

# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

November 2023



## HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TO BROTHER BENNO'S!

It all began 40 years ago with a desire to feed the hungry and help the poor. **Harold** and **Kay Kutler** opened Brother Benno's Kitchen on October 23, 1983. The kitchen was named after **Brother Benno Garrity** from the Prince of Peace Abbey.

“Knowing the history of Brother Benno's and how it essentially was started by one man who decided to dedicate everything he had in his whole life to this, it's a reminder that there are some extraordinary people out there doing some special things,” said Essential Services Manager, **Ben Meyer**. “I think it's a healthy reminder that one person can make a huge difference.”

From its humble beginning of feeding the poor, Brother Benno's fully embraced the charge of scripture (Matthew 25: 31-45) to address the needs of the “least of us.” Its programs change and save lives, by providing food and services to the working poor, feeding and assisting the homeless, clothing those in need, and treating those suffering from addiction with dignity and respect.

Brother Benno's has served 4,917,273 meals since the end of September 2023. During our 40th year we will serve our 5 millionth meal. Brother Benno's services grew over time from its start in 1983. It has been at its current location, The Brother Benno Center, since 1991. The original Brother Benno's Kitchen is now used to house sober living residents. These individuals find a job, pay a reasonable rent, and get support in recovery. According to those who run our recovery program, it is 20 times better than the national average.

The expanded services also include providing clothing to those in need in two ways. One is through a free donation program and the other

is through our Thrift Store that provides clothing and other essentials at a very reduced rate to low-income families and individuals.

Volunteers continue to be crucial to operations at Brother Benno's. Over 140 individuals (including our Board of Directors) volunteer regularly and an additional 150 or more members of the community serve breakfast or brunch once a month with their serving teams.

“It truly fills my heart to help and offer what I can,” said volunteer **Lori Johnstone**. “Even if it's a smile, a hug or just acknowledging folks by name. There is such love in this organization and the people who devote their personal time are truly amazing.”

The Brother Benno Foundation will be celebrating its 40-year milestone throughout the months ahead. Plans are being established for a supporter appreciation celebration in the spring of 2024. In addition, the **\$40 for 40** fundraising campaign will help Brother Benno's to continue its work for another 40 years. (See more on page 3.)

We want to thank the supporters of Brother Benno's. Without your contributions and dedication to The Brother Benno Foundation, none of this would have been possible.

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# LET'S THROW A CHRISTMAS PARTY!

By Steve Otting

For many of us at Brother Benno's, the highlight of the year is the annual Children's Christmas Party. This year the party is scheduled at the Thrift Store for December 17th, and that date is fast approaching! The event will host low income children up to age 15 from around North County. Last year, 450 children were invited to attend, and the hope is that this year there will be sufficient donations for a similar number. Each child will receive a stocking with gifts, including a \$25 gift card, pajamas, and a stuffed toy. There will be a DJ with music, as well as cookies and hot chocolate. Guests will be able to have a photo taken with both Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

What does it take to put on a party like this? Many, many volunteers and very generous donations. Preparations for the party start every August, and ramp up quickly beginning in December. Volunteers assist with everything from wrapping gifts to sorting donations and setting up on the day of the party. **Helen Parsons**, who has overseen the party for the past 10 years, notes, "There are so many good people involved!" One family in Carlsbad, **Chris and Brenda Shea**, enlist their neighborhood in a community event to stuff the stockings. This year, other volunteers are knitting hats, gloves, and scarves to add to the stockings. Volunteers are still needed to paint faces or help with craft projects on the day of the party.

Donations, including brand new books, wrapping paper, and, of course, money for the gift cards, are always welcome and can be dropped off at the Thrift Store with a note that it is for the Christmas party.

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Donate Online or via check and we'll purchase the gift cards in your name!  
 Our goal is to collect 400 WALMART gift cards this year & we're counting on you!

**ONLINE**  
 To make an online donation to the gift card fund, visit  
<https://bit.ly/3ZbLljs>

**SCAN ME**

**SEND**  
 Gift Cards or your check with the form (below) to:  
 The Brother Benno Foundation  
 P.O. Box 308  
 Oceanside, CA 92049

Gift Cards can also be dropped off at the Thrift Shop. Please label your envelope "Children's Christmas Gift Cards."

.....  
 Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Cards @ \$25.00 each  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Please purchase Gift Cards in my name.  
 Donation amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY  
 DONATION CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS YOU PROVIDE



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.

### DONOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Donors of Brother Benno's,

The Fall season has always been one of my favorites. It is full of holidays, the heat of the summer is over, and the weather is just great. I particularly like the season's holidays, in the sense that they have an introspective element to them. They make us pause and reflect. Thanksgiving is probably the biggest one, and it causes us to reflect on gratitude.

Brother Benno's is a great place to work for many reasons, but one of them is that one can see firsthand the blessings we've received. It truly makes one grateful for the bounty our lives have been provided. It gives us perspective on life. And teaches us what is really important in life, not only for ourselves but for our friends and family. One of the biggest blessings of my life this year was joining the great team that works here.

As I see the impact our foundation makes, I am also grateful to all of you for your support. We literally couldn't do it without you. You are making a difference in the lives of the "least of us," but also those who see you exhibit the best of our virtues. Saying thank you will never be adequate to express the feelings we all feel about your connection with us.

Finally, I want to remind you about our upcoming Christmas Party for the children. It serves those children from working poor families who don't have much. It is an impactful event that creates memories. Let me close by saying once again – thank you and ...

God bless you all! Mac



### 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>

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**Information & Online donations:**  
**[brotherbenno.org](https://brotherbenno.org)**

**Follow Brother Benno's online:**

**[Facebook.com/BrotherBenno](https://Facebook.com/BrotherBenno)**

**[Twitter.com/brotherbennos](https://Twitter.com/brotherbennos)**

**[Instagram.com/brotherbenno](https://Instagram.com/brotherbenno)**

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 23 PALOMAR COLLEGE EOPS STUDENTS

We're excited to share that the Brother Benno Foundation awarded twenty-three, \$500 scholarships to Palomar College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) students on October 9.

Eligible scholarship applicants had to have completed at least one semester at Palomar college prior to applying for the scholarship, have a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average, be enrolled in 6 or more units of coursework, and be enrolled in the EOPS program.

Scholarship recipients were selected based on several factors including how poverty, homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse/addiction, or having aged out the foster care system has affected their education. The number of applications received for this scholarship highlights both students' incredible drive to pursue post-secondary education to improve their career opportunities, be better role models for their children or contribute to their communities as well as the deep need for financial assistance.

These fall scholarships were made possible through a \$10,00 funding commitment from the Brother Benno Foundation and a private \$1,500 donation which increased the total scholarships available from twenty to twenty-three. Brother Benno's Scholarship Program was established in 2008.

Forty-six applications were reviewed by our Brother Benno Scholarship Committee. Members of the committee include **Joyce Cerimele, Kristal Cerimele, Suzy Martinek, James O'Connell, and Belinda Smith**. We're grateful to our scholarship committee members for their conscientious work and time intensive commitment to

reviewing the applications and making some tough decisions.

A similar scholarship opportunity has been made available for Mira Costa College EOPS students. Mira Costa scholarships will be awarded in November.

For questions or more information about our scholarship offerings, visit <https://brotherbenno.org/services/scholarships/> or email [bbscholarship@brotherbenno.org](mailto:bbscholarship@brotherbenno.org)



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

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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### SPOTLIGHT: MEET RICHARD OGAN

By Steve Oetting

For the past thirteen years, **Richard Ogan** has been volunteering at Brother Benno's. Working in the "Bread Van" twice a week, Richard and a driver go out to local grocery stores, churches, and fast food restaurants to collect food donations. The donations vary, and sometimes they pick up boxes of food weighing 50 or 60 pounds, which Richard loads into the van.



Here's the impressive part: Richard will soon be celebrating his 91st birthday!

**Jerry Weseloh**, who drives the Bread Van with Richard every Tuesday, notes that Richard is "amazing" and "inspirational." Jerry describes Richard as a "blessing to work with" and is impressed by his love for Brother Benno's.

Richard enjoys his opportunity to meet people at the various stores where they make their pickups. His favorite part of his volunteer work, however, is his ability to interact with and encourage folks in the recovery program. Before moving to Oceanside in 2009 with his wife of 55 years, **Siggi**, Richard was an electrical engineer. Richard brings this experience to bear, encouraging people that "there's a light ahead of you," and asking about their goals.

Brother Benno's is fortunate to have Richard!



### TIMELY FLU CLINIC PROVIDED BY GENOA HEALTHCARE

By Joe McDevitt

We are thankful that **Amber Nelson**, from Genoa Healthcare, arrived early in the morning on October 18th during breakfast to give flu vaccines to our guests.

This was perfect timing with guests finishing breakfast and then walking over to Amber for the vaccine.

This is the second year Genoa Healthcare has kindly hosted a flu vaccine clinic at our facility to make it easy for guests, especially those persons without transportation, to receive the vaccine.



**Amber Nelson and Darryl Harris, Community Outreach Manager**



### CHEERS & PRAISE



If you need help, This is the best place!!! I am recently homeless due to a fire and brother bennos is the only place I found that actually is great and non judgemental!!! They are kind there and have a lot of resources!!! I got breakfast, food and dental. They give you clothes, blankets and tarps if needed. The hygiene was very nice and the workers are Amazing!!!  
Thank you so much for your kindness!!!

~ Gina Coronado



*Uplifting the Dignity of those we serve your help.*

We're often delighted by the memories about Brother Benno's 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**.

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.

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### Memorials

Ron Alexander	Louise Foussat	Mary Nordstrom	Carol & Herb
Dixie & Lou Bales	Joe & Ida Friend	Nysewander Family	Thornberg
Frank Barnet	Mary Gerrity	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker
Brother Benno	Bob Gleason	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa
Edith Blaiser	Chance Hales	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams
Andrea Boersma	Tom & Louise	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson
Roland Bond	Hayward	Jane Pfau	Andrew & Jane
Bill Boster	Elizabeth Holms	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Yandura
Agnus & Joan Boyd	John Jarvie	Alan Port	Bertha Weist
Bill Buckner	Dorothy and Walter	Mary Pullman	Beverly Stiles
Deacon Art & Mary	Jellig	Catherine L. Quinlan	Carl Burger
Carr	Alice Jordan	Dora Ramirez	Charlene Belprez
Anna Correia	Ben Kouns	Dick & Terry Riley	David Easterbrooks
Don & Dorothea Day-	Richard Kurtz	Margaret Rossini	Donna J Brown
bell	Carole Kutler	Ann & Nick Sauer	Frank Beeson
Don & Lael Dewhurst	Harold & Kay Kutler	Mary Shankle	Harry Littel
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Kevin Ehringer
Frank S. Dolley	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Bernice, Samuel &	Ron Beckman
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Milton Silver	Ronald Schmid
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Will Skinner	Toni Keane
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Ann Grier Smith	Molly Wilbur
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Douglas E Milovicz	Alva & Frances	Bob Mikulay
Fr. Abbot Claude	Peggy & Beverly	Snider	
Ehringer, OSB	Miville	Squirrel Family	<b>In Honor Of:</b>
Myron Eichen	Monty, Natalie, &	Mike Stendahl	Lew Gary
Richard Farhquar	Michael Nares	Margaret Stephan	Aidan Montanez
William & Vennita	Zeferino & Dancy	Virginia Sylwestrzak	
Flanagan	Nares	Harold Thompson	

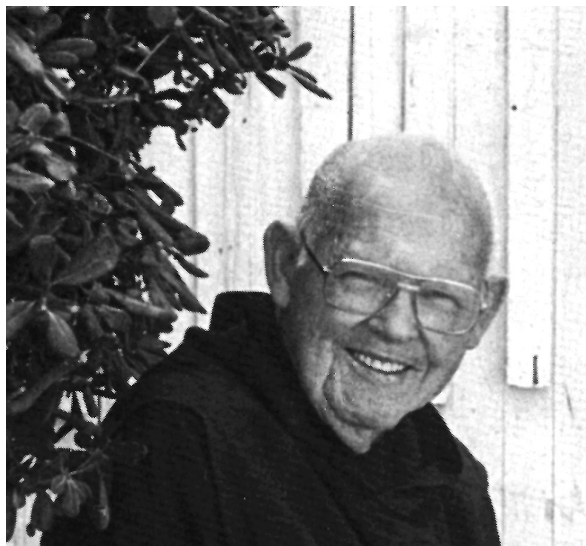
### Needs

Gently used furniture (Thrift Shop)    1 oz hand sanitizer    Q-tips  
 Men's tennis shoes (size 9-13)    Medium-sized adult diapers    Blankets/throws  
 Boys & girls pullups 3T    Towels    Rain ponchos  
 Bottled waters, sodas, & juices    Umbrellas    Women's underwear, sizes 4 & 5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b>			<b>1</b> First Wednesday Team	<b>2</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>3</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>4</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2023</b>	<b>6</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>7</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>8</b> Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	<b>9</b> Servers R Us	<b>10</b> St. Patrick's	<b>11</b> North Coast Life Group
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>13</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>14</b> Riverview Church	<b>15</b> Friends of Brother Benno	<b>16</b> Ernest Packaging	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>18</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>20</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>21</b> Christ The King Church	<b>22</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Meal	<b>24</b> Oceanside Sanctuary	<b>25</b> NMRTC Camp Pendleton Orthopedics Dept
<b>Team</b>	<b>27</b> Open	<b>28</b> Rotary Club of Vista	<b>29</b> Soroptimist International	<b>30</b> Signal		
<b>Schedule</b>						

**Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049**

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Oceanside, California  
**PERMIT NO. 166**



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### **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**

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

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### **Brother Benno's Services:**

	<b>September 2023</b>	<b>Our 39th Year</b>		<b>September 2023</b>	<b>Our 39th Year</b>
Meals	14,388	4,917,273	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	1,196	357,669	Food packs	1,495	389,348
Articles of clothing	3,728	1,532,106	Blankets	124	52,584
Showers	600	289,113	Tarps	74	8,118
Haircuts	0	23,357	ID Vouchers	33	10,850
Bus passes	101	89,453	HUGS	1,000	1,021,244

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