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.)

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. 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.

...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.”

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

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
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
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 Farquhar
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
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 Malone
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

Gently used furniture
Women’s hygiene items--pads and tampons
Non-alcoholic mouthwash
Hotel-size shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap
Baby powder and shampoo
Disposable razors
Diapers
Large shampoo and body wash for men in Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept. 2014</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
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<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>8 North Coast Methodist</td>
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<td>Hawkes Home</td>
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<td>15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
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<td>26 Catholic Daughters</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td></td>
<td>29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
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<td>Welk Resort</td>
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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.
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 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

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www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>Our 30th Year</th>
<th>July 2014</th>
<th>Our 30th Year</th>
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<td>13,501</td>
<td>3,606,513</td>
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<td>1,036</td>
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