



VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

APRIL 2024



BROTHER BENNO'S HOSTS THE HOMELESS RESOURCE FAIR

BY STEVE OETTING

On February 23, 2024, Brother Benno's was proud to once again host the Homeless Resource Fair, providing an opportunity for unhoused individuals to meet with a variety of service providers. In addition, the fair served as a "community pop-up event" for the Homeless Court Program, through which participants were able to meet with attorneys and resolve certain low level pending cases.

The fair was a huge success! Over the course of the day, hundreds of people participated and were able to receive assistance from roughly 50 service providers, including Child Support Services, the Department of Rehabilitation, the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (providing public assistance and housing navigation), DMV, and substance abuse treatment providers, among others. The Homeless Court Program, which is a special session of the San Diego Superior Court, is a voluntary program in which there is no threat that participants will be sent into custody or pay a larger fine. It allowed participants an opportunity to resolve misdemeanors or infractions, and have warrants recalled.

Members of Brother Benno's Community Outreach team, including **Darryl Harris**, **Steven Jelinek**, and **Dennis Pinnick** facilitated in directing participants to the appropriate resources and ensuring they received the support they needed.

The resource fair provides an important opportunity for members of the homeless community, who often struggle with issues involving storage of their belongings and transportation, to obtain necessary services all at one time without having to seek out multiple agencies on their own.

Some of the providers expressed how "happy" they were to be able to serve so many people at such an "awesome" event. The statistics from the event bear witness to the tremendous assistance to the community: The homeless court reviewed 40 cases, recalled 12 warrants, and lifted 24 DMV holds; the DMV was able to provide 55 IDs; and the Office of Homeless Services was able to serve 135 individuals with benefits including EBT cards and hygiene kits.



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www.brotherbenno.org



SAVE THE DATE For Brother Benno's 6th Annual Golf Tournament at Goat Hill

BY AMY SELICH

We are pleased to announce that our 6th Annual Golf Tournament will be held again on September 18, 2024, at Goat Hill Park in Oceanside. Additionally, we are excited to announce that **Kelly Slater**, an 11-time world champion surfer, is returning as our celebrity sponsor and golfer.

The tournament is our major fund-raising event. This event supports our mission of serving homeless neighbors, the working poor, and seniors in North San Diego County by offering essential meals, addressing basic needs, fostering community outreach, and supporting addiction recovery. We hope to build on last year's tournament's success, including participation from former

New Orleans Saints quarterback **Drew Brees** and the 2000 Pipeline masters surfing champion, **Rob Machado**. We expect many local athletes and regional businesses who supported us in 2023 to return as sponsors and underwriters to help us create another fun-filled day, including golfing opportunities, lunch, dinner, and music.

We invite all to participate by sponsoring, donating, assisting at the event, or spreading the word to your local businesses, organizations, and golfers. Last year's tournament sold out early so check our [website](#). For the most recent registration information, email golf24@brotherbenno.org or contact Chuy.Reyna@firewiresurfboards.com.

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Thank you to members of the **SD North County Lions Club** for making and donating over 40 warm crocheted beanie hats for our guests. Dropped off by Cristina Maynard, Club Secretary and Arminda Ruiz, Charter President and Club Treasurer. We are so thankful for their thoughtful gesture!

"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

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

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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,

I was reviewing some old Brother Benno documents and one of them was a "Report Card" from 1999. It was the 17th year of the Brother Benno Foundation. It was an interesting and powerful read. As well as a peek into what Harold and others were thinking back then. As you might imagine, it reviewed where we started and where they were at the 17-year mark. It also affirmed some of the tenants of the organization. Things like our faith in God to support and guide the organization. That we are a ministry. And that it is an ecumenical effort. It also talked about what they thought their next steps and future should be. I have to admit that I couldn't help compare where they thought they should go, where they went, and where we are going.

While not everything was accomplished, the good news is that a lot was and we remain on track. In one section they discuss that things would not be accomplished in a short time. That is true. but we have been faithful to the goals and the tenants, and so we continue the vision of our founder and those early supporters who believed in the vision.

They also talked about believing in miracles. I think of our supporters as miracles. Each effort of support is a small miracle to me. It reaffirms that God wants us to do these acts for His children, and our brothers and sisters. I believe that as they stated in the Report that "by working together..., we become like brothers and sister and build a more loving, caring, community."

Thank you and -
God bless you all!

Mac



"I had the privilege to have been asked to help a neighbor serve breakfast to the homeless yesterday at Brother Benno's. It was an amazing & humbling experience that I would absolutely do again. Thank you to all who show up & do this outreach service every day. You are who I aspire to be."

~ Cyndi Ann Cross, Unsolicited Google Review

FROM THE BOOK

Mother Teresa stated that the need to feel human and worthwhile far exceeds the physical need for food and shelter. . . . We ...decided to refer to those we served as Guests rather than clients.

A Guest is someone we invite to join us, someone we treat with respect." (pp 32-33) "We have found that until we put a face on the homeless, they remain a misunderstood statistic.

Once people come to our Center to personally experience these struggling people, they are no longer an abstract whom we can help or not, without any emotional involvement. Instead, they become someone's father or daughter or grandchild, trying to keep their heads above water. After looking into their faces, we can no longer write them off as freeloaders or bums.

(From Soup Soap Hugs Hope, The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen, p 109)

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THE JOURNEY OF OUR MEN IN RECOVERY

BY STEVE SCHUMM

Embarking on a journey of recovery is a courageous step, especially for men who have committed to our 26-week recovery program aimed at reclaiming their lives from addiction. This commitment signifies a profound acknowledgment of the challenges they face and a determination to confront them head-on.

One of the initial hurdles men often encounter is overcoming the stigma associated with seeking help for addiction. Society's expectations of masculinity can make it difficult for men to admit vulnerability and ask for assistance. However, by choosing to enter a recovery program, these men demonstrate strength and resilience, shattering the stereotype that seeking help is a sign of weakness.

Learning to navigate these obstacles requires dedication, discipline, and unwavering support from peers and counselors. Moreover, confronting the underlying issues contributing to their addiction demands introspec-

tion and a willingness to delve into painful emotions and experiences. External factors such as family dynamics, employment instability, and social pressures can pose additional challenges. Rebuilding relationships strained by addiction, finding stable employment, and resisting temptations in social settings require resilience and determination.

Despite these obstacles, men who commit to a recovery program also experience moments of profound growth and transformation. They learn coping mechanisms, develop healthier habits, and cultivate a support network that extends beyond the confines of the program. Each milestone achieved, whether it be a month of sobriety or a breakthrough in therapy, reinforces their determination to embrace a life free from addiction. The journey of men committing to a 26-week recovery program is fraught with challenges, but it is also a testament to their courage and resilience. By confronting their demons and embracing change, these men lay the foundation for a brighter, healthier future.

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TEAM EFFORT

BY STEVEN JELINEK

It was the day of the Brother Benno pop up event, and everyone in outreach was busy working with service providers to get our guests the resources they needed. It was that day that I met **Mike**, a sweet 74 year old man who was dependent on a walker to get around. Mike had come all the way from Escondido to Brother Benno's, barefoot. Due to the pop-up event, Mike was able to get all the resources he was looking for, minus the shoes. Unfortunately, he needed a wide shoe, something the Brother Benno center's clothing room didn't have.

Thankfully, **Michelle** at the Thrift

Shop and our new volunteer coordinator **Elias** came to the rescue. Everyone in outreach was incredibly busy with the pop-up event, so Elias met with Mike and contacted the Brother Benno Thrift Shop to ask if they could search for a pair for him. Michelle at the Thrift Shop found a pair that had been donated in his exact size that were in great condition. The Thrift Shop called Elias and told him the good news. With the help of Elias and Michelle, we were able to get Mike some shoes.

A big thank you to the Thrift Shop and Michelle for going the extra mile, and Elias for making it all happen.

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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**

GUEST FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS

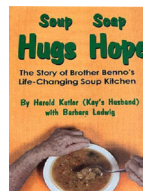
“I would like to tell a story about what a great man Brother Benno was. I was born in San Diego and raised in Oceanside in the 60’s and early 70’s. My mom had 4 kids which at the time she was raising on her own. As a little girl I remember Brother Benno bringing us food, home made bread, cakes etc., he even brought my mother a refrigerator once. I am 53 years old and moved away from Oceanside in the late 70’s. Thru the years I often thought about Brother Benno and wondered what ever became of him. This past weekend I was in California and myself and two sister went back to Oceanside for a visit. We went to mass at San Luis Rey Mission and I asked the Priest about Brother Benno and was so happy to hear about his Foundation and found it as no surprise. I was sadden that he is no longer with us but believe whole heartly this man is and was a Godsend and his spirt lives on thru his foundation. He made such an impression on 4 children most especially myself, that I never forgot him. I wish I would of found this sooner before he passed away as I would of so wanted to meet him again. I will look to donate once I return home.”

~ Nancy E. Gill Unsolicited Facebook Review

A heartfelt thank you to the students, teachers, staff, and families at **Encinitas Country Day School** for participating in a donation drive benefiting Brother Benno’s and Humanity Showers! Items delivered included clothes, jackets, blankets, towels, backpacks, and some toiletries.



**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

YOU ARE A PARTNER IN NURTURING HOPE

BY V.C. SMITH

Twenty Palomar College EOPS students received \$500 scholarships this past March funded by Brother Benno Foundation donations. In addition to poverty, these recipients have a history of life experiences that negatively impacted their ability to pursue post-high school education. Many have ongoing challenges, including disability and homelessness.

Scholarship recipients this year include:

A man who was addicted to drugs/ alcohol for thirteen years and experienced “much loss, desperation, and destruction from this insidious disease”. He is now clean and has learned to be “a leader for myself in the end.”

A young woman who grew up in a financially strained family, relying on food stamps and careful budgeting. Her parents’ divorce and father’s alcoholism added to the challenges. Now in her first year, education is paving the way for a better future.

A man who entered foster care at 12 years old due to his parents’ sub-

stance abuse and who developed anti-social behaviors which lead to his journey through the school-to-prison pipeline, from juvenile detention to the California Department of Rehabilitation. He is working his way to a degree and supporting others.

A single mother with 3 children who became homeless after her terminally ill father for whom she had been caring died. She is close to completing her Associate’s in Sociology and will be transferring to Cal State San Marcos.

Your generous contributions support these scholarships which not only assist students in purchasing essential books and supplies but also help bridge the financial gaps they face. From covering utilities and Wi-Fi expenses to rent, car repairs, gas, and even childcare, your support ensures these students can focus on their education with financial support.

Without your donations, these scholarships would not be possible. Thank you for nurturing hope and serving as invaluable partners in these students’ educational pursuits.

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♥♥♥ APRIL SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Stephanie’s 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 Brother Benno’s Volunteers and Staff				

APRIL 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

Paul A Smith
 Erik Braegger
 Ream Braegger
 Jack Bloes
 Eric Buehle
 Bill Stone
 Dr. Mike McCarthy
 Frank Beeson
 Harry Opatkiewicz
 Joan Bermeitinger
 Nick Jellison
 Peter Wickersham
 Ron Beckman & Lucy
 Morales
 Timothy Diem
 Ann & Nick Sauer
 Amy Boone
 Clara Ziegler



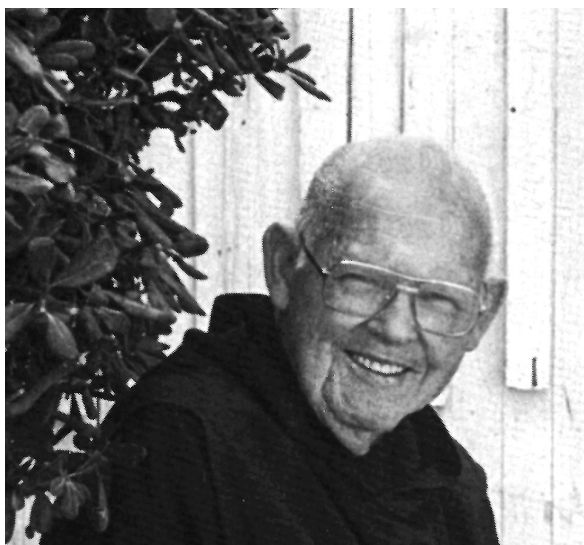
Shaping a future, one gift at a time.

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

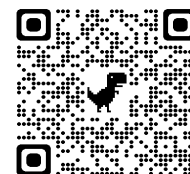
Saturday

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

	FEBRUARY 2024	OUR 40th YEAR		FEBRUARY 2024	OUR 40th YEAR
Meals	13,998	4,989,146	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Lodging	1,232	363,829	Food packs	1,053	394,849
Clothing	3,805	1,550,930	Blankets	191	53,640
Showers	654	290,817	Tarps	119	8,629
Haircuts	0	23,708	ID Vouchers	34	10,989
Bus Passes	216	90,345	HUGS	1,000	1,026,244