



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

JULY 2024



FROM SOUP KITCHEN TO SANCTUARY: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF 307 MINNESOTA AVENUE

BY STEVE SCHUMM

It was 1983 in Oceanside, California when **Harold** and **Kay Kutler** first opened their hearts and home to those struggling with homelessness in their community. Their quaint house on 307 Minnesota Avenue became an unlikely beacon of hope and nourishment.

Harold and his wife Kay had a nurturing spirit and couldn't bear to see anyone going hungry. When they crossed paths with **Brother Benno Garrity**, a Franciscan friar devoted to helping the poor and marginalized, the three formed an instant bond.

Brother Benno shared heartbreaking stories of the homeless huddled under bushes and begging for scraps. The Kutlers knew they had to act. With Brother Benno's guidance, they transformed their home's modest kitchen into a soup kitchen, serving simple but hearty meals to any who were hungry.

Word traveled fast in those early days. The aroma of a home cooked meal wafted through the neighborhood, drawing in folks from streets and shelters. What started as a trickle soon became a stream of people lining up on the Kut-

lers' porch each day, hungry for food and compassion.

For six years, that little house on Minnesota Avenue was a sanctuary. Harold and Kay treated every guest with dignity, learning their names and stories. Brother Benno was a constant presence, offering spiritual nourishment alongside the meals. Dozens of volunteers helped chop vegetables, serve food, and lend an ear.

As the years passed, the need only grew in Oceanside. The Kutlers' home could no longer contain their mushrooming mission of service. In 1991, Brother Benno's Services made the difficult but necessary decision to transition to an industrial space that could house their soup kitchen, food pantry, and other social services under one roof.

Though they said goodbye to that cozy Minnesota Avenue home, the Kutlers' legacy was just beginning. The little house by the beach took on new life as transitional living quarters for graduates of Brother Benno's 26-week men's recovery program.

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www.brotherbenno.org

6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT PREPARATIONS IN FULL SWING

BY AMY SELICH

Excitement is building as we approach the date of our 6th annual golf tournament on Wednesday, September 18, at Goat Hill Golf Park. We are thrilled that our first-time sponsor, **BMW of Carlsbad**, is our hole-in-one sponsor. That should get our golfers practicing harder for a chance to win a car.

Title Sponsor **Outerknown** will host a private VIP night with proceeds going to Brother Benno's the evening before the tournament on Tuesday, September 17, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carlsbad Forum. Outerknown invites the Foundations' friends

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Over the decades, that sturdy home has welcomed hundreds of men seeking to rebuild their lives after battling homelessness, addiction, and personal crises. Within those walls, they found a safe space to chart a new course, bolstered by counseling, job training, and community.

The lives touched and redirected by the Minnesota Avenue house are in-

and families to come and shop for a good cause, enjoy refreshments, and meet our sponsors, the committee, and others who may attend.

If you hope to golf, the clock is ticking, as there are only a handful of golfing spots left, so [register now](#). If you don't want to golf but still want to show your support, you can sponsor a Hole and have your name, message, or business proudly displayed at your hole.

We are still looking for desirable Silent Auction items. Gift certificates

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calculable. From its beginning as the Kutlers' hospitable soup kitchen, to its current role as a stepping stone to independence, this humble home has been the start of countless fresh chapters.

Its weather-worn siding contains multitudes – struggles, redemption, and the lasting impact of simple acts of compassion, all still radiating from Harold and Kay's radical hospitality so many years ago.

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ATTENTION: YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE ENDING!

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

July begins a new fiscal year at The Brother Benno Foundation. As we review our annual budget with the primary focus on helping our Guests, it has been determined that a new policy is needed for the paper edition of this newsletter.

Brother Benno's is establishing an "opt-in" policy for newsletters that are mailed to our supporters. What does this mean? First of all, don't panic! If you would still like to

receive a print copy of our newsletter, please let us know in one of the following ways:

1. **Write us** at The Brother Benno Foundation, PO Box 308 Oceanside, CA 92049
2. **Email us** at: bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org
3. **Call us** and leave a message: (760) 439-1244 ext. 122 OR (760) 231-1674

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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



Heartfelt Thanks

The following volunteers have helped in the production of our newsletter through their many articles this year. Together with our production volunteers and staff, they make an incredible team. We thank them for turning blank pages into a source of knowledge and joy for you each month.

Beth Doyle
Steven Jelinek
John McCaffrey
Steve Oetting
Helen Parsons
Issac Rutherford
Steve Schumm
Amy Selich
Richard Shlemmer
V.C. Smith



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

amazon
wishlist

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,

Since we started this journey to assess how we can more robustly implement Harold's 2nd Level of Service (self-sustainment), we have had a number of folks with the right experience suddenly starting to show up and volunteer. As you know, we often claim God sent me or you to Brother Benno's. When you see it in action, it's hard to deny God's hand is with us every day.

As we continue to review our processes, and take advantage of technology to increase our capacity, we are finding out a number of things. One of them is that we have a large database of supporters, but we are not totally sure who is still active. So, we are going to ask our supporters to opt back in to our database. There are notifications of this effort

in this newsletter in other areas. We've made it very easy, so please let us know by opting back in.

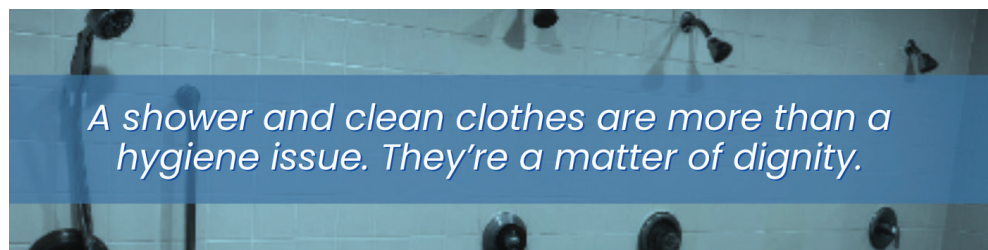
You will also be pleased to know that the Center "facelift" is coming along nicely. If you haven't been to the Center in a while please stop by and check it out.

No one likes to ask for resources, but we are providing a lot of services to those in need. We are going to launch shortly a campaign to help remodel our showers. We are entering the hot weather season so you know they are needed. So, I would ask you to be generous once again and help us help the "least of us."

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

God bless you all!

Mac



A shower and clean clothes are more than a hygiene issue. They're a matter of dignity.

GUEST REVIEW

FROM: Susie D. (Google Business Review)

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 Benno's. They made me feel so welcomed and comfortable with the reassurance that I'm not the only one in this struggle!! I wasn't sure where to start in letting them know my situation. Without 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 you gave me with my storage and clothing I could never 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 Benno's be your first call for help and guidance I promise you won't be disappointed.



CLOTHING DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

BY STEVE OETTING

A few months ago, Brother Benno's expanded the hours of operation for clothing distribution so that more guests would be able to receive access to clothing. This has been a huge success, resulting in 50 to 60 people per day receiving clothing. In fact, it's been such a success that it has depleted the amount of clothing that Brother Benno's has available to give out.

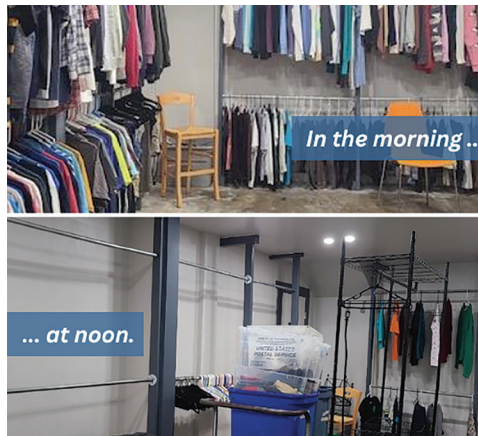
To make up for the deficit, the Thrift Store has been pulling items from its shelves to make sure there are enough clothes for those in the greatest need.

Michelle Hoppe, manager of the Thrift Store, notes that in many ways this is "a good problem to have," insofar as it means that Brother Benno's has been able to expand its mission of clothing those in need. But it has not come without a cost. Many items in high demand are now limited or no longer available at the

Thrift Store. The vitality of the Thrift Store, in turn, is essential to providing revenue to promote all of Brother Benno's missions.

While all donations are welcome, the following items are in particularly short supply and would be gratefully received: New underwear for men and women; socks; pants and shirts for men; hoodies/sweatshirts; and ball caps or other hats.

Matthew 25:36: "I was naked and you gave me clothing. . . ." Ω



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If you wish to opt in to receive the newsletter, tell us you want to receive the print newsletter. Provide us with your first and last name, your postal mailing address, and your phone number. An email address is optional.

Are you receiving this newsletter via email? You don't need to do anything at all.

For those of you currently receiving this newsletter by mail, another option is to sign up to receive it via email at the bottom of our home page here: brotherbenno.org. You may also access newsletters past, present and future on our website:

<https://brotherbenno.org/news-and-events/newsletters/>. This link also provides an additional opportunity to sign up for the online email subscription of our newsletter. This gives you an opportunity to save postage and printing costs (as well as being good stewards of the environment).

Finally, there are a lot of options to learn more about what we are doing at Brother Benno's through our social media channels and our website. We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue Kay, Harold & Brother Benno's mission to help provide loving service to the poor.

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OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara

Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee
Administration Manager

Kathleen Diehlmann
Development 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

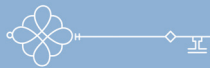
FOR CONTACT INFORMATION
[visit our website](#)



“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**

HOMELESS PREVENTION & RENTAL ASSISTANCE

BY BETH DOYLE

“I cannot even explain what an amazing blessing it was to find Brother Benno’s rental assistance program in our time of need, thanks to you, my daughter and I can stay in our apartment.” - Amy (a mother who received rental assistance from The Brother Benno Foundation).

The Brother Benno Foundation’s rental assistance program is a safety net for temporary and dire circumstances. Brother Benno’s saw the need for rental/utility assistance throughout North County, and for over 20 years, have been able to keep the doors open, lights on, and water running for those most in need. The Brother Benno Foundation alone, through its generous donors, has contributed \$502,000 to this program.

The Rental and Utility Assistance Program supports individuals from all walks of life, including single mothers, families close to eviction, individuals who suddenly lose their job, seniors and disabled veterans who are having difficulties making ends meet. Our goal at The Brother Benno Foundation is to keep families in their current residence and to prevent the cycle of homelessness. Many of these individuals are one

step away from becoming unsheltered, and it’s with the love and support of this program that we can help deter that.

Darryl Harris, the Outreach Manager at Brother Bennos, also leads the rental/utility assistance program. Day in and day out, Darryl meets with guests to discuss their needs, and assist them. When asked for his most influential moment working in this program, Darryl said, “I cannot choose just one moment, but something that is difficult for me is when I have to decide who gets the money.” He went on to explain how hard it can be to decide who gets the money, as the demand is always higher than the budget. Darryl added, “the demand is through the roof,” rental assistance is needed daily, and donations are needed to keep this program running.

Brother Benno’s relies on the continuous support from our community to help us prevent homelessness. Personal donations are what keep this program running, and it would be impossible without your support. Thanks to our donors Brother Benno’s continues to uplift the dignity of those we serve.

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Darryl Harris and Kelley Jhung assisting guests in Brother Benno’s services hub. You are with us, extending compassionate help and hope when life just goes “wrong.”

SHOULDERS TO LEAN ON: HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

BY ISSAC RUTHERFORD & V.C. SMITH

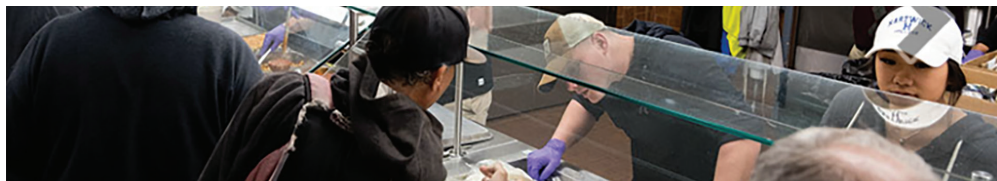
On a day shrouded in clouds, a moment of human connection unfolded on the grounds of Brother Benno's. As Issac, one of our security team, patrolled the area, a heart-wrenching scene caught his eye: **Joel**, a familiar face around the Center, was overcome with emotion. Tears streamed down his face, his shoulders slumped in despair. Imagine feeling hopeless and alone, battling a mental health condition with no roof over your head. This was Joel's reality, a young man struggling on the streets.

With compassion and the skills to de-escalate situations and connect individuals with the resources they need, Issac approached Joel, gently probing to understand his pain. Joel's struggle with manic depression had reached a critical point, and he felt lost in the depths of despair.

In our community, nobody walks alone. Issac accompanied Joel to community outreach services, where Steven, a pillar of empathy, was ready to lend an ear.

Joel's story resonated with Steven, offering a moment of relief and recognition. The response from our team was immediate and unwavering and a true testament to the power of connection and the spirit of our mission. At Brother Benno's, we don't just offer help; we offer love.

While we cannot share the specifics of Joel's story, this encounter highlights the transformative power of your contributions. By supporting Brother Benno's, you provide a lifeline to those like Joel, in crisis, offering a listening ear, a sense of hope, and a connection to vital resources.



♥♥♥ JULY SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

Thank you serving teams! The gifts of your time and caring service are received with heartfelt thanks.

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 La Costa Valley Volunteers
15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Omni La Costa Resort & Spa	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 & Staff	31 Soroptomist International			

JULY NEEDS

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Men's pants (all sizes)
- Men's athletic shoes
- Men's belts
- Hoodies
- Hats (caps/beanies)
- Underwear - Men's & Women's (new)
- Socks - Men's & Women's (new & gently-worn)

- Adult Backpacks & Dufflebags (gently-used)
- Blankets
- Reusable Water Bottles

- Baby diapers - size 6

HYGIENE & PERSONAL CARE

- Disposable razors
- Neosporin - individual packets
- Travel-sized soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion & tissue packs

FOOD & BEVERAGES

- Bottled waters, sodas, & juices
- Ziplock sandwich & snack bags



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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Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
John & Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
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Michael Nares
Zeferino & Dancy Nares
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Ben Osgrove
Kathryn D. Pent

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Bunny Lupica
Dr. Mike McCarthy
Natalie Nares
Jose Opatkiewicz
Mike Sifferlen
Blake Smith
Bill Stone
Mary Louise Wisniewski
Joan Zerkie
Mothers and Fathers

IN HONOR OF
Vilmarie Rodriguez

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for local restaurants or businesses are popular, and they complement the sports equipment and signed memorabilia from **Kelly Slater**, **Drew Brees** and others. If you have an item for the auction, contact DinaMarie at dinamarie.ahce@brotherbenno.org.

Don't miss this month's KOCT interview with Executive Director **Paul "Mac" McNamara** and Golf Tournament

Co-Chair **Chuy Reyna** about the golf tournament. Catch it Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:30 pm (Cox Channel 18) & Monday - Friday at 4:00pm (Cox Channel 19) and on their [YouTube](#) channel.

There are many ways to get involved, including volunteering at the event. Visit brotherbenno.org/golf-2024 or email golf24@brotherbenno.org to get involved or learn more.

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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

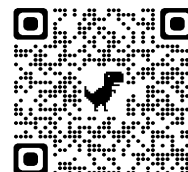
DONATE

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



By the numbers: Your gifts are meeting needs

	MAY 2024	OUR 40th YEAR		MAY 2024	OUR 40th YEAR
Meals	10,918	5,018,984	Blankets	181	54,204
Lodging	2,053	370,349	Tarps	126	9,023
Clothing	4,187	1,562,211	ID Vouchers	38	11,098
Showers	422	291,949	Lbs. of Food Rescued	211,515	4,517,830
Bus Passes	196	90,970	HUGS	1,000	1,029,244