



VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

MARCH 2024



REMEMBERING BARBARA: A VOLUNTEER WHO LEFT A LEGACY

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

On January 22nd, the Brother Benno Foundation lost one of its longest serving, selfless and loving volunteers, **Barbara Ladwig**. For those of you who knew her, you are aware of the Brother Benno family's sorrow at this news. For those of you not acquainted with Barbara's work and her important role at the Brother Benno Foundation, let me share a little bit about her history and the role she played at Brother Benno's.

Barbara and her husband **Bob Ladwig** were volunteers at Brother Benno's from the beginning in 1983. The Ladwigs served food at the original Brother Benno's Kitchen, a small house in downtown Oceanside. This location is still owned by the Foundation and is being used as a sober living house today.

Barbara became the editor of the Brother Benno's newsletter for most of its existence. She collected stories, talked to the staff, edited, and wrote most of the newsletter, including a monthly column "Experiencing the Brother Benno Scene" where she would use her keen observational skills to share stories about the happenings at Brother Benno's.

In addition, Barbara played a major role

in the creation of Harold Kutler's "Soup Soap Hugs Hope" book. On the cover, there is an acknowledgment of Barbara's work and inside there is a photograph of Barbara and a discussion of how the book is part of her legacy. Harold always wanted to call her the co-author, but she would not allow it. (Even though I am quite certain she was.) In addition, Barbara worked closely with Harold on written materials he developed, and prepared thank you letters for donors to Brother Benno's on a monthly basis.



Barbara had tremendous empathy for the poor and such a kind heart. I enjoyed getting to know her and working with her during my time on the Board of Directors at the Brother Benno Foundation. She also graciously mentored me without me even knowing I was being mentored.

When Barbara decided it was time to step down from the newsletter, we thought we had found her replacement in a lovely volunteer. That volunteer stepped down due to family commitments a month later. But the truth is, nobody could have filled Barbara Ladwig's shoes.

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www.brotherbenno.org

SECURITY, SAFETY AND COMPASSION

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

Issac Rutherford and Habib Waheed balance safety and compassion daily at Brother Benno’s. Hired as security guards, both men are establishing a stable presence at the Brother Benno’s Center.

Sometimes that means telling jokes to guests. Laughter works too. The goal is to provide a safe place for everyone – guests, volunteers, recovery program members, staff, outside organizations, and the community as a whole.

Inspired by his military background, Issac works to build bridges with our guests. He uses community-oriented policing methodologies to do this. “You get to know people, they get to know you,” Issac shared when explaining how community-oriented policing works in practice.

“You create alliances. Build rapport. In the military we call it ‘winning hearts and minds.’ I know through my rapport building and friendships, I am going to get compliance to policies and rules followed.”

Habib is an immigrant from Afghanistan. He has been in the U.S. since 2018 and is a graduate of Hoover High School and currently attends

college part time at San Diego City College.

“I like to help homeless people, to protect and take care of them, and to protect them from each other,” said Habib about his role as a security officer at Brother Benno’s. He appreciates it when our guests treat him with respect, listen to him, and follow the rules. Safety is important to him.

It is Habib’s first time working security. He’s doing a fantastic job, reports Issac, who is currently mentoring Habib. “He soaks up every bit of teaching I give him like a sponge with water.”

Issac is inspired by the mission of the Brother Benno Foundation. He speaks about the Brother Benno heart and being a part of the Brother Benno family. “We are a faith-based organization,” Issac says. “My personal faith is Christianity, so I see a lot of the heart of Christ here. A lot of people talk about loving people the way Jesus would love them, but there really is no action there. We are people of action. We put our faith to work.”

According to Habib, “It doesn’t matter if you are Muslim, Christian or other religions as long as you are helping people....We are all humans.”

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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

A promotional poster for Brother Benno's Thrift Shop. At the top left, a red starburst contains the text "TAX RECEIPT PROVIDED". The main text reads "BROTHER BENNO'S THRIFT SHOP NEEDS FURNITURE DONATIONS". Below this, it says "CALL FOR FREE PICK UP". The poster features illustrations of a blue armchair, a wooden coffee table, and a blue chair. At the bottom, the phone number "(760)967-7507" is listed, along with "Serving North San Diego County" and the website "WWW.BROTHERBENNO.ORG".

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



Issac Rutherford

Habib Waheed

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

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Helen Parsons
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Father Charles Wright

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Dr. Richard Shlemmer

DONOR'S CORNER

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

Last month I talked about keeping resolutions or promises we've made to ourselves. I also talked about a promise I made to myself to repair our fence. I'm pleased to report that although delayed, I have kept faith with that promise and work has begun on the repair. I can also state that I am rediscovering muscles I had forgotten I had through their soreness. Soreness is that friendly reminder of our mortality, that we all get old and our bodies aren't like they used to be. But I think that is a good reminder. We sometimes forget that our mortal life is a temporary one and we should make the best of it.

I also had the opportunity to read something Harold had written titled, "Summary of the Last Judgment." It

was a recap of Matthew 25 which is always a good read. It focused on the "least of these" phrasing. He framed the message as a test. Saying that it was simply Pass-Fail and no special talents were required. As he stated, "Anyone of us can be loving, compassionate, merciful and forgiving." As you can tell, I really liked this analogy on how to think of the commands of scripture. He also stated that if we fail the test, there is no do-over.

When I think of the support you have provided over the years through your faithfulness to your promises and your compassion for our guests, I'd like to think you and all of us are on track for a Pass.

Thank you and -

God bless you all!

Mac



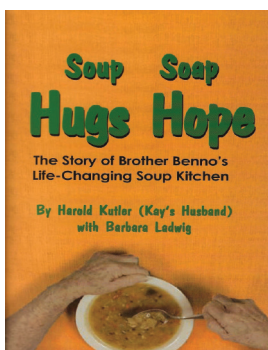
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We have lost a great friend, a tireless volunteer, and an advocate for Brother Benno's. Her dedication and work (along with **John McCaffrey**) to produce our newsletter has kept the public informed of the good work of Brother Benno's. The newsletter and Barbara's writing has also been a major factor in many donations from supporters which have been a lifeline for Brother Benno's.

Her passing is a great loss to all of us. We also recognize how difficult Barbara's passing is for her husband Bob, who has been by her side and supported her as she devoted a lot of her life to Brother Benno's. Barbara will be greatly missed.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Frank Doherty for his contributions to this article.

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"Barbara Ladwig's participation in this book is a legacy she has given to the Brother Benno Foundation."

FAMILY SEPARATION IN RECOVERY

BY STEVE SCHUMM

Living through addiction treatment while being away from family presents numerous challenges. While programs like the Men's Twelve Step Recovery Program at the Brother Benno Foundation offer invaluable support and structure, the absence of family members can intensify the emotional strain of the journey to sobriety.

One of the primary difficulties is the absence of familial support. Family members often serve as a source of motivation, encouragement, and accountability during addiction recovery. Being separated from them can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness, which may exacerbate the temptation to relapse. However, with the support of programs like Brother Benno's and the determination to overcome obstacles, individuals can navigate this challenging path towards a healthier, sober life.

Moreover, being away from family means missing out on important events and milestones. Birthdays, holidays, and family gatherings can evoke a sense of nostalgia and longing, making it harder to stay focused

on recovery goals. Without the presence of loved ones, individuals may struggle to find meaning and purpose in their journey towards sobriety.

Furthermore, communication barriers can hinder the ability to maintain strong connections with family members and children. Limited access to phone calls or internet communication can make it difficult to stay in touch regularly, leading to feelings of estrangement and disconnection. However, that's not always the case.

Jonathan A. says "I thought the separation from my kids would make things worse. But since my enrollment here to the six-month program, our conversations have been more meaningful. They are talking to their real father, not the father they saw as ill."

The journey of addiction recovery is undoubtedly arduous, and being away from family only adds to the complexity of the process. The ethos of service embraced by participants fosters a sense of belonging and purpose, helping to alleviate some of the loneliness experienced in the absence of family.

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SERVING TEAMS NEEDED

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN

Do you belong to a group that wants to help serve? The Brother Benno's Center has three openings for its breakfast serving line.

The openings are on the 3rd Tuesday and 4th Monday of every month. In addition, we have an opening for a 5th Thursday shift which happens whenever there is a 5th Thursday in the month, about 3-4 times a year. We ask that a group of serving team volunteers arrive at the Brother Benno's Center by

6:15 a.m. and serve breakfast until around 8 a.m. The ideal group size is between 4-8 people.

We also have some spots available in 2024 for our 2nd Saturday of the month. If your group wants to try out the serving experience before committing to a regular spot on our schedule, this might be a great way to experience what it's like to serve a meal at Brother Benno's. If you have any questions, please contact **Stephanie** at [servingteams@brotherbenno.org](mailto:-servingteams@brotherbenno.org) or **Eli** at volunteers@brotherbenno.org.

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OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara
Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee
Administration Manager

Kathleen Diehlmann
Development & Communications Manager

Darryl Harris
Outreach Services Manager

Michelle Hoppe
Clothing Services Manager

Ben Meyer
Food Services Manager

Gregg Prather
Facilities Manager

Rob Sanchez
Essential Services Manager

Jim Shlemmer
Recovery Manager

Elias Velazquez
Volunteer Coordinator

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.”

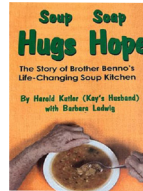
HAROLD KUTLER

**Brother Benno
Foundation
Recovery Program**

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

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

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

GUEST FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS

At one point I was very stable and felt very satisfied with my living situation and finances until recently I’ve been homeless living out of a tent. I know this too shall pass but to be very honest, I will never forget the first day I came to brother benos. They made me feel so welcomed and comfortable with the reassurance that im not the only one in this struggle!! I wasn’t sure where to start in letting them know my situation. With out question Steven, Dennis, Darryl and the staff have been more than helpful in guiding me with my situations, the more they directed me the more I cried knowing they had empathy for my situation and knew what I was talking about and going through. Darryl thank you from the bottom of my heart for the help and voucher u gave me with my storage and clothing I could nvr had done this alone.... There’s so much more I can say about this place but never feel there’s nowhere to turn... Let Brother Benos be your first call for help and guidance I promise u won’t be disappointed...

– Susie Darlene, Google review, February 2024



EVERY BUNNY’S INVITED EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**SATURDAY MARCH 23rd
10 PM - 1 PM**

PETTING ZOO - BUNNY PHOTOS - FACE PAINTING



50% OFF ALL EASTER ITEMS!

BROTHER BENNO THRIFT SHOP - 3955 MISSION AVE., OCEANSIDE

WALKING BY FAITH

BY STEVEN JELINEK

I would like to recount for you all a story of a good Samaritan that I found especially edifying. During the Christmas season, Brother Benno's puts on the annual Christmas party at the thrift store. Hundreds of children show up to have their faces painted, receive toys and gift cards, and to talk to Santa Claus. One family, however, was unable to come as the father had unexpectedly and rather tragically passed away during the year, and the mother of the family, "Holly", was unfortunately hospitalized right before Christmas and well into January.

Here enters our good Samaritan. "Margie" had been lifelong friends with Holly, and when she had heard about the situation with Holly, she felt she had to help. Holly has three children, the youngest of which is 3 years old. Margie wanted to do something for Christmas for her family and for Holly's kids, but she had no financial ability to cater to them, let alone her own children. She had no idea what she was going to do, as Holly's children were without their parents for their first major holiday and had nobody else to turn to.

Margie came to the Brother Benno

Center for Christmas day dinner and got a food box to help feed the additional mouths. A little after Christmas she asked if there was anything we could do for her. Thanks be to God; we had some left-over gift cards and toys from the Christmas party, so she was able to provide a belated Christmas celebration. Some time passed, and January arrived. I was able to meet Holly as she had come with her friend Margie to thank us for the help and to get another food box.

I asked Margie how she was able to muster up the courage to take the responsibility and care of someone else's kids when she could barely take care of her own. She replied "I was just walking by faith. All you have to do is to be willing to help others out in their time of need, and God will take care of the rest." Reflecting on her quote, the following passages from scripture come to mind; Matthew 6:31-32: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."

[Editor's note: the names of the individuals in this story have been changed to protect our guests' privacy.] Ω

♥♥♥ MARCH SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Stephanie's Team	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 TVIA
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
18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 OPEN	20 Friends of Brother Benno	21 Ernest Packaging	22 Oceanside Sanctuary	23 Camp Pendleton Ortho. Dept.
25 OPEN	26 Rotary Club of Vista	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Signal	29 King of Kings	30 Nativity Men's Group

MARCH NEEDS

Men's pants, men's shoes, caps or beanies, belts

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
Jeanne St. Amant
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak

Harold Thompson
Carol &
Herb Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Andrew &
Jane Yandura

Ron Beckman
Frank Beeson
Joan Bermeitinger
Wm. H Daley
Timothy Diem
Bill Foran
Richard Lee Nelson
Jim Sanseverino
Oliver Speraw
Bill Stone
Jack & Jane Trayer

IN HONOR OF

Aidan Montanez



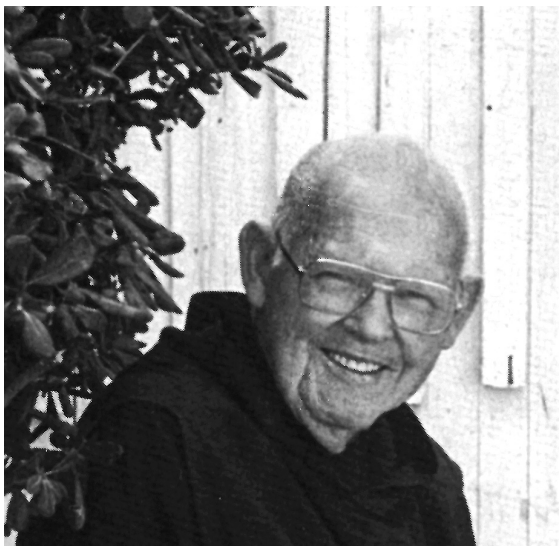
Shaping a future, one gift at a time.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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

	JANUARY 2024	OUR 40th YEAR		JANUARY 2024	OUR 40th YEAR
Meals	14,576	4,975,148	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Lodging	1,232	362,597	Food packs	1,122	393,796
Clothing	3,866	1,547,125	Blankets	252	53,449
Showers	0	290,163	Tarps	87	8,510
Haircuts	160	23,708	ID Vouchers	33	10,955
Bus Passes	178	90,129	HUGS	1,000	1,025,244