

Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

September 2023



MOMENTS: A WRITER REFLECTS

by Barbara Ladwig

Many years ago, I saw a plaque on the wall in my doctor's office that said: “Life is not a matter of milestones, but of moments.” As Brother Benno's celebrates 40 years of service, I know that we have often celebrated milestones--such as years of service and number of meals served--but I believe that most of us connected with this organization are quick to remember the moments when certain experiences touched us in a special way.

The first that comes to my mind always includes **Kay Kutler**. From the day I met her, when I was part of a serving team at the original Center in downtown Oceanside, I knew she was someone I wanted as a friend. She was standing on a make-shift stage in the back yard, belting out or crooning songs to entertain the Guests as they ate their dinner. At one point, she asked if any of the children would like to come up and sing with her. There was never a hesitation from the little ones, and I have to think that as they grew older, they continued to feel the warmth of her love. Over the years, I never missed stopping in at her office for a hug when I went to the Center.

Of course, **Harold Kutler** is also on my list of the people who influenced me. I learned that his first priority in running the soup kitchen was that he become more humble. I thought, how many men would be willing to admit to needing that virtue! His previous business experience had made him very successful, and it certainly helped him organize the non-profit; but that wasn't good enough for Harold. He felt a pull toward the value of service, and he encouraged everyone in the organization to come at their jobs with that goal in mind. Listening to staff and volunteers over the years when they share their Brother Benno stories

has convinced me that his example rubbed off on most of them. If it didn't, they often left after a short time.

And then there's the beloved monk, **Brother Benno Garrity**. I never had the chance to really get to know him personally, but the stories others told about him made him sound like a saint-in-the-making. Not only that, he was known for his “sense of humor.” Harold always said that Brother told the corniest jokes ever created by anyone. He even made up a little book so others could enjoy the monk's idea of humor; and as I refreshed my memory with the book over the years, I continued to groan in appreciation.

I count many staff members and volunteers as friends, even though it's been harder to stay in touch as we've all aged. But just knowing and working with them will always be part of my life's memories.

As Kay used to say: “God bless Brother Benno's, and God bless America!”

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Barbara Ladwig volunteered as the editor of Brother Benno's Newsletter for many years before stepping down in 2022. She also helped write [Soup Hugs Hope: The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen](#) with Harold Kutler. On page 200 of this book, you will find a picture of Barbara with the following: “Barbara Ladwig's participation in this book is a legacy she has given to the Brother Benno Foundation.” Barbara's legacy extends well beyond the book and the newsletter. Those of us fortunate enough to know Barbara are grateful recipients of her kind smile and thoughtful observations.

ON THE FRONT LINES

By Kathleen Diehlmann
Manager of Volunteer Programs

“Can you charge my phone?” a Guest asks, early in the morning at the front door of the Brother Benno Center. Someone else steps up to ask if they have mail. He also needs a blanket. A young mother requests diapers for her children.

Volunteers arrive as early as 6:30 a.m. (sometimes even earlier!) to help fulfill the needs of our Guests. Monday through Friday the unsheltered and low income individuals and families receive essential items including sack lunches, water, socks, hygiene supplies, diapers, backpacks, tarps, blankets ... and more. Over 20 women and men volunteer their time - usually once a week. [Brother Benno's accommodates other schedules (i.e. every other week) and arrival times.] Smiling and ready to serve, our volunteers share the core values of Brother Benno's: kindness, caring for others, compassion and making a difference.

But why does a person come to Brother Benno's to help?

“For me it's part of obedience, to help the Lord's request to serve the least of these,” shared **Margaret** who helps out on alternating Mondays.

“I keep coming back for the human connection through service between the Guests, volunteers, employees and all who come through Brother Benno's doors,” said **Danielle**. She typically volunteers on Thursdays.



Danielle assisting Guests
Photo by Jordan Verdin

Another volunteer, **Carmelina**, shared that when she retired, she wanted to learn more about the unsheltered and overcome her fear of people who are homeless. She learned that many people she met were “survivalists who in most cases really appreciate when anyone they interact with treats them like human beings. They lose their invisibility.” Carmelina volunteers twice each week and she was one of a limited number of volunteers who helped during Covid-19.

Volunteer hours donated to assist operations at the Brother Benno Foundation are critical to the ministry.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact volunteers@brotherbenno.org or call (760) 231-1613. We ask that you join us for our monthly tour and orientation on the first Saturday of every month. Upcoming tours for 2023 include: September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th and December 2nd. The tour begins at 9 a.m. and is held at The Brother Benno Center located at 3260 Production Avenue Oceanside, CA 92058.

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a TrueCare mobile clinic visits the Brother Benno's Center twice a week with medical and dental staff to serve the needs of homeless Guests, many of whom have lacked even minimum medical/dental care for a number of years. Over 250 homeless Guests received care from TrueCare's mobile visits.

HELP BROTHER BENNO'S CELEBRATE 40 YEARS



On October 21, 1983, The Brother Benno Foundation served its first meal to the homeless and hungry in Oceanside. Forty years later, over 4 1/2 million meals have been served to the unsheltered and working poor.

In honor of this 40 year milestone, Brother Benno's is excited to announce the launch of our **\$40 for 40** donation drive. Gifts will be matched dollar for dollar for the first \$10,000 contributed thanks to the generosity of **Mike and Mary Curtius**.

We hope you will consider giving \$40 each month, for as long as you are willing, to celebrate 40 years of Brother Benno's mission. These funds will help sustain our services that uplift the dignity of those we serve. With your support, we're counting on another 40 years of service.

Make your \$40 for 40 donation **HERE**: <https://give.brotherbenno.org/40>

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ONLINE REVIEWS



Kimberly
5 reviews • 0 photos

★★★★★ 2 hours ago

Brother Bennos has helped me in more ways that I can explain. I came in homeless left with an apartment. They gave me the tools and resources I needed to excel. All the staff wants to see you do better. Thank you God for sending Darryl and Dennis to me.

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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – PAUL MCNAMARA

It is with great pleasure that the Brother Benno Foundation introduces Paul “Mac” McNamara as its new Executive Director. Previously, Paul served seven years as the Executive Director of the non-profit Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Foundation, held the position of Colonel with the U.S. Marine Corps, and was the elected Mayor of Escondido for four years.

Paul will report to the Brother Benno Foundation Board of Directors. All Brother Benno department managers – DinaMarie Ahee, Kathleen Diehlmann, Darryl Harris, Michelle Hoppe, Ben Meyer, and James Shlemmer will report to Paul.

Welcome Paul to Brother Benno's! Please join us in wishing him much success in this vital and important position.

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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.): _____

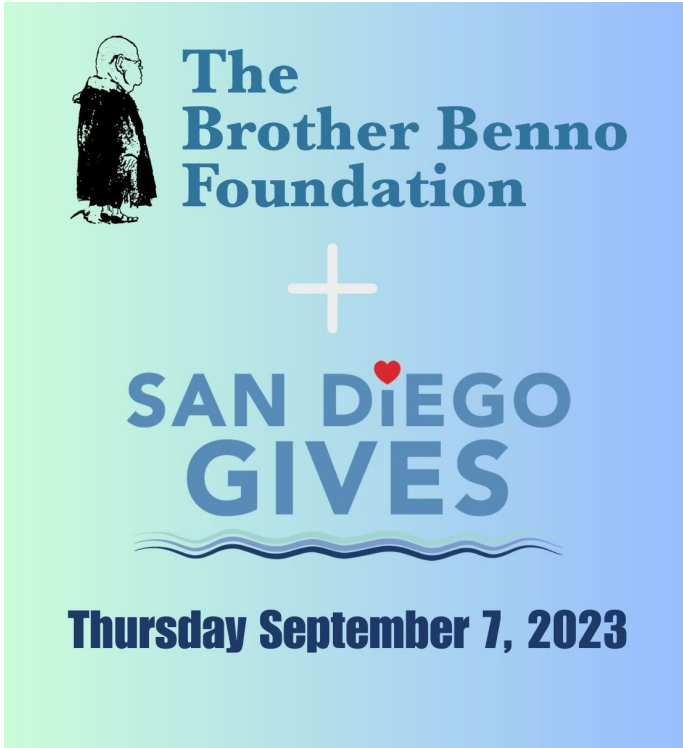
Send a card to: (name) _____
(address) _____

The Brother Benno Foundation
PO Box 308
Oceanside CA 92049

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

A 24 HOUR DAY OF GIVING: SEPTEMBER 7TH

Mark your calendars! San Diego Gives returns on Thursday, September 7th.



For the second year in a row, The Brother Benno Foundation is raising funds and awareness by participating in San Diego Gives. A fundrais-

Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Benno's online:
[Facebook.com/BrotherBenno](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBenno)
[Twitter.com/brotherbennos](https://twitter.com/brotherbennos)
[Instagram.com/brotherbenno](https://www.instagram.com/brotherbenno)

ing program for local San Diego-based nonprofits, San Diego Gives encourages San Diegans to give locally and learn about the many nonprofit organizations that support our beautiful County.

Early giving began on August 17th. Donations will be accepted through September 7th, the official day of San Diego Gives. Please consider supporting Brother Benno's or one of the other 337 organizations that will be part of this year's event. Donors can choose to give to one or more nonprofits through the San Diego Gives website. The San Diego Gives website makes it simple to learn about local nonprofit organizations and their work. There are a diverse range of cause areas, including the arts, animal welfare, the environment, education, health, human services, equity, social justice, and more.

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**Brother Benno
Amazon Wishlist Online**

<https://amzn.to/3MHFGSD>

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

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	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	Bill Foran
Edith Blaiser	Elizabeth Holms	Alan Port	Bill Stone
Andrea Boersma	John Jarvie	Mary Pullman	Erik & Ream
Roland Bond	Dorothy and Walter	Catherine L. Quinlan	Braegger
Bill Boster	Jellig	Dora Ramirez	Frank Beeson
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	John and Doris
Bill Buckner	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Witschger
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Richard Kurtz	Ann & Nick Sauer	Kevil Ehringer
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Lois & Bob Myers
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Harold & Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Manulos Opatkiewicz
Don & Lael Dewhurst	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel &	Jim Sanseverino
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Milton Silver	Mary & Jos
Frank S. Dolley	Helen Lucas	Will Skinner	Opatkiewicz
Anita H. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Ann Grier Smith	Molly Wilbur
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helene McGill	Alva & Frances	Peter Wickersham
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Douglas E Milovicz	Snider	Robert DiCario
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Peggy & Beverly	Squirrel Family	Shirley Kudzia
Fr. Abbot Claude	Miville	Mike Stendahl	Timothy Diem
Ehringer, OSB	Monty, Natalie, &	Margaret Stephan	Kate Selich Patrick
Myron Eichen	Michael Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Cynthia Reinseth
Richard Farhquar	Zeferino & Dancy	Harold Thompson	Toni Keane
William & Vennita	Nares	Carol & Herb	
Flanagan	Mary Nordstrom	Thornberg	In Honor Of:
Louise Foussat	Nysewander Family	Rosemary Tucker	George Oleinik
Joe & Ida Friend	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	Steve Love
Mary Gerrity	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	Whitley Johnson

Needs

Gently used furniture (Thrift Shop) 1 oz hand sanitizer Baseball caps
 Men's tennis shoes (size 9-13) Q-tips Med & large incontinent adult underwear
 Boys & girls pullups 3T Towels Insect repellent
 Bottled waters, sodas, & juices Sunscreen Women's underwear, sizes 4 & 5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September					1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
2023	4 Closed Labor Day	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 First Wednesday Team	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 Mission San Luis Rey Parish
Monthly	11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	14 Servers R Us	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 Christ The King Church	20 Friends of Brother Benno	21 Ernest Packaging	22 Oceanside Sanctuary	23 NMRTC Camp Pendleton Orthopedics Dept
Team	25 Open	26 Rotary Club of Vista	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Oceanside Sanctuary	29 King of Kings	30 Nativity Men's Group
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:

	July 2023	Our 39th Year		July 2023	Our 39th Year
Meals	13,773	4,887,862	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1,196	355,231	Food packs	1,462	386,127
Articles of clothing	3,660	1,524,560	Blankets	91	52,348
Showers	600	287,838	Tarps	54	7,957
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	24	10,781
Bus passes	106	89,214	HUGS	1,000	1,019,244
