



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

September 2016



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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"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."

—John Gaines, San Diego Union-Tribune (Dec. 1995)

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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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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.”

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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 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 infor-

mational 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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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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<p>Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org</p> <p>Follow Brother Bennos online:</p> <p> Facebook.com/BrotherBennos</p>
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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

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

Needs

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

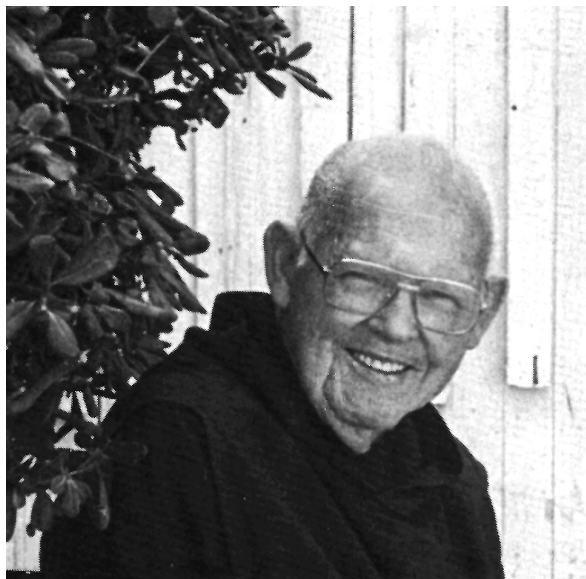
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept.				1	2	3
2016				Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	San Luis Rey Mission	St. Thomas More
Monthly	5	6	7	8	9	10
Serving	St. Elizabeth Seton #1	St. John The Evangelist	Brother Benno's Auxiliary	Oceanside Civitanis	St. Patrick's	Men of Nativity
Team	12	13	14	15	16	17
Schedule	North Coast Methodist	Team Wyndham	1st MLG FCPOA	Rotary Club of Carlsbad	St. Elizabeth Seton #2	Girlfriend's Care
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	Christ the King Lutheran	Grace Anglican	Pilgrim Creek	Sonrise Christian Fellowship	Catholic Daughters
	26	27	28	29	30	
	Christ Church	St. Mark's San Marcos	San Luis Rey Methodist	Brother Benno Thrift Shop	King of Kings Lutheran	

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.

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 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 Services:

	July 2016	Our 32nd Year		July 2016	Our 32nd Year
Meals	12,536	3,925,805	Loads of laundry	28	27,414
Nights of lodging	861	276,955	Food packs	1,370	302,382
Articles of clothing	5,354	1,201,749	Blankets	132	40,554
Showers	1,131	221,935	Tarps	37	1,339
Haircuts	123	20,446	ID Vouchers	7	8,854
Bus passes	120	80,991	HUGS	2,250	924,844