



VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

JANUARY 2024



RECOVERY THROUGH SERVICE: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF BROTHER BENNO'S MEN

BY STEVE SCHUMM

At Brother Benno's, we don't just provide meals to those in need; we extend a hand to guide individuals through their journey of recovery. Our men's 26-week, Twelve Step Recovery Program is designed to foster healing and growth for those battling addiction. This program isn't solely about self-improvement; it's about service.

What makes our program unique is the involvement of these men in the very operations that sustain Brother Benno's mission. They aren't merely recipients of aid; they are active participants in giving back to the community they once felt disconnected from. Through dedication and hard work, they've become the backbone of our foundation, tirelessly working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of our services.

Their commitment to volunteering at Brother Benno's not only aids their own recovery but also creates a ripple effect of positive change in our community. They also develop valuable skills, regain confidence, and rebuild their lives one step at a time. Their presence

and efforts remind us that recovery isn't merely a personal journey; it's a journey that intertwines with the betterment of the community at large.

Each success story is a testament to the resilience and determination of these men. They've overcome obstacles, battled their inner demons, and emerged as beacons of hope for others who walk a similar path. Through their selfless contributions, these men showcase the transformative power of service. By creating a network of support and fostering empathy they prove that no matter the struggles faced, everyone has the capacity to make a meaningful impact.

These men have wholeheartedly embraced "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." They've not only paid their rent but have enriched our lives in immeasurable ways. Their journey reminds us that recovery is possible and that, through service, we can all contribute to creating a brighter, more compassionate world for everyone.

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www.brotherbenno.org

UPLIFTING OUR GUESTS – OCEANSIDE’S COAST INN STEPS UP

BY JOE MCDEVITT

Our Community Outreach team assists unsheltered men and women in receiving longer term supportive care that will uplift and aid them in seeking a better life out of homelessness. To make needed progress in receiving supportive care, it is important to first stabilize our Guests with temporary housing while care arrangements are completed. We are grateful for the support we consistently receive from the Coast

Inn in Oceanside, managed by **Biraj Desai**, to provide temporary housing for our Guests. The Coast Inn not only offers competitive room rates to house unsheltered persons, but Biraj unselfishly assists our Community Outreach team in providing extra care and attention to our Guests, many whom are seniors, disabled, recovering from surgery, and even families who only have a car to live in. Biraj’s efforts form a vital link to giving our Guests a rest from homelessness and a step forward to a better life.

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NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

Welcome to the Brother Benno Foundation’s redesigned newsletter.

The core content of this newsletter remains unchanged. We plan to share impactful stories and photos about events at the Brother Benno’s Center and Thrift Shop. Articles about Brother Benno’s efforts to help support North County’s homeless, struggling seniors, working poor families, and those in recovery will continue to be the focus.

The newsletter will also celebrate our volunteers and staff. We hope

to inspire and inform our readers about The Brother Benno Foundation and its mission.

The Brother Benno Foundation is committed to progress as it celebrates its 40th year. Brother Benno’s wishes to utilize every tool at its disposal to amplify the message of hope that fuels its work.

Thanks so much to the team who made this new look possible! We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions for the newsletter. Please drop us a line at bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org.

Happy New Year! Ω

“What a great place and foundation.

The effects Brother Benno’s has had on local community can be seen deeply with one visit.

What these folks do for our underserved community is priceless. We can all have a bit more Humility and gratitude.”

ERIC TRACY

Unsolicited
Google business Review
November 2023



TAX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
LETTERS

for donations
over \$250
will be mailed
by January 31, 2024

TO DONATE MUCH NEEDED
ITEMS & HAVE THEM DELIVERED
DIRECTLY TO THE CENTER,
CLICK THE BUTTON



Brother Benno Center

Monday - Friday
6:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Saturdays
10:00 AM - noon

Closed
Sundays
New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Chairwoman

Alice Jacobson
Vice Chairperson

John Lavery
Secretary

Jim Napier
Treasurer

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Jeff Bizzack
Dan Boone
Dr. Patrick Gilligan
Joe McDevitt
Michael Moskowitz
Helen Parsons
Gregg Prather
Father Charles Wright

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

John Blasier
Mary Holguin
Dr. Richard Shlemmer

DONOR'S CORNER

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

As I reflect on the messages, I heard during the just ended Christmas season, I want to share one with you that I heard about Scrooge. We often, myself included, think of him as the miserly, Bah Humbug, villain of Dicken's Christmas Carol. He personifies an anti-Christmas spirit sentiment. But after listening to a speaker on the subject, I have completely changed my mind. He is in fact the embodiment of the power of the Christmas spirit. He is redeemed at the end of the story. He becomes the "good guy." He demonstrates that through the power of Christmas and what it represents that one, no matter how far gone, can change.

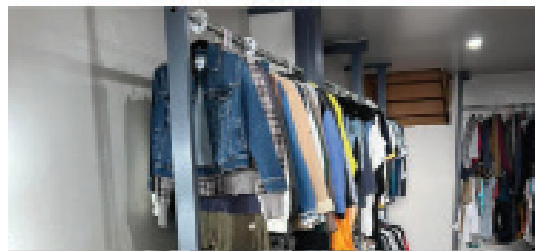
My epiphany on this subject made

me think of Brother Benno's and its power of redemption. As you well know, we have a lot of redemption stories. We have folks that many would have abandoned as lost causes, but through Brother Benno's faithfulness to them, they found that moment where they chose to change their lives and they did!

Our organization was founded on faith and the charge in Matthew 25 to address the needs of the "least of us." We, and I include all of you in that word, have remained faithful to our guests and that charge. Our reward is watching them having their lives redeemed. I think we have our own version of the Christmas Carol story. Thank you and -

God bless you all!

Mac



CLOTHING ROOM: NEW SPACE, MORE HOURS

BY V.C. SMITH

Michelle Hoppe and **Vikki Ramey** worked miracles to get our relocated and redesigned Clothing Room ready for it's Saturday opening last month. Our Guests are impressed with the

new space and are thankful for the additional day of service.

This move has opened up space for a multi-use conference room and made it possible for us to enlarge our pantry. The warehouse is now devoted to food distribution and essential services. Ω

GENEROSITY ABOUNDS AT THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY STEVE OETTING

Once again, the Children's Christmas Party was a huge success! Thanks to the tireless efforts of scores of volunteers, and the substantial donations from so many community members, Brother Benno's was able to give a special Christmas to well over 400 needy children. So many people opened their hearts in order to achieve this outcome, it is impossible to recognize everyone. Here are a few representative examples of the generosity and effort that went into making this day the success it was:



Ed Been and **Jill Haynie** collected over 360 new stuffed toys over the course of the year, keeping an eye out for sales and other discounts. Ed recounted watching the joy of one child hugging a stuffed animal, noting, "It affects you. It's what it's all about."



Ella Jorgensen and her mother **Julie Jorgensen** arranged the selection and donation of hundreds of new books. Ella fondly recalled reading the books that were available at the Thrift Store when she was younger, and she wanted to pass on the pleasure of books to others. In early September, she began creating a wish list of books for people to donate. At the party, the Jorgensens encouraged people to sign up for additional free books made available through the Council on Literacy.



John Anderson crafted 425 wooden trucks and other toys. He collected the materials, which otherwise would have been thrown out, from lumberyards, and then cut, sanded, painted, and assembled the toys. Santa's elves could do no better!



Members of the Saint Thomas Catholic Church Prayer Shawl Ministry knitted and crocheted 400 hats and scarves. **Theresa Berry** explained the importance of being able to wrap someone in a shawl to symbolize a "loving embrace."



Brother Benno's neighbors in the business park were represented as well. Folks at **MC Painting** showed their support by collecting over 5,000 new socks to donate.



And then there were the many people who showed up early in the morning to organize the gifts and set up. First time volunteer **Megan Suster** participated because of the "great service" Brother Benno's provides and the opportunity to "connect with members of the community."

Thank you to all for making this day possible!

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OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara
Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee
Accounting Manager

Kathleen Diehlmann
Manager of Volunteer Programs

Darryl Harris
Community Outreach Manager

Michelle Hoppe
Thrift Shop Manager

Ben Meyer
Essential Services Manager

Gregg Prather
Facilities Manager

Jan Roberts
Sr. CADC Counselor

Jim Shlemmer
Substance Abuse Recovery Manager

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

[visit our website](#)



“Thank God for Brother Benno’s. They saved my life with all the services and my son went into the rehab, graduated and now is sober.”

The recovery program helped my son get his family back and life back on track.”

GEOFF R.



“Being imprisoned by addiction is a living hell. By interacting with the men and women in our recovery program, we become part of the key that will open the gate to their freedom.”

HAROLD KUTLER

Brother Benno Foundation Recovery Program

(760) 439-1244 ext.101
recovery@brotherbenno.org

Changing people’s lives through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

BY V.C. SMITH

In a pre-holiday ceremony, 20 MiraCosta College EOPS students were awarded a \$500 Brother Benno Foundation scholarship.

Recipients were chosen by our scholarship committee based on a range of factors, including how they navigated challenges such as poverty, homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse/addiction, or aging out of the foster care system.

One grateful recipient, A.C., shared, “It has been a financial struggle to

make ends meet as a full-time student in a demanding program. While financial aid has been a tremendous help, scholarships like this are what really cover the gaps.”

The scholarship program has been empowering students since 2008. Donations to Brother Benno’s make these scholarships possible.

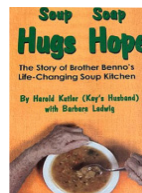
Dennis and Suzy Martinek, and Brother Benno’s Executive Director, **Paul Mc Namara** attended this year’s ceremony. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or email bbscholarship@brotherbenno.org.

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SOUP, SOAP, HUGS, HOPE

The Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen



The book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows. The important thing is that you have one.

Clip and Mail

your check & the donation form to
The Brother Benno Foundation
 P.O. Box 308
 Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

BOOK DONATION ORDER FORM

YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

Donation Amount
 \$ _____

No. of books

A HEARTFELT DELIVERY

BY KALTHLEEN DIEHLMANN

One day in early December, Beverly Watters and her daughter Lia made a special delivery to the Brother Benno Center.

Beverly, 90, makes hand-made Christmas cards for the homeless and has been doing so for many years. Despite some health challenges this year, Beverly designed 270 beautiful cards for Brother Benno's.

Altogether, she made over 1,000 cards this year for various nonprofits. This is the most she's ever done for Christmas!

"I love making cards and it means so much to know that the people who are served by organizations like Brother Benno's can enjoy them," said Beverly.

The cards are given out at our reception desk to anyone who wants to reach out to a family member, a loved one, or a friend during the holiday season.

Our Guests appreciate having a beautiful card to send out. It is another illustration of our motto of uplifting the dignity of those we serve.



♥♥♥ JANUARY SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Closed Happy New Year	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 First Wednesday Team	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
8 North Coast Methodist	9 Riverview Church	10 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	11 Servers R Us	12 St. Patrick's	13 TVIA
15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Open	17 Friends of Brother Benno	18 Ernest Packaging	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
22 Open	23 Rotary Club of Vista	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Signal	26 Oceanside Sanctuary	27 Camp Pendleton Ortho. Dept.
29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Bro Benno's Volunteers & Staff	31 Soroptomist International			

JANUARY NEEDS

Adult Jackets, Coats, Rain ponchos, Sweats & Long sleeved shirts, Unisex Hats and Gloves

Gently-used Adult Backpacks & Dufflebags, Blankets, Towels

Zip-lock Sandwich & Snack bags, Sodas, Juices, Bottled Water

Disposable razors, Dental Floss, Individual packets of Neosporin, Travel-sized: Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion & Tissue packs



DONATIONS for our Guests?

NEW DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS

ALL CLOTHING



THRIFT SHOP

FOOD & OTHER ESSENTIALS



The CENTER



Not sure if we can accept your item - check our list.



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 Dreibelbis
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Myron Eichen
Richard Farhquar
William &
Vennita Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales
Tom & Louise Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
John Jarvie
Dorothy & Walter Jellig

Alice Jordan
Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kutler
Harold & Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben & Ozelle Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Douglas E Milovicz
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
Ron Schmid
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 Stone
Amy Boone
Art Vitello
Bill Stone
Donna J &
Gilbert J Brown
Dr. Jonny Gilbert
Eileen Smith
Frank Beeson
Helen, Beau &
Walt McEwen
James Gwinner
Jack & Jane Trayer
Joe Galizio
Joseph Dominguez
King & Basteri Family

Larry McCullough
Mikey Mazzo
Mom & Dad Soares
Monica Simler
Nick Jellison
Ron Beckman
Timothy Diem
Toni Keane
Tony Glancy
Anne Severy & Ron Habel
Dick Newell
Patricia Day &
Kevin Garrahy
Rosita Blasa

In Honor Of

Dr. Wandz Costanzo
Helene McGill
Leon Degarie
Luke Dougherty OSB
Marcy Bernier
Mark B
Miguel &
Emma Echeverria
Richard Russell
Thelma Nichols



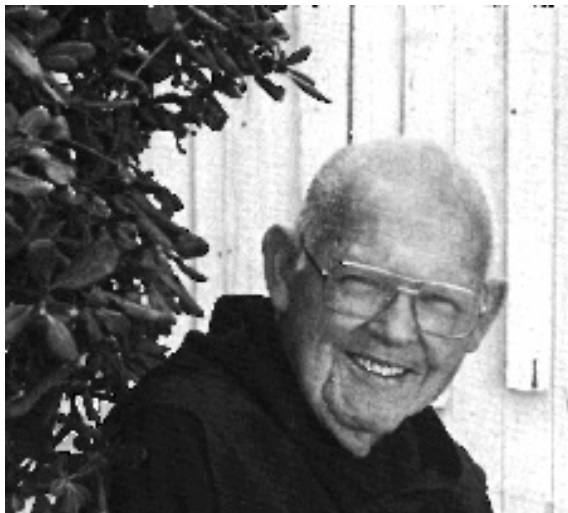
Shaping a future, one gift at a time.

Preserve your legacy and ensure the continuation of The Brother Benno Foundation's mission and services through a planned, future gift.

For more information about Planned Giving Basics, Gift Types, Benefits and more, contact the Brother Benno's Accounting Department, (760) 231-1689 or send an email to accounting@brotherbenno.org

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

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BROTHER BENNO THRIFT SHOP

“Helping the poor, one sale at a time”

3955 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

(Mission between Douglas and Rancho Del Oro)

SHOP

Tuesday - Friday

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

DONATE

Tuesday - Friday

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saturday

10:00 AM – noon

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

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax deductible donation to The Brother Benno Foundation or donate on-line under ‘How to Help’ at brotherbenno.org. Use your preferred service - Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal, credit card or bank transfer. **Please note the Brother Benno Foundation’s mailing address:**

The Brother Benno Foundation, P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049-0308



Brother Benno’s Services

	NOVEMBER 2023	OUR 40th YEAR		NOVEMBER 2023	OUR 40th YEAR
Meals	14,446	4,946,012	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Lodging	1,232	360,133	Food packs	1,095	391,541
Clothing	3,663	1,539,537	Blankets	208	52,966
Showers	525	290,163	Tarps	92	8,311
Haircuts	68	23,425	ID Vouchers	16	10,899
Bus Passes	149	89,789	HUGS	1,000	1,023,244