

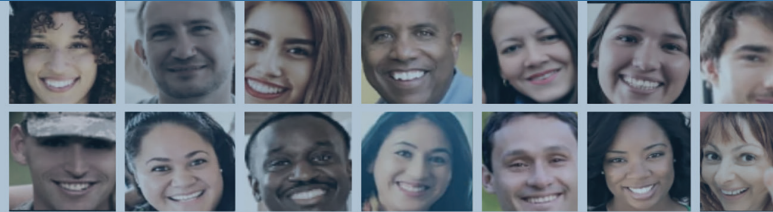


VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

JUNE 2024



SUPPORTING ACADEMIC DREAMS & PERSONAL ASPIRATIONS

BY V.C. SMITH

Thanks to the incredible support of donors like you, twenty deserving students from the MiraCosta Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) were recently awarded \$500 **Brother Benno Foundation** scholarships. An additional three students were awarded \$350 scholarships in the memory of **Lindo and Bessie Braccio** through the generosity of an anonymous donor. These scholarships will make a real difference in the lives of these students.

Each of these scholarship recipients has a unique story of resilience and determination. Many have faced financial struggles, battled addiction, homelessness, or dealt with a history of incarceration. But despite these challenges, they've all shown incredible perseverance and a drive to succeed.

Several of them are parents, motivated by a desire to set a positive example for their children. Others are eager to give back to their communities. Their dedication to their studies, as seen in their solid grades and completed courses at MiraCosta, is truly inspiring.

As **Kimberly O.** wrote in a thank you, "Receiving this scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden of my education but serves as a profound validation

of my academic endeavors. Your belief in my potential encourages me to pursue my educational goals with greater determination and passion. I assure you that I will make the most of this opportunity by dedicating myself wholeheartedly to my studies and will contribute to my community much like your foundation."

We hope you'll join us in extending a heartfelt thank you to our scholarship committee members. **Joyce Cerimele, Kristal Cerimele, Belinda Smith** and **Jerry Weseloh** as well as **Yesenia Balcazar**, MiraCosta EOPS Faculty Director, and her team for their hard work in reviewing applications and supporting these students.

Your contributions not only help these students move closer to achieving their academic dreams, but you also give them the encouragement to continue to pursue their personal and professional aspirations. You are making a real difference in the lives of these dedicated individuals.

Interested in joining the scholarship committee? Reach out to volunteers@brotherbenno.org.



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LEAVING THE SANCTUARY OF RECOVERY: MAINTAINING SOBRIETY IN THE REAL WORLD

BY STEVE SCHUMM

For those completing the 26-week recovery program at Brother Benno's, the transition to sober living can be daunting. The safe haven of our embrace is replaced with the temptations and stresses of everyday life. Without a solid plan and commitment, the fears associated with this transition can derail hard-earned sobriety.

The key to sustained recovery is keeping your primary focus on your sobriety above all else. While work, relationships, and other responsibilities gradually return, nothing can take priority over your recovery program and maintaining the spiritual, emotional, and physical practices that protect your sobriety.

Achieving that crucial work/life/recovery balance requires discipline and support. Routine is important - sticking to a schedule that includes meetings, personal reflection, exercise, and sober fellowship. Asking

for help is also critical when struggles or cravings arise. The 12 steps provide a framework, but a strong network of recovered people to turn to in tough moments is priceless.

Giving back through service also reinforces spiritual principles and gratitude that are foundational to recovery. Making a meeting, getting a commitment, or helping a newcomer get through another day without a drink or drug - this is how we "carry the message to those who still suffer." It keeps us grounded in our primary purpose.

With faith, an open mind, and willingness to go to any lengths, re-entry anxiety can be overcome. By keeping recovery first while incorporating work, family, and other life obligations in a balanced way, those leaving our program can successfully transition to lives of lasting freedom and serenity in sobriety.

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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



To unsubscribe from receiving print editions of our newsletters:

- Email: unsubscribe@brotherbenno.org
- Call (760) 231-1619
- Send us a note using the enclosed donation envelope (print subscribers). Please make certain you include your name, mailing address, and phone number

Sign-up for our digital newsletter at the bottom of the page on our website:

www.brotherbenno.org



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



Make a \$40 donation to celebrate 40 years of Brother Benno's

Please donate by 7/31/24

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



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DONOR'S CORNER

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

I know I referenced **Harold's** Report Card in some of my past articles, but I would like to go into a little more detail about Harold's three levels of service to "help people break out of the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient." And what we are doing about it. As a bit of background, this comes from a review of the "Report Card" that Harold wrote in the year 2000. The first level was called Direct Aid such as food, clothing, etc. He graded the organization with an "A" grade. I would say we have maintained that level or maybe even higher over the years with the addition of services found in the Outreach Hub. The second level was "Empowering our guests through case management ... to become self-sufficient." He graded that as a C+. I would say we haven't moved much beyond a C+ and that is now a focus of effort. Level three was Prevention and Advocacy. He graded that as a "D."

The staff right now is working on pathways to improve our level 2 of service. We think there are two general groups for this effort. The first is our members in Recovery. We think this will be the easier program to develop. Why, because after their initial 6 months, they are eligible for an additional 18 months in sober living. This would be the perfect opportunity for those members to participate in a program to improve their skills and improve their self-sufficiency. The second group is harder. These members are not in recovery. The example we use is the mom with two kids who is living in a car. We think the elements for success for this group are long term housing, child stability, a job, and finally an education program. We have some ideas on the table but nothing firm yet. More to follow in later articles.

Finally, we couldn't do it without you, so, thank you and -

God bless you all!

Mac



A MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

BY STEVEN JELINEK

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting one of the toughest people I've ever encountered. Here was a mom of five boys, the youngest of which was two and the oldest of which was nine. These five children, their mom, dad, and dog had been living out of their car for three months. The mom had an accident which caused a hospitalization, during which she found out she had cancer. This diagnosis required multiple surgeries, so she was forced to stop working. At the time of our introduction, she was still recovering from her operations.

Despite these trying circumstances, this mom was still trying everything

she could to provide for her children. She was doing all she needed to medically. She applied for state disability. She was receiving all the benefits she could and was doing her best to patiently wait while her situation improved. In addition, the family's father had a new disability and couldn't work. The mom was the only source of income for the family, and having lost that income they were thoroughly stuck.

I found it so edifying to see that despite this woman's pain and terrible situation, she had not even an ounce of bitterness within her.

continued on page 7...

BROTHER BENNO'S CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVING THOSE IN NEED

BY STEVE SCHUMM

The sounds of celebration filled the air on Sunday, May 5th as Brother Benno's marked an incredible 40 years of dedicated service to the community. The anniversary party drew a large crowd of supporters, donors, volunteers, staff, and those whose lives have been touched by the organization's boundless compassion over the past four decades.

The festivities included booths showcasing each of Brother Benno's departments and the diverse array of services they provide, from the recovery program to the meals served, the clothing room, the thrift shop, homeless services, and outreach programs. Guests had the opportunity to gain an inside look at the vast impact this beloved organization has made since opening its doors in 1983.

Executive director **Paul McNamara** shared inspiring words reflecting on the vision of Brother Benno's founders, **Harold** and **Kay Kutler**. "Harold and Kay's dream was to create a place where every person who walked through our doors was treated with dignity, love and respect," McNamara stated. "Today, 40 years later, that founding principle remains the driving force behind all that we do."

One example of the Kutler's legacy in action was powerfully articulated by **Cipriano Vargas**, a former

Brother Benno's scholarship recipient representing Supervisor **Terra Lawson-Remer's** office. Cipriano credits the educational opportunities provided by Brother Benno's as life-changing, allowing him to achieve his goals and find fulfillment in serving his community.

However, few could capture the organization's essence more vividly than **Beatriz "Bea" Palmer**, who shared memories from her own childhood of the humble beginnings when **Brother Benno** himself would traverse neighborhood streets laying on his car horn to announce the arrival of food and supplies for those in need. Despite life's challenges, Palmer's strength, hope, and gratitude shone through as she expressed her commitment to empowering others just as Brother Benno had empowered her.

As the celebration came to a close, the impact of the Brother Benno Foundation over the past 40 years seemed more palpable than ever – tens of thousands of lives changed, immeasurable kindness and good works extending throughout the region. While the founders may have passed on, their beautiful vision radiates through each staff member, volunteer, donor, supporter, and those uplifted by the unconditional love provided every day.

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I loved sharing the amazing work of Brother Benno's with my son today. For 40 years the beautiful volunteers and dedicated professionals have made an actual difference for the people most marginalized in our city. Thank you for every [thing] you do. I am proud to have you in District 1!

*- Erik Joyce, Oceanside City Council member, Facebook post May 5, 2024
Oceanside Councilmember - District 1*

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

Rob Sanchez

Essential Services Manager

Jim Shlemmer

Recovery Manager

Elias Velazquez

Volunteer Coordinator

James White

Facilities Manager

Craig Yates

Grant 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.”

CORA 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**



6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION IN FULL BLOOM

BY AMY SELICH


Brother Benno's is thrilled to announce that our 6th Annual Golf Tournament is accepting golfers now. Many sponsors and underwriters will be returning as well to make September 18th a don't-miss event of the fall at the legendary Goat Hill Park in Oceanside.

The excitement is already building, with one-third of the golf spots claimed at launch by past participants. This event has grown in popularity each year, attracting golfers of all skill levels to enjoy a day on the green for a good cause.

This year's tournament promises to be the best yet, with Outerknown and C3 Bank as Title sponsors, along with our other committed sponsors to date: ADP, Austin Surf Club, and Endorphins. And it wouldn't be the Brother Benno's Golf Tournament without the support and generosity of Kelly Slater, 11-time world champion surfer.

Local Oceanside restaurants, The Privateer and The Lighthouse Oyster Bar and Grill, will provide lunch and dinner for the day. Fabulous swag bags chock-full of top-notch apparel, golf items, and other items will help make the day more enjoyable. Our guests will settle in for dinner, live music, and a live auction to bid on incredible experiences and products at the end of the day.

Brother Benno's supporters can get involved even if they don't golf. We are still looking for volunteers for the day. Additionally, we are organizing a silent auction that kicks off before the tournament and looking for desirable items here. If you have any questions or want to be part of the day, contact golf24@brotherbenno.org.

Make this the year you join in on the fun that helps fund Brother Benno's excellent work. 

JUNE NEEDS

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

Baseball caps, men's pants and hoodies

Men and women's socks (new and gently used)

Men's and women's underwear (new)

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

Zip-lock Sandwich & Snack bags, Sodas, Juices, Reusable Water Bottles

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

Thank You Early Bird Sponsors & Supporters

TITLE SPONSORS	MASTERS SPONSORS	UNDERWRITERS	AUCTION DONORS
 OUTERKNOWN High Performance Apparel	 ADP Always Designing for People	 C3bank	 KELLY SLATER WAVE CO THE WAVE OF LIFE
	 AUSTIN SURF CLUB	 CHASE RESORTS in color	 UBCO
	 PRIVATEER	 SOLENTO ORGANIC TEQUILA	 The Brother Benno Foundation
Register - Sponsor - Donate brotherbenno.org/golf-2024			

♥♥♥ JUNE SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 St. Thomas More
3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Stephanie's Team	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 San Rafael Parish
10 North Coast Methodist	11 Riverview Church	12 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	13 Servers R Us	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 OPEN	19 Friends of Brother Benno	20 Ernest Packaging	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 Camp Pendleton Ortho. Dept.
24 OPEN	25 Rotary Club of Vista	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Signal	28 Oceanside Sanctuary	29 Nativity Men's Group



BROTHER BENNO'S

NEWSLETTER TEAM WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR NEW LOOK?

WHAT STORIES DO YOU WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT?

EMAIL US AT:
bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org

LEAVE A MESSAGE AT:
(760) 231-1674

MEMORIALS

Ron Alexander
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 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
 Squirrel 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

Ada Louise Flora
 Allen-Romberg
 Ron Beckman
 Frank Beeson
 Joan Bermeitinger
 Amy Boone
 Bessie & Lindo Braccio
 Charlie Brown
 Donna J Brown
 Ed Culbertson
 Michael J. Curtius
 Timothy Diem
 John & Helen Hagan
 Kimberly Hermann
 Claude Janowicz
 Stanley Allen Jaskol
 Toni Keane
 William Kragness
 Jose Opatkiewicz
 Blake Smith
 Mary Louise Wisniewski

...continued from page 3

This mother was determined to do everything she could for her boys (whom she clearly loved very much).

Thankfully, the Oceanside Homeless Outreach Team enrolled the whole family into a shelter where there

was much-needed space to rest and stretch their legs. Mom could take time to recover from the surgeries and wait to receive disability pay.

Thanks be to God for a happy outcome, and for this example of the power and strength of a mother's love!

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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 Kathleen Diehlmann, (760) 888-7986 or send an email to kathleen.diehlmann@brotherbenno.org

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

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Harold & Kay Kutler - Pictured, Brother Benno

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

	APRIL 2024	OUR 40th YEAR		APRIL 2024	OUR 40th YEAR
Meals	9,663	5,008,066	Blankets	215	54,023
Lodging	2,235	368,296	Tarps	150	8,897
Clothing	3,610	1,558,024	ID Vouchers	45	11,060
Showers	427	291,527	Lbs. of Food Rescued	197,820	4,306,315
Bus Passes	266	90,774	HUGS	1,000	1,028,244