



VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

FEBRUARY 2024



## AN INTERCONNECTED COMMUNITY HELPS EACH OTHER THRIVE

BY STEVE OETTING

Community support provides the very backbone for all that Brother Benno's is able to accomplish. This assistance comes in a variety of forms. Here are just a few examples: volunteers who offer time and effort; benefactors who contribute financial support; businesses that donate food or other resources; and members of the community who give used clothing to be sold at the Thrift Store.

Another excellent example of this community spirit is the installation of solar panels at Brother Benno's. Without community activists, this project never would have been possible. And, in turn, this project itself will benefit not only Brother Benno's, but also the community at large.

Early last spring, **Diane Nygaard** approached Brother Benno's with the idea of installing rooftop solar in order to cut its electrical bill and reduce its carbon footprint. The idea was attractive, but as is often the case, the question came down to obtaining the money

necessary to finance such an ambitious project.

And this is where the interconnectedness of the community comes into play. In addition to being a long-time friend of Brother Benno's, who has spoken eloquently on its behalf before various planning commission meetings, Diane is also a founding member of Preserve Calavera. An organization originally founded in 2000, Preserve Calavera's focus started with the goal to preserve open space and the water shed around Lake Calavera. Preserve Calavera has taken on many projects, such as wetlands expansion and tree plantings. However, as Diane explains, it soon became clear that her organization's efforts at conservation "would be meaningless" if they did not address the root causes of climate change as a whole.

As part of a settlement involving a development project in Oceanside, Preserve Calavera fought to ensure that mitigation measures used to offset

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www.brotherbenno.org

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## BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION CHANGES

BY PAUL MCNAMARA

There are some changes going on at Brother Benno's, and so as your Executive Director, I wanted to share a little bit about what is changing. As many of you know, we have four major services that we provide – Clothing, Food, Recovery, and Working Poor preventative services. There are of course sub categories to each one of those that we engage in, but the important point is there are organizations that only deal with one of them. The fact that we provide four services is a credit to the support this organization has had from all of you over these past 40 years.

So as a quick summary of our changes we are refining two of those areas – Clothing and Food. In the Clothing Service category, we have consolidated all of those

efforts at the Thrift store but built a clothing “boutique” for our guests at the Center and expanded the hours to now include Saturday. Under Food Service, we are in the process of building an indoor ‘supermarket’ for our guests and working poor families. And we are initiating an improved Food Distribution system. Additionally, we are improving the distribution layout for our Essential Services.

The thought behind these changes was not just being more efficient so we could provide more with less, but also uplifting the dignity of our guests.

Finally, we are moving a few of the staff around to take on greater responsibility. When all is done, we are considering an open house event. If that comes to fruition, we will keep you posted. Thank you for your continued support.

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## A GIFT OF A LIFETIME: BEQUESTS

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

A bequest is a way to create a lasting legacy by supporting a cause you care about. The Brother Benno Foundation has been a fortunate beneficiary of our supporters' estate plans for many years now. These legacy gifts allow us to continue to carry on **Harold & Kay Kutler's** ministry of uplifting the dignity of those we serve.

When Brother Benno's learns about its inclusion as a beneficiary in an estate plan it is a sad yet special surprise. To lose a supporter brings sorrow for the Brother Benno family, but knowing the supporter believed

in our mission; well, that means everything to us.

For Brother Benno's budgeting purposes, it is helpful to learn about a potential future gift during the estate planning stage. However, we are aware notification prior to death may not always happen. A bequest is an extraordinary gift whether Brother Benno's knows about it in advance or not.

If you are interested in learning more about making an impact and leaving a legacy gift, please contact the Brother Benno Foundation's accounting department at [accounting@brotherbenno.org](mailto:accounting@brotherbenno.org), call (760) 231-1689. Please make sure to consult with your estate planning attorney.

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*“I needed some rental assistance and Darryl was able to save the day! The staff here is so kind and caring. Everyone I met came from a different background but were all so nice. Brother Bennos has a lot of resources for the community! I highly recommend them!!!! Thank God for Brother Bennos!!!!”*

Rochelle Diane  
Unsolicited  
Google business Review  
December 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

Kaye Turpin  
*Chairwoman*

Alice Jacobson  
*Vice Chairperson*

John Lavery  
*Secretary*

Jim Napier  
*Treasurer*

### BOARD MEMBERS

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 we are now a month past that time of year when we make New Year's resolutions, I wonder how many have been broken so far. I've broken a few of mine already, but hope springs eternal doesn't it. The good news for me, at least, is that I'm married, and there is nothing like a partner to help each other stay on track. So, while I was going to repair the fence by the end of January, and I didn't, I know it will get done.

There is one resolution that I haven't broken, and that is to go into 2024 and have Brother Benno's serve its guests better than before. I don't think that is just my resolution, I think it is the resolution of our whole team both paid staff

and volunteers. I know a lot of you don't have the opportunity to come down to the center, but in my short time here I've seen our pace pick up. We are still dusting off a little bit of the COVID impact, but we as a team are committed to serving our guests even better than before and preserving the legacy of **Harold** and **Kay**. It is an exciting time and if you decide to come and visit, please send me a note so I can show you around.

Finally, our impact is tied to your generosity. There is no getting around it but we need your support. Please keep your resolution as well to support us. Your commitment has and will change lives.

Thank you and -  
God bless you all!

Mac



### ...continued from page 1

environmental impacts of the project were reinvested in the local community rather than applied out of state. The proceeds from this settlement were placed in the Oceanside Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Fund, which is administered by the San Diego Foundation on behalf of Preserve Calavera. Through a grant provided by the Preserve Calavera, Brother Benno's was able to obtain roughly 70 percent of the necessary costs for the solar project. BQuest Foundation provided up-front costs for much of the remaining amounts, which will later be reimbursed by the government.

Brother Benno's incurred some costs, such as those necessary to repair its roof in order to install the solar panels. However, much of these repairs would have been necessary

at some point anyway, and other costs will be covered by future savings. By completing the project, The Brother Benno Foundation expects to reduce its electrical bill by over one million dollars over a 25-year period. The cost savings from this project will further fund needed assistance to aid and uplift the lives of our guests. The project will also substantially lessen the fossil fuels necessary to generate the 23,000 kWh of electricity that Brother Benno's consumes every year.

Thus, the community's efforts to come together to assist Brother Benno's and its guests have, in turn, allowed Brother Benno's to better the community by reducing its carbon pollution—a win-win for everybody!

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## IN MEMORY OF JIM O'CONNELL

BY HELEN PARSONS, BOARD MEMBER

**Jim O'Connell** passed away surrounded by his wife, his five daughters and two grandchildren on January 8, 2024.

Jim was a gift and a humble servant to The Brother Benno Foundation for almost two decades. He worked in our accounting office, served on our Board of Directors, and was an integral part of the Brother Benno's scholarship program. He also befriended employees, volunteers,

recovery program members and our guests.

The O'Connells and the Parsons have been friends for over fifty years. Jim and I often did charitable events through the years. It was Jim's suggestion that we "give Brother Benno's a try." His compassion and faith impacted all of us at Brother Benno's from the moment he walked in the door.

He will be so missed but left behind a legacy of light and love. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

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## EVERY DAY IS A BLESSING

BY STEVE SCHUMM

As part of the Men's Twelve Step Recovery Program at Brother Benno's, our participants work hard.

From before dawn, you can find them readying the trucks to pick up food donations, stacking boxes in the warehouse, or preparing hot meals for the hundreds who will arrive seeking nourishment and care. Their commitment and work ethic power the operations at Brother Benno's.

Program Manager **Jim S.** attests: "These men work tirelessly for the community despite their own struggles. Their resilience and dedication inspire me every day."

Many of these men once relied on services like Brother Benno's for survival.

**Matt T.**, who found sobriety and purpose through the program, shares, "For 26 years, alcohol and drugs have ruled my life. The structure of this recovery program and the unconditional love I receive here is unbelievable. Every day is a blessing."

As they celebrate recovery milestones, the men feel deep gratification. By bettering their community, they uplift themselves. Their efforts convey a message that no matter what one's struggles, there is always an opportunity to extend hope to others.

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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

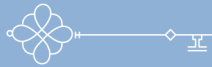
[visit our website](#)



*"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](mailto:recovery@brotherbenno.org)

**Changing people's lives  
through the  
12 Steps of  
Alcoholics Anonymous**



## **RICH MIRO: KEPT THE LIGHTS ON**

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

On January 1, 2024, long-time volunteer and donor **Rich Miro** passed away. Rich was a veteran of the Marine Corps and also employed as a financial analyst by the City of San Diego.

He came to help out at Brother Benno's after his retirement in 2004. Rich volunteered in a variety of areas at the Brother Benno Foundation including driving trucks and helping with community outreach. However, it was in his final volunteer role where he literally kept the lights on.

During the pandemic, Rich would be the only person to come into volunteer in our accounting office. All other volunteers were in the age range, or for other reasons, at higher risk of becoming very ill, hospitalized,

or dying from Covid. The truth is, Rich was also one of those folks. But he would come in with his mask on and volunteer almost every day.

He picked up mail, processed bills (including the utility bills), wrote checks and kept the Foundation's business afloat during a very difficult time.

We wrote a [spotlight](#) about Rich back in September 2020.

We were all grateful when he received his vaccination at the Center in April 2021.

Rich continued to volunteer in the accounting department up until November 2023. His smarts, spark, and smile made an impact on all who knew him. He will be sorely missed.

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## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: MARIE JONES-KIRK

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

Our volunteers at Brother Benno's don't fit a cookie cutter profile. **Marie Jones-Kirk** understands this more than most.

As the volunteer coordinator for our Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, Marie is aware of the importance of bringing in volunteers who can't volunteer on a more regular basis (due to work obligations or for various other reasons). Marie herself has a full-time job as Emergency Manager with the city of Encinitas.

Marie has been connected to Brother Benno's since 2008 through her work as an executive director for a local non-profit. Thanks to a suggestion from **Dennis Pinnick**, Marie, her

husband **Craig** and other friends and family members helped at the Thanksgiving meal in 2013. "And so, our journey began," she shared.

Project management experience and attention to detail perfectly combine with Marie's graciousness, kindness toward our volunteers, and her deep compassion for our Guests.

"Brother Benno's volunteers are the thread that weaves the beautiful quilt of what the organization does every day to serve those who need a hand up," Marie says.

Marie also took on added responsibilities this year with the Children's Christmas Party. She will also be co-chairing our 40th Anniversary Open House Celebration. When you want a job done right, ask Marie to help!



## ♥♥♥ FEBRUARY SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 First Wednesday Team	8 Servers R Us	9 St. Patrick's	10 Mission San Luis Rey Parish
12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	15 Ernest Packaging	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 OPEN	21 Friends of Brother Benno	22 Signal	23 Oceanside Sanctuary	24 Camp Pendleton Ortho. Dept.
26 OPEN	27 Rotary Club of Vista	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Brother Benno's Staff & Volunteers		

## FEBRUARY NEEDS

Adult Jackets, Coats, Rain ponchos, Sweats & Long sleeved shirts, Unisex Hats and Gloves, men's and women's underwear (new)

Gently-used Adult Backpacks & Dufflebags, Blankets, size 6 diapers

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  
Barbara Ladwig  
Bill & Louise Lakoff  
Ben & Ozelle Lewis  
Helen Lucas  
Bill & Joan Maloney  
Helene McGill  
Douglas E Milovicz  
Rich Miro  
Peggy & Beverly  
Miville  
Monty, Natalie, &  
Michael Nares  
Zeferino &  
Dancy Nares  
Mary Nordstrom  
Nysewander Family  
Jim O'Connell  
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  
Carl K Sycks  
David Easterbrooks  
Eileen Smith  
Elaine Port  
Frank Beeson  
George Kolii  
Gilbert Brown  
Howard Kaye MD  
Jack & Jane Trayer  
James Gwinner  
Jim Sanseverino  
Joan Bermeitinger  
John Canley, USMC MOH  
June Williams  
Lew Gary  
Mary Wisniewski

Michael Chapa  
Mom & Dad Soares  
Monica Simler  
Paula Mathis  
Peter Wickersham  
Richard Lee Nelson  
Robin McMullan  
Sally Anne Lipska  
Timothy Diem  
Tom & Barb Simonick  
Toni Keane  
Tyler Pinnick  
William Justus  
King & Basteri Family  
Will Foran  
Mary Jamison

### IN HONOR OF

Alice Miller  
Dick Shlemmer  
Ervin Poka  
Hillary Monk  
Jeff Bizzack  
Marcy Bernier  
Mark B  
Mark C  
Peter & Jinx Ring  
Ramezzano-Story Family

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joanne Shlemmer

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Shane Poplawski



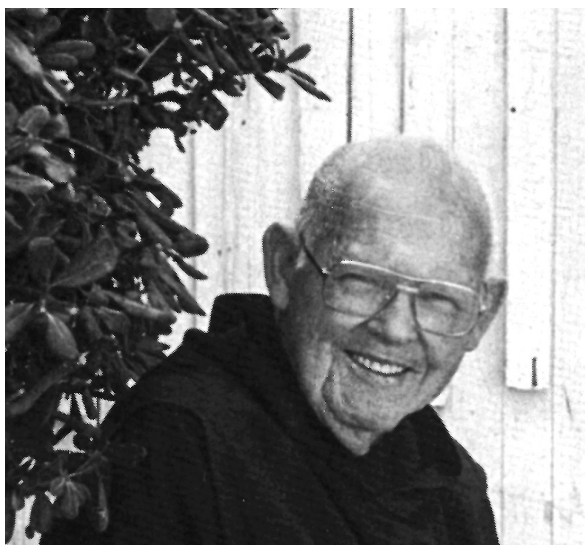
## Shaping a future, one gift at a time.

*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](mailto:accounting@brotherbenno.org)*

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

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



**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

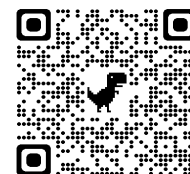
**Saturday**

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](http://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**

	<b>DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>OUR 40th YEAR</b>		<b>DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>OUR 40th YEAR</b>
Meals	14,560	4,960,572	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Lodging	1,232	361,365	Food packs	1,133	392,674
Clothing	3,722	1,543,259	Blankets	231	53,197
Showers	0	290,163	Tarps	112	8,423
Haircuts	123	23,548	ID Vouchers	23	10,922
Bus Passes	162	89,951	HUGS	1,000	1,024,244