



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2023



Renewal and Renovation Continue at Brother Benno's

With the support of our donors, the renovation of the Benno Foundation's recovery houses continues. The Kutler Warehouse remodel at the Center brought light and order to our existing space. And, our upgraded serving line shines brightly. This theme of renewal continues with the July launch of an **updated and redesigned website** and the completion of a **new inspirational video** about Brother Benno's.

In overhauling the website, we kept several goals in mind: improving access to information for visitors (like our Guests) to find the help they need, making the site more phone/tablet friendly, and updating and adding detail to the content. In addition, website visitors will “meet” our leadership team and now have direct contact information. Information on services including our recovery program and sober living houses has also been updated. And, we've made it easier for those interested in donating and volunteering to connect with us.

We owe special thanks to our friends, volunteers, and staff who provided feedback, content updates, and new photos (thank you **Jordan Verdin!**). Without the hard work of **Aaryn Ehlers** and her team of developers and designers, the exceptional redesign would not have been possible.

Our new Brother Benno informational video will be showcased on the homepage of our website brotherbenno.org We would love to hear what you think. Thank you to **Carly Starr, Linda Williams** and the team at KOCT for their incredible storytelling, editing and awareness of what it means to have a “Brother Benno's heart.”

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Volunteer of the Month: Gus Ojeda

One day, **Gustavo “Gus” Ojeda** found himself at the Brother Benno Center when he stepped off the bus at a random stop in Oceanside. He had been to another nonprofit for medical issues, but that organization was unable to help Gus. The care and support he received from Brother Benno's made him feel so welcome, he kept coming back. First, Gus came as a Guest and then he stayed as a volunteer.



“Everybody here makes me feel like family,” Gus explained. “I love everybody as a family.”

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Grant Award to Better Serve Unsheltered Senior Persons

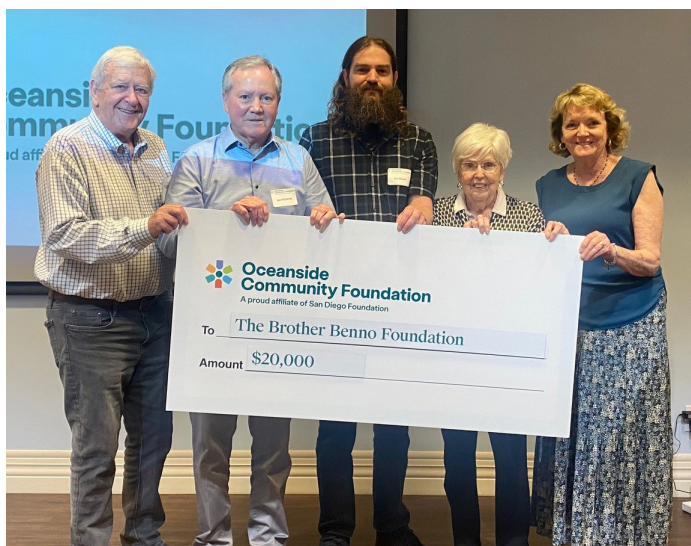
By Joe McDevitt, Co-President

The Oceanside Community Foundation, a regional affiliate of the San Diego Foundation, held its annual grant awards celebration on June 6 at the Veterans Association of North County and awarded \$90,000 to six local nonprofits for helping seniors. The organizations that received the grants provide programs that identify and address the behavioral health, safety, mobility, socialization, food insecurity, mental and physical health needs of adults 50 years and older.

Brother Benno's was thrilled to be one of the six non-profits to receive a grant award at the celebration. Our grant in the amount of \$20,000 will be used to help meet the critical health and safety needs of unsheltered senior persons in the Oceanside community. **Ben Meyer**, Essential Services Manager at Brother Benno's, stated the timing of the award fills funding needs for critical services that are focused on supporting unsheltered senior persons.

Pictured below is the award of the grant from the Oceanside Community Foundation grants committee (**David Nydegger**, **Billie Nunan**, and **Katie Nunan**) and Brother Benno's volunteer/staff members (**Joe McDevitt** and **Ben Meyer**). We are grateful for the efforts of the grant committee to issue this grant award for services that will aid and uplift the dignity of unsheltered senior persons, our "Guests".

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Memories

We're often delighted by the memories about Brother Benno's that are shared on our Facebook page. In response to a post about the original "Brother Benno's Kitchen" sign now hanging in the Center dining room, we received the following memory from **Donna Detzel**.

Donna Detzel June 2023

I served with others from my church at the original soup kitchen twice, shortly before the center on Production opened. Benno's served dinner then. The first time there I met **Kay** and she told me how she came to be hugger of all the guests. God has never made a woman with a more beautiful soul than Kay's. The guests ate outside. There was a stage and a microphone. Kay introduced any new guests. Also people who had guitars played and sang. The second time I was there, there were too many servers. There was a mother with 3 small children. I held the baby while she ate and helped her kids.

Shortly after, the center on Production Ave. was opened. A few times my kids and I served at lunch on Saturday or Sunday. It wasn't long after that, that they started serving breakfast and sending sacks lunches with guests. And not long after that we moved out of state. Many years later we moved back and I served as a greeter at the center for many years.

If you haven't read "Soup, Soap, Hugs, and Hope" you should. Three truly wonderful people started this organization which blessed thousands of people for decades.

See photo of original "Brother Benno's Kitchen" sign on page 4.

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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 Jim Napier, (760) 802-6884 or jim.napier@cox.net.

Sponsor A Day of Golf for Our Servicemen and Women

Celebrate this 4th of July by honoring and sponsoring an active-duty military member as part of the Brother Benno Foundation's 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. We are pleased to continue the tradition of supporting a day of golf for a limited number of active-duty military members.

All sponsored military members receive the same perks and benefits, including VIP Golf bag drop off, shared golf cart, boxed lunch and dinner (with snacks and refreshments throughout the day), premium Swag bag, and access to the Silent & Live Auctions.

Support Brother Benno's and our local military by locking in your sponsorship this July. And, don't forget to share information about the charity tournament with your friends and local businesses to sponsor the tournament. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year. For military or other sponsorship registration and more information visit brotherbenno.org/golf-2023.

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BE A HERO
 SPONSOR AN ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY MEMBER FOR A ROUND OF GOLF WHILE HELPING THE HOMELESS OF NORTH COUNTY

Sponsor a local military service member for a day of golf at Goat Hill Park and support Brother Benno's services for North County's working poor and homeless, too.

REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION
www.brotherbenno.org/golf-2023

BROTHER BENNO'S 5th ANNUAL CHARITY
GOLF TOURNAMENT
 Friday, September 1, 2023

**Brother Benno Foundation
 Recovery Program**
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
recovery@brotherbenno.org
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

LET THE SUN SHINE!

By Steve Oetting

Brother Benno's is looking forward to the installation of 140 rooftop solar panels at our Oceanside Center Facility designed to produce 65 kilowatts. The energy generated by the panels will go a long way in defraying the costs of operating industrial refrigerators, which are the largest consumers of electricity for Brother Benno's. This project was made possible by a grant received from Preserve Calavera in association with the San Diego Foundation. We are grateful for their support.

Prior to installing the solar panels, Brother Benno's will first have to repair its roof. Although these repairs cannot begin until early next year, Brother Benno's has already filed its solar permits, thereby locking-in advantageous electrical rates before their scheduled increase.

Brother Benno's anticipates being able to recoup its cost for the project in less than five years—an outstanding return on investment. As **Gregg Prather**, Director of Facilities at Brother Benno's, summarizes, "The solar panels are really a win-win for us. We will not only be able to reduce our carbon footprint, but also save substantial money over the long haul."

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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) _____

The Brother Benno Foundation
 PO Box 308
 Oceanside CA 92049

Printable version: <https://bit.ly/3PvfNET>
Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

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Gus works in the Kutler Warehouse and is a native Spanish speaker. He helps individuals and families who need food and other assistance. Gus lives in Escondido and makes the commute via bus. It sometimes can take over two hours each way.

He comes to the Center because Brother Benno's gave him the opportunity to be here to help.

"His drive as a human being, Gus was willing to do whatever it took to survive," said **David Carter**. "He has such an upbeat attitude despite his circumstances."

We are so grateful that Gus is volunteering and has become a part of the Brother Benno family.

"Gus is a hard worker with an even bigger heart, and a blessing to the families we serve," said volunteer **Becci Charlton**. "He is also a blessing to the recovery program members. He recently celebrated 25 years sober himself and is a good example of how we must give away what we have to keep it."

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New Thrift Shop Donation Hours



Original "Brother Benno's Kitchen" Sign



Brother Benno
Amazon Wishlist Online
<https://amzn.to/3MHFGSD>

Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Benno's online:
Facebook.com/BrotherBenno
Twitter.com/brotherbennos
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To **unsubscribe** from this print newsletter, email: unsubscribe@brotherbenno.org; or Call (760) 231-1619; or Use the enclosed donation envelope and mail it with your name, mailing address, and phone. Please indicate that you no longer wish to receive the Brother Benno newsletter.

If you would like to subscribe to the online version of the newsletter, please go to our website: www.brotherbenno.org

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Bob Gleason	Kathryn D. Pent	Fred Williamson
Dixie & Lou Bales	Chance Hales	Mary Peterson	Andrew & Jane
Frank Barnet	Tom & Louise	Jane Pfau	Yandura
Brother Benno	Hayward	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Tanya Stapp
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Alan Port	H Edward Smith
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Mary Pullman	Family
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Catherine L. Quinlan	Josi Opatkiewicz
Bill Boster	Jellig	Dora Ramirez	Elizabeth Parish
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Maria Elena
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Gonzalez
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Ann & Nick Sauer	Bill Luksetich
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Molly Wilbur
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Toni Keane
Don & Lael Dewhurst	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	Barbara Havens
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Milton Silver	Molly Beth
Frank S. Dolley	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	Frank Beeson
Anita H. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Ann Grier Smith	Bill Stone
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helene McGill	Alva & Frances	Lew Gary
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Douglas E Milovicz	Snider	Timothy Diem
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Peggy & Beverly	Squirrel Family	Leo Pacheco
Fr. Abbot Claude	Miville	Mike Stendahl	William H. Daley
Ehringer, OSB	Monty, Natalie, &	Margaret Stephan	Nick Jellison
Myron Eichen	Michael Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Ron Beckman
Richard Farhquar	Zeferino & Daney	Harold Thompson	Alfred & Josephine
William & Vennita	Nares	Carol & Herb	Ricci
Flanagan	Mary Nordstrom	Thornberg	Deacon Bob Troy
Louise Foussat	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	
Joe & Ida Friend	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	
Mary Gerrity	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	

Needs

Gently used furniture (Thrift Shop) Women's ankle socks Baseball caps
 Men's Tennis Shoes (size 9-13) Adult Unisex Diapers Women's underwear, sizes 4 & 5
 Travel-size toothpaste & deodorant Travel-size conditioner Towels
 Bottled waters, sodas, & juices

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July						1 St. Thomas More
2023	3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Juanita's Team	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 La Costa Valley Volunteers
Monthly	10 North Coast Methodist	11 Riverview Church	12 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	13 Servers R Us	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 Christ The King Church	19 Friends of Brother Benno	20 Ernest Packaging	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 NMRTC Camp Pendleton Orthopedics Dept
Team	24 Open / 31 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	25 Rotary Club of Vista	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Open	28 Oceanside Sanctuary	29 Open
Schedule						

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: Tues-Sat 10-5; Donation Hours Tues-Fri 10-1, Saturdays 10-Noon

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 and click on "Ways You Can Help". We've expanded your donation options to include bank transfers, Venmo, Apple Pay, and Google Pay in addition to PayPal. You can scan this QR code to make an online donation too.



Your donation is used each month at our main center and seven recovery and sober living houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, bus vouchers, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security and veterans' issues, food packs, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. We thank you for your continued support.

Please Note Our Mailing address:

The Brother Benno Foundation
Post Office Box 308
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308
(760) 439-1244

If you wish to drop off donations in person, our physical address is: [3260 Production Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92058](http://3260ProductionAvenue.com)

Donations accepted Monday through Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. (no furniture or household items) and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno's Services:

	May 2023	Our 39th Year		May 2023	Our 39th Year
Meals	12,989	4,860,149	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1,196	352,839	Food packs	1,176	383,192
Articles of clothing	3,420	1,517,428	Blankets	99	52,150
Showers	585	286,638	Tarps	78	7,840
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	21	10,731
Bus passes	84	89,025	HUGS	1,000	1,017,244
