brother Benno's Thrift Shop? You'd be amazed by the quality of the merchandise they sell, and the unbelievably low prices. The Shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 3955 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. Every day you'll see enticing specials.

**Timely Thoughts.** I ran across the following prayer by St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), and I was amazed at how timely it is today. "O God, I dedicate this new day to you as I go about my work. I ask you to bless those with whom I come in contact. Lord, I pray for all the men and women who work to earn their living; give them satisfaction in what they do. Spirit of God, comfort the unemployed and their families; they are your children and my brothers and sisters. I ask you to help them find work soon. Amen."

Ω

## NEW COMMUNITY TO OFFER AFFORDABLE HOUSING

by Helen Parsons

Brother Benno Board Member **Daniel Boone**, his wife **Alma**, and, Thrift Shop Manager **Michelle Hoppe** attended the ground-breaking ceremony for Mission Cove in Oceanside on August 12. Mission Cove is a community that will provide quality affordable apartment homes for families, seniors, veterans, and transitional-age youth in the City of Oceanside.

This community will no doubt be very beneficial to many Guests and volunteers from the Brother Benno family. It is located near the Brother Benno Center, and we look forward to seeing this community come to fruition.

Included in the complex will be the **Kay Parker** Resident Resource Center for onsite family services, an adult day care and senior resident services center, tot lots, a resident organic garden that includes a variety of fruit trees, plus retail, commercial, business and professional office spaces.



Daniel and Alma Boone were part of a group of citizens who fought for this community. **Margery Pierce**, from the City of Oceanside, is shown in the photo with Daniel.

Ω

....Continued from page 1

Louise Western, who provided most of the information for this article, had this to say: "Lots of changes have been made throughout the years with the hiring of managers and part-time managers, and now the move to the larger store and having furniture, which is very good. Unfortunately. . . there are very few of the initial volunteers still alive or around. All of us who were instrumental in starting the Shop and moving it forward are very pleased to have been a part of it."

Ω

## Mother Teresa, Her Essential Wisdom \*

"To smile at someone who is sad; to visit, even for a little while, someone who is lonely; to give someone shelter from the rain with our umbrella; to read something for someone who is blind; these and others can be small things, very small things, but they are appropriate to give our love of God concrete expression to the poor."

"Today it is very fashionable to talk *about* the poor. Unfortunately, it is not fashionable to talk *with* them."

"I cannot forget my mother. She was usually very busy all day long. But when sunset drew near, it was her custom to hurry with her tasks in order to be ready to receive my father. At the time we did not understand, and we would smile and even joke a little about it. Today I cannot help but call to mind the great delicacy of love that she had for him. No matter what happened, she was always prepared, with a smile on her lips to, welcome him."

\* *book title*

Ω

### 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 Vera Bayliss

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Outback fundraiser on July 30. It went well, we had lots of Marines, good food, and plenty of door prizes. A special thanks to **Carol Sanford** and **Judy Calegari** for chairing the event. Excellent job, Ladies!

Save the date for the Broadway Theater outing on September 28. We will see a play called "Shaken Not Stirred." Hope you have signed up already.

Join the BB Breakfast Club next month. It is a good opportunity to see the people who help and are helped.

Our Annual Luncheon will be on November 1 this year, so please mark your calendars. Our Chairs will need lots of help. It is so important to sell tickets, so start early and mention it to your friends and relatives. It is our biggest fundraiser. **Penny Sallee** will be at our next meeting to take your reservations.

If you would like to donate items for the layettes that Brother Benno's gives out, please see **Nita Rodriguez** at our monthly meetings. If you want to donate to the Marines at Camp Pendleton, see **Carol Sanford**. Both are in our directory, if you have any questions.

Please bring items for your Opportunity Basket to **Maureen Tutino** by October 1. Our next meeting would be a good time to bring them.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24. See you all there.

Ω



*Vera Bayliss, Dolly Bartelme, Barbara Thrasher, Judy Calegari, and Carol Sanford*



*Carol, Judy, and Vera with Marines*

**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_



### Memorials

Brother Benno  
 Pope John Paul II  
 Mother Teresa  
 Kay Kutler  
 Ann Sauer  
 Joe & Ida Friend  
 Mary Nordstrom  
 Myron Eichen  
 Alice Jordan  
 Roseanne Dreibelbis  
 Richard Farhquar  
 Deacon Art & Mary Carr  
 Don & Dorothea Daybell  
 Catherine L. Quinlan  
 Kathryn D. Pent  
 Mary Pullman  
 Joan Boyd  
 Agnus Boyd  
 Harold Thompson  
 Bud & Blanche Ogle  
 Bob Gleason

Jane Pfau  
 Ron Alexander  
 Mary Peterson  
 Frank Barnet  
 Frank S. Dolley  
 Phyllis H. Dierlam  
 Monty Nares  
 Margaret Rossini  
 Dorothy M. Donahue  
 Mary Teresa Carr  
 Ruth Hazel Pierson  
 Elizabeth Holms  
 Edith Blaiser  
 Ben Kouns  
 Bill Lakoff  
 Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver  
 Anita H. Donahue  
 Margaret Stephan  
 Bill Boster  
 Louise Foussat  
 Tom Hayward

Richard Kurtz  
 Helen Lucas  
 Bill & Joan Maloney  
 Dora Ramirez  
 Dick & Terry Riley  
 Bill Buckner  
 Mary Shankle  
 Walter Ulloa  
 Fred Williamson  
 Carole Kutler  
 Will Skinner  
 Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB  
 Fr. Luke Dougherty  
 Naomi Shelton  
 Rosemary Tucker  
 Ben E. Lewis  
 Roland Bond  
 Anna Correia  
 Geraldine Howard  
 Helene McGill

Andrea Boersma  
 Ben Osgrove  
 William & Vennita Flanagan  
 Virginia Sylwestrzak  
 Sara McPherson  
 Frank Onstott  
 Kevin Flynn  
 Zeferino & Dancy Nares  
 Billy Pry  
 Louise Lakoff  
 Mary Jordan  
 Bill Carrothers

**Happy Birthday**  
 Pearl Nysewander

### Needs

Gently used furniture  
 Non-alcoholic mouthwash  
 Baby powder and shampoo  
 Diapers

Women's hygiene items--pads and tampons  
 Hotel-size shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap  
 Disposable razors  
 Large shampoo and body wash for men in Program

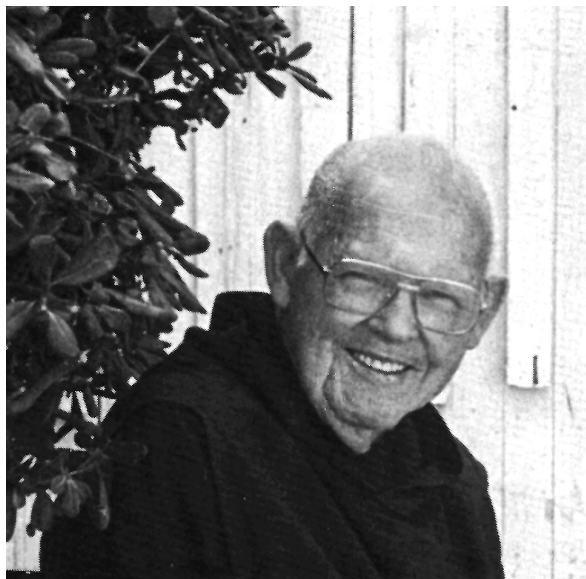
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sept. 2014 Monthly Serving Team Schedule</b>	<b>1</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>2</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>3</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>4</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>5</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>6</b> St. Thomas More
	<b>8</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>9</b> Hawkes Home	<b>10</b> Stew's Crew	<b>11</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>12</b> St. Patrick's	<b>13</b> Farmers of South Morro Hills
	<b>15</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>16</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>17</b> Grace Anglican	<b>18</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>19</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>20</b> Girlfriend's Care
	<b>22</b> Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	<b>23</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>24</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>25</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>26</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>28</b> Catholic Daughters
	<b>29</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>30</b> Welk Resort				

### 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 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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	July 2014	Our 30th Year		July 2014	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,501	3,606,513	Loads of laundry	26	26,810
Nights of lodging	1,036	252,540	Food packs	2,214	258,586
Articles of clothing	5,324	1,073,935	Blankets	141	36,921
Showers	1,254	194,771	Prescriptions	4	7,230
Haircuts	120	17,328	ID Vouchers	11	8,583
Bus passes	90	78,212	HUGS	1,800	878,044