



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

September 2020



## “Pay it Forward” Golf Fundraiser

Our Golf Tournament plans for 2020 were changed by COVID-19; so we reimagined our Annual Fundraiser. Instead of “community play” this event is now “Pay It Forward.” That means, this year your sponsorship dollars will benefit the work of Brother Benno’s and will “Pay it Forward” by funding a round of golf for our local active duty military service members. Sponsored play begins October 2 and will continue until all military member sponsorship rounds have been awarded.

We have sponsorship options for everyone and **100 percent of all sponsorship proceeds and donations are tax deductible.** Since our inception, the mission of the Auxiliary has always been to provide service, support and financial assistance to Brother Benno’s. In the past, the Auxiliary has been able to hold several fundraising events throughout the year; however, due to the situation with COVID-19, **this is the only fundraising event we will be holding this year.** Your support is needed now more than ever.

**Don’t miss this opportunity to help the community in need that Brother Benno serves and to “Pay It Forward” by recognizing a military service member with a round of golf.**

**To view our sponsorship options or make a donation, visit [www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2020](http://www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2020).**

**Questions? Contact Nita Rodriguez at (310) 795-7627 or via email [auxiliary@brotherbenno.org](mailto:auxiliary@brotherbenno.org).**

On behalf of the thousands you will assist, thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this opportunity.

## SPOTLIGHT: MEET RICH MIRO

by Kathleen Diehlmann

*“Volunteers are the heart and soul of Brother Benno’s,” from Soup Soap Hugs Hope by Harold Kutler.*

Brother Benno’s is blessed with people who impact our Guests’ lives in ways that you might not ordinarily think about. One example is **Rich Miro**. As COVID-19 surfaced and impacted us all, Rich has continued to come into the accounting office at the Center four days a week, in spite of the fact that he’s in the most vulnerable age group.



Rich served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eleven years, from 1959-1970, with two tours overseas, including one in Vietnam. He met **Harold Kutler** in 1973 through the YMCA outdoor camping program with their children. In 1975, Rich began working for the City of San Diego as an analyst, and after 29 years, he retired in 2004. Having kept in touch with Harold over the years, he knew he wanted to do something with the Brother Benno Foundation.

Rich has been offering his services in different roles, first as a volunteer in community relations, then as a truck driver. **Dennis Pinnick**, in community relations, said, “Rich is a very humble person. Until you start eating lunch with him, you don’t realize all the things he’s done. He is just a great guy.”

In 2013, Rich told Harold he’d like to work in the accounting office, where he’s been ever since. He said he was trained by **Jim O’Connell, Daniel Boone, and Ron Danielson**. “So far I’m not getting bored,” he told us in his dry, humble manner. When asked what he likes most about the job, he stated it’s the people he works with.

Volunteer **Terri Fenske** said, “He’s a very pleasant person to work with. I look forward to having lunch with him on the two days a week I’m at the Center.”

Jim O’Connell has this to say: “Rich picks up the daily sales info from the Thrift Shop and posts each days’ details to an accounting spread sheet. He also picks up the mail from our PO box at the Post office and makes the bank deposits. When he started working in the accounting office, Harold used to refer to him as the ‘Rookie.’ Over the years he has progressed so that now he is the ‘MVP.’ He is very kind to people and goes out of his way to help me with physical challenges, whether it be taking my tray at lunchtime or opening doors so I can pass through easily. These things may sound simple to most people; however, they make my life a lot easier.”

**Todd Emerson** shared these thoughts: “When I started volunteering nearly four years ago in the accounting office, which led to my part-time employment for the past year, I’ve always been impressed by Rich’s hard work and dedication to Brother Benno’s. I believe he is keeping Brother Benno’s going during this pandemic. He’s doing the job of three volunteers, and he keeps the cash flowing and the power on. He processes all donations—cash, checks, and credit cards, and pays a multitude of bills for the Center, Thrift Shop, and seven Recovery Houses. He’s my eyes and ears, since I am primarily working remotely. He’s one of the most reliable and consistent people I know, and his work ethic is unmatched. I respect him a great deal, and I admire his dedication to his church and his faith in God.”

### UPDATE ON OUR SERVICES

(All in the parking lot)

Sack lunch distribution – Monday thru Saturday, 6:30 to 10 a.m.

Clothing distribution – Monday thru Friday, 6:30 to 9 a.m.

Mail service – Monday thru Saturday, 6:30 - 11 a.m.

Food Box or Bag distribution – Monday thru Saturday, 6:30 - 11 a.m.

Thursdays only: Drive-thru food bag distribution in partnership with Feeding San Diego – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Showers (mobile shower vehicle in parking lot) – Tuesdays, 6:30 to 9 a.m.

**For rental and utility assistance**, please call the Center (760-439-1244, ext. 113). A case worker will get back to you.

The above services might be limited, depending upon circumstances. Our staff and program members are working together to help get food out to our guests and members of our community who need help. We are grateful for everything these extraordinary individuals are doing to help keep the Center running.

The following services will be unavailable until further notice: Hot Breakfast, Laundry, Haircuts.

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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, 760-941-1876 or [smartinek@miracosta.edu](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)

### THRIFT SHOP 3955 Mission Avenue Oceanside

We continue to keep customers, donors, volunteers, and employees safe by taking temperatures and requiring face coverings to be worn at all times. Our clothing donations are quarantined for 72 hours before they are brought in and processed to go to the sales floor.

Shopping: Wednesday thru Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Donations: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Furniture Donation Pick Ups: Wednesday thru Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A list of items that we cannot take as a donation is now posted on the [Brotherbenno.org](http://Brotherbenno.org) website.

The Thrift Shop is also a “drop-off point” for items for the lunch bags for the homeless. We collect them and deliver them to the Center several times a week. Feel free to bring them to the donation drop-off area and let the staff know you have items for the lunch program.

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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 Joyce Cerimele

It has been a quieter summer than most, but we are still doing some work and planning for the fall.

Our Christmas in July gift-card fundraiser has been doing quite well. I thank all of you who pitched in and donated what you could. We should see a lot of happy faces in December at the Children's Christmas Party. If you haven't had a chance to donate, there's still time. Just send \$25 cards from Walmart or Target, or send a check and we'll buy the cards. Mail to Brother Benno Auxiliary, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. Thank you!

We had a Zoom meeting on August 19, and it was good to see each other's faces again.

Please see the article on page 1 about our upcoming Golf Tournament.

Hopefully you are all staying safe, and we'll be able to meet new members in the near future.

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“There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up.”  
~ Bernard Meltzer

**Brother Benno Foundation**  
**Recovery Program for Men and Women**  
760 439 1244 ext. 101  
Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### SERVICE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

by Barbara Ladwig

I'm sure we all know someone who's been using this COVID-19 situation to step up and help others in ways we never had to face before. Because I'm in that "precarious age group," I don't venture far from home, which means I've given up my Wednesday mornings at Brother Benno's, when **Dorothy Richardson** and I usually address thank-you cards to donors. (She's also a gold-en-ager.) Almost immediately, **Mary Spitz**—who has been volunteering in many capacities for years—took over doing the post cards as well. She asked for help via the newsletter, and she's had almost ten volunteers join her "team."

It's often been my experience that people are just waiting to be asked to help when a crisis occurs or a special need surfaces. Brother Benno's is known for the spirit of love that's been spilling over from its many volunteers throughout its 37 years of service to those in need; and that spirit continues to keep most of our services available to the homeless, working poor, seniors, and those with disabilities.

We can't personally thank everyone; but if you're a long-time volunteer, or someone who's just come on board, please know that you are appreciated. And it's my guess that you're getting back more than you give. It's just the way it happens when we serve others.

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**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)  
**Follow Brother Bennos online:**  
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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

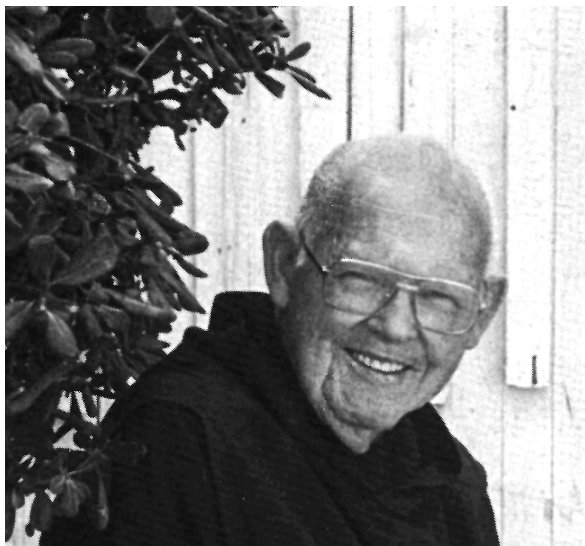
Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Calvin Gregoire
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Catherine L. Quinlan	Molly Wilbur
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Dora Ramirez	Toni Keane
Brother Benno	Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Beverly Miville
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Donna & Gilbert
Andrea Boersma	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Brown
Roland Bond	Ben Kouns	Nick Sauer	Tom & Louise
Bill Boster	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Hayward
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Al Bastem
Bill Buckner	Harold & Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Richard Foss
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Mary & Joseph
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	Opatkiewicz
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	James Schell
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Alva & Frances	Frank Beeson
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Snider	Andrew & Jane
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Squirrell Family	Yandura
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Mike Stendahl	Covid-19 victims
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Zeferino & Dancy	Margaret Stephan	Ream Braegger
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Shelby Arroyo
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	
Ehringer, OSB	Nysewander Family	Carol & Herb	
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Thornberg	
Richard Farhquar	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	
William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa	
Flanagan	Mary Peterson	June Williams	
Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson	
Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Judy Dusak	
Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Ronald Beckman	

## NEEDS

small bags of chips  
 fruit cups  
 protein bars  
 crackers  
 bottled water  
 small juices  
 Gatorade  
 Plastic grocery bags

**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**

**Store Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 11-5; Donation Hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10-3**

**We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up**

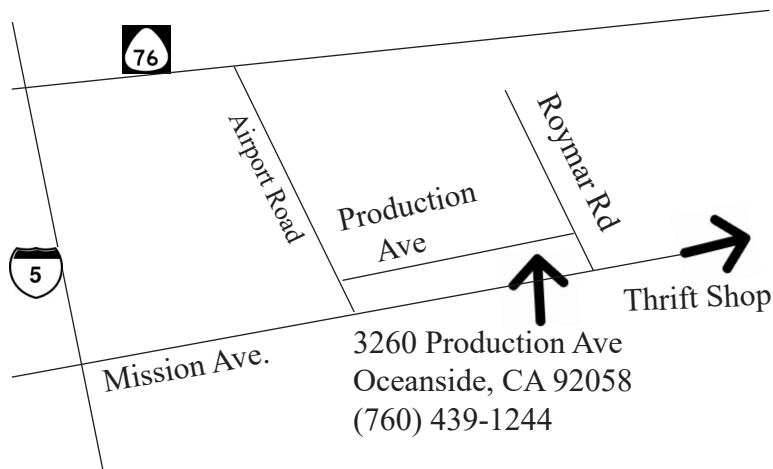
**Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!**

**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, 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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	July 2020	Our 36th Year		July 2020	Our 36th Year
Meals	10,024	4,526,821	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	809	320,413	Food packs	539	355,870
Articles of clothing	1,384	1,420,087	Blankets	72	48,514
Showers	35	271,036	Tarps	20	6,047
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	10	9,938
Bus passes	9	86,015	HUGS	0	1,011,244