AUXILIARY HELPS MOTHERS AND BABIES

Brother Benno Auxiliary members assemble lovely layettes for boys and girls ages newborn to nine months. These layettes include hand-picked, gently used, and laundered items, as well as a small gift-wrapped set of new baby items, all of which have been donated at our warehouse and Thrift Shop.

According to Mary Jamison, who heads this outreach project, a typical layette includes sleepers, onesies, outfits, booties, socks, receiving and larger blankets, hats, and bibs.

“We enjoy sorting, laundering, and packing up the items,” Mary said, “with the joy of knowing we are helping mothers and their babies in our community.”

If you’d like to donate items for the layettes, you can drop them off at an Auxiliary meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Center Dining Room. Donors need not stay for the meeting but are very welcome to do so.

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DESPERATE STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING

Many times it takes several people working together at Brother Benno’s to resolve the problems brought to us by those in need; and in one recent case, we even had help from perfect strangers.

Joe came to the Center on a Saturday morning with one of his three children. He was so distraught he could hardly get his story out; but with the patience of several volunteers, he was finally able to tell them that he and his children were about to be evicted (by force, if necessary) from the hotel where they’d been staying for a few weeks.

Joe was recently divorced, and his wife was given custody of the children. After a few weeks, however, she decided she couldn’t take care of them, so she “dumped” them on Joe. Unsure of how to proceed, he tried to juggle a job and the care of his children, two young boys and a 16-year-old pregnant daughter. Eventually he simply ran out of money, and it would be a week before he got his next paycheck.

First Frank, one of our volunteers, saw to it that the family was fed. Then he tried to bargain on the phone with the hotel manager, asking that they hold off until Monday, when other arrangements could be made for the family. The manager declined. Frank then went to the hotel to try again in person. When he walked into the lobby, he saw Joe and the children sitting on a bench, and the daughter was sobbing. An older couple noticed her and went over to ask if they could help. She told them they were being evicted and had no place to go. With no hesitation, the couple went up to the desk and paid for three more days.

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“Brother Benno’s was never about ‘tough love,’ as are some of the service providers for the homeless and needy today. Brother Benno’s is about unconditional love. The down-and-out can walk in today, be fed, get a hug, hear the one kind word they might hear all day, and be welcomed back tomorrow.

“Maybe after enough of that they’ll be ready for tough love, and to try to get their affairs in order. But after being beaten down for who knows how long, it takes a little caring to get the homeless ready for tough love. That has been the philosophy at Brother Benno’s.”

**EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE**

by Barbara Ladwig

**Never Too Young.** I “met” a young man on the phone who knows how to make a decision about where he should send a donation. Ten-year-old Carter gathered together $44 by doing chores, and by going around his neighborhood selling bracelets that he made with rubber bands from a kit.

He told his customers that he planned to donate the money to Brother Benno’s, and apparently that information was met with approval. When I asked him how he chose Brother Benno’s, he said he went online and found out that we “do good stuff.” We do try always to do good things for those who come to us for help, and fortunately we have good donors like Carter to help us carry out our mission.

**More About Furniture.** Gwen Acheson, who was featured in the August newsletter for her work at the Center’s furniture warehouse, told me she forgot to mention one group who benefits from our free furniture: disabled vets. “We get quite a few requests from them,” she said, “and we’re always happy to help.”

**Giving Back.** One Friday morning I was wandering around the Center, when I happened to notice three women in the Children’s Reading Room. I’d never seen them before, and the room is only used by children on Saturdays, so I went in and asked what they were doing. Turns out they are participants in our Women’s Recovery Program. Sorting books and generally straightening up the shelves was one of their duties that morning. (The men and women in the Recovery Program work at the Center and/or Thrift Shop every day).

L., age 61, will graduate from the six-month Program in a few weeks. S. is 27, and she’s four months into the Program. And J., age 32, said it was only “Day Two” for her! Soon Mary Clifford, the house manager for the first phase, came in to see how they were doing. All in all, I came away with the impression that these four women care about each other and are happy to be where they are.

**Sound of Music.** We love musical entertainment on Saturday mornings while our Guests eat. It’s fun to watch people sing along, tap their feet, or sway to the music. The Church of God Youth Group Choir from Escondido has graced our “stage” twice; and from all reports, they’re welcome back whenever they want to come. Victoria Edrington leads the group, and she tells me they’ve also volunteered at the Thrift Shop three times.

**Volunteers Needed.** Brother Benno’s is looking for volunteer grant writers. We have a professional grant writer who is happy to offer training, so anyone with writing skills and the ability to navigate on the Internet will be welcome. Once trained, volunteers can work at home on their own schedule. If you’re interested, please call Frank Doherty (760-846-6162).

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**Third Thursday Serving Team**  
Rotary Club of Carlsbad

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, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu
ADDICTION GIVES WAY TO SOBRIETY AND SERVICE

“Anna” graduated from the Brother Benno Women’s Recovery Program in 2014. She was 40 years old, hadn’t had a job for 15 years, and was scared of what lay ahead. What she did have was a huge support system, given freely and strengthened during the six months of the Program, and assured that it would continue for as long as she needed it.

Anna’s story is unique to her, yet familiar to those who have lived and experienced the life of a drug and alcohol addict. Her parents were druggies and she was given alcohol as a child. Her father left home, and her mother’s boyfriends sexually abused her.

“I thought I was alone,” Anna said. “I didn’t know anything about God, and I just figured that drugs and alcohol were the way I was going to have to deal with life.”

“Addiction is a progressive illness,” she continued. “I knew what I was doing was wrong, but I didn’t know any other way.”

The familiar story continued as Anna became homeless, spent time in jail for being drunk in public, and lost her driver’s license. She said she developed a “hard heart–you can’t hurt me if I don’t give a damn.” She was able to quit drinking many times; but when she was sober, nothing else changed. “I felt like a piece of garbage,” she said. “And I blamed everyone else for what was wrong in my life.”

One day in desperation she said a simple prayer, even though she had never been able to pray before: God help me. “I felt myself becoming quiet inside,” she said. “I went to AA again, got a sponsor, and went into detox. After sleeping all day, someone took me to Brother Benno’s. I met with Program leaders and they showed me my room. I had a bed! A real bed in a safe place.”

Anna still felt like she was a mess, but she was told not to worry about that, just do the work required of those in AA. As with all our Program men and women, she was also given tasks to do every day at the Brother Benno Center. Giving of oneself in service to others is one of the ways to heal from the ravages of addiction.

“I was getting hugs from people. They didn’t want anything from me, they just cared about me,” she said. “When I was suffering, I didn’t know how to live life. I knew I wanted to right some wrongs, but I didn’t know how to do it. When someone asked me what I wanted to do after I graduated from the Program, I didn’t even know what to want!”

In spite of not having worked for 15 years, Anna found a job that she enjoys. This was in 2014, and she is still employed at the same business. She continues to have bouts of no confidence, but her employer knows her background and is always supportive. She lives with a relative who has first-hand experience with Anna’s ups and downs but who is also willing to give her the space to continue growing in her sobriety. She has maintained a close relationship with staff members at Brother Benno’s and with other Program graduates.

“I talk to God all day long to ask for His guidance,” she said. “And I want to tell you that God is manifest at Brother Benno’s. There is patience, love, and kindness here; and that helps me with my sobriety and also to give to others.”

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 Carol Sanford

On a lovely midsummer day, our Prince of Peace Abbey public outreach tour brought joy to many, and allowed us to spread the word about our namesake, Brother Benno, the Brother Benno Foundation, our Brother Benno’s Auxiliary, and the important work we do here in Oceanside. Our thanks to Joan O’Connell, Nita Rodriguez, and Belinda Smith for receiving reservations, and for newspaper and Facebook advertising.

Tickets are now on sale for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Annual Luncheon and Fashion Parade to be held on Saturday, December 3, once again at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Cost is $60 per person, $600 for a table for ten. Table location choices are on a first-come, first-served basis, so talk to your male and female friends and reserve NOW!

The fast-paced “fashion parade” idea was a big hit with everyone last year, so don’t miss out on the fun. Co-Chairs Karen Gallagher (760-434-1058) and Nita Rodriguez (760-994-0355) report that member volunteers are already creating the tempting baskets of goodies for the raffle prizes, and they are planning other ways for you to win big at this event. Contact them to see how you can help make this a rousing success to cap off our “Twenty Years of Giving,” which is the theme this year, honoring the Auxiliary’s 20th year of service to the Brother Benno Foundation.

Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 28, when our mini-speaker will be Dennis Pinnick, a long-time Center volunteer who will tell us what he does, besides taking lots of photographs! He prepared the wonderful informational Brother Benno slide show that appeared in the Sheraton lobby last year.

Come at 1 p.m. for snacks and socializing, 1:30 for the membership meeting, where we will be announcing the slate for Auxiliary officers for 2017, as well as distributing copies of the updated bylaws for members’ consideration. All voting will take place at the October meeting. Guests are always welcome.

If you as a member haven’t been to a meeting in a while, this is one you won’t want to miss. Hope to see you all there!

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.... continued from page 1

After more discussion with Joe, Frank learned that he has a sister in Seattle who had offered her home to Joe and the children. “Why aren’t you taking her up on that?” Frank asked. Joe said he was so upset that he hadn’t been able to think through what he’d have to do to follow up on that offer.

On Monday morning, Joe came back to Brother Benno’s, where Mary, another volunteer, was able to give him a voucher for two more days at the hotel. He called Frank to thank him again for all his advice. “So often it’s the fact that we listen and help them think through their situation that’s even more important than the monetary help we give them,” Frank said.

On Friday Joe got his last paycheck and bought train tickets for Seattle; and he and his children were on their way to what everyone hopes is a better life.

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:
Facebook.com/Brother Bennos

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

Ron Alexander
Dixie & Lou Bales
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Mary Teresa Carr
Anna Correia
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
Anita H. Donahue
Dorothy M. Donahue
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Myron Eichen
Richard Farquar
William & Vennita Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Tom Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben E. Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Michael & Monty
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Pope John Paul II
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pfau
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Alan Port
Mary Pullman
Catherine L. Quinlan
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Margaret Rossini
Ann Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel &
Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Mother Teresa
Harold Thompson
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Nysewander Family
Squirrel Family
Gilbert Brown
Norma Ree Hueston
Peggy Miville
Harley Lowe
Vaughn Farmer
June Williams
Alan Port
Frank Onstott
Molly & Johnny
Samuelson
Bernie Weiler
Clarence LaMothe
Margaret Curtius
Keven & Sheila Flynn
Bill Foran
Toolson Family
Joseph Schubert
Margaret Gregoire
Charles Booze
Bob Strawbridge
Richard Franken
Andrew & Jane
Yandura

IN HONOR OF
Father Abbott
Charles Wright

Needs

Gently used furniture
Diapers
Reading glasses
Men’s belts
Men’s jeans
Sturdy walking shoes for men and women

Sept. 2016 Monthly Serving Team Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #1</td>
<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
<td>Brother Benno’s Auxiliary</td>
<td>Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis</td>
<td>San Luis Rey Mission</td>
<td>St. Thomas More</td>
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<td>North Coast Methodist</td>
<td>Team Wyndham</td>
<td>1st MLG FCPOA</td>
<td>Rotary Club of Carlsbad</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Seton #2</td>
<td>Girlfriend’s Care</td>
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<td>Grace Anglican</td>
<td>Pilgrim Creek</td>
<td>Sunrise Christian Fellowship</td>
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<td>Christ Church</td>
<td>St. Mark’s San Marcos</td>
<td>San Luis Rey Methodist</td>
<td>Brother Benno Thrift Shop</td>
<td>King of Kings Lutheran</td>
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Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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, 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 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

July 2016  Our 32nd Year

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<th>Service</th>
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<td>Nights of lodging</td>
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<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<td>Showers</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
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July 2016  Our 32nd Year

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<td>HUGS</td>
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Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049