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!”

Barbara Ladwig volunteered as the editor of Brother Benno’s Newsletter for many years before stepping down in 2022. She also helped write Soup Soap 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.
“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.

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 ½ 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

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.

ONLINE REVIEWS

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.
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 fundraising 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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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
Anna Correia
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Don & Lael Dewhurst
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
Anita H. Donahue
Dorothy M. Donahue
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Roseanne Dreiblebis
Fr. Abbot Claude
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Myron Eichen
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Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales
Tom & Louise Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
John Jarvie
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Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
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Bill & Louise Lakoff
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Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Douglas E Milovich
Peggy & Beverly Miville
Monty, Natalie, & Michael Nares
Zeferino & Dancy Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Nysewander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
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 & Nick Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Ann Grier Smith
Alva & Frances Snider
Squirrell Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Andrew & Jane Yandura
Bill Foran
Bill Stone
Erik & Ream Braegger
Frank Beeson
John and Doris Witschger
Kevil Ehringer
Lois & Bob Myers
Manulos Opatkiewicz
Jim Sanseverino
Mary & Jos Opatkiewicz
Molly Wilbur
Peter Wickersham
Robert DiCarlo
Shirley Kudzia
Timothy Diem
Kate Selich Patrick
Cynthia Reinseth
Toni Keane

In Honor Of:
George Oleinik
Steve Love
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

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<th>September 2023</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>St. John The Evangelist</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista</td>
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<td>Christ The King Church</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Rotary Club of Vista</td>
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Brother Benno’s Services:
July 2023  Our 39th Year

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