



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

SEPTEMBER 2024



## HOPE RENEWED: TEMPORARY HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR SAN DIEGO'S VULNERABLE

BY OUTREACH STAFF

A wave of relief has washed over our community as the Brother Benno Foundation received a significant influx of temporary funding from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).

EFSP is a FEMA-funded program. This vital support directly addressed the urgent housing needs of San Diego's homeless and working poor families by providing emergency housing vouchers, move-in assistance, and crucial rental and utility aid.

In under two months, the Brother Benno Outreach Hub used over \$170,000 of this money before the funding was exhausted. We assisted over 85 households with rental, utility, and move-in assistance. We also provided 94 nights of transitional motel vouchers to ten households.

Among those who have recently benefited from our services is a Hawaiian couple tragically displaced by last year's devastating fires. Seeking refuge and a fresh start, they found their way to Oceanside, where our foundation was able to provide them with emergency housing and much-needed move-in assistance. Their story underscores the critical importance of our work, espe-

cially during times of unforeseen crisis.

This temporary funding, while a tremendous blessing, highlights the ongoing need for sustainable solutions to address homelessness in our community. It also serves as a powerful reminder of the generosity and commitment of our regular donors, whose unwavering support allows us to continue serving those in need even when outside funding is scarce.

To our donors, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals and families, offering them hope, stability, and a chance to rebuild their lives. Your compassion and generosity are the bedrock of our foundation, enabling us to respond to the ever-present housing crisis in San Diego and especially in our North County area.

As we celebrate this temporary funding and the positive impact it has had, we remain dedicated to advocating for long-term solutions to homelessness. Together with our community, we envision a future where everyone has a safe and stable place to call home.



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[www.brotherbenno.org](http://www.brotherbenno.org)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Catherine Shaw

BY V.C. SMITH

“Great events don’t happen without great volunteers.” **Catherine Shaw** is definitely one of those “great volunteers.”

Beginning in June, Catherine became a volunteer member of our golf committee’s silent auction team. As a team member, she has been spending seven hours a week gathering items for the silent auction, writing thank you letters to auction donors, and helping recruit volunteers for the day of the event.

A recent UCSD graduate this past May with a degree in Human Biology, Catherine

plans to continue her education to become a Physician’s Assistant (PA) with a focus on Reconstructive Surgery.

Catherine is no stranger to volunteer work. She has participated in Palomar Hospital’s Pathmaker Internship program, served as a research volunteer with Moores Cancer Center, and has helped with beach/park clean-ups with the Surfrider Foun-

ation and Cabrillo State Marine Reserve Parks Project.

When she is not helping at Brother Benno’s, she loves spending time with her family and friends; watching and playing sports; reading; taking walks around a local lake; running; lifting weights; drawing art; and watching TV dramas.



**DinaMarie Ahee**, Administration Manager, describes Catherine as “a compassionate, generous, kind soul who dedicates so much to her community, and family. She has been eager and willing to take on any task with a level of confidence beyond her years.”

*Catherine, we love your dedication to Brother Benno’s and all the work you’ve done getting our silent auction ready for it’s opening on September 13. We couldn’t have done this without you! Thank you!*

Ω

## BY POPULAR DEMAND, TOURS ARE NOW TWICE A MONTH

Community members and potential volunteers really enjoy our monthly tours, however, a complaint we’ve received is that they are only once a month. Good news! Beginning this month tours will now be held twice a month on the **first and third Saturdays**. (You can always check for the dates on our homepage [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org).)

**No reservations are necessary** so feel free to bring family and friends with you. **Tours start at 9:00 a.m.**

When coming for a tour, please park on the street and check in at the main entrance (the front door on the right).

Ω

*“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



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

It’s not too late to join us at our Charity Golf Tournament at Goat Hill Park on 9/18/2024.

Various opportunities and time blocks available.

To sign up, please fill out the Google Form linked here:

[tinyurl.com/golf24volunteer](https://tinyurl.com/golf24volunteer)

For any further questions, feel free to reach out to Catherine Shaw at [auction@brotherbenno.org](mailto:auction@brotherbenno.org)



# 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

Joe McDevitt  
*Chairperson*

Jeff Epp  
*Vice Chairperson*

Jim Napier  
*Secretary*

John Lavery  
*Treasurer*

### BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Parsons  
Gregg Prather  
Father Charles Wright

### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

John Blasier  
Dan Boone  
Mary Holguin  
Dr. Richard Shlemmer

## DONOR'S CORNER

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

It has been a hot summer and so I've received a lot of positive feedback from our guests about keeping the showers open five days a week. I have to admit, it can get sauna-like near the showers, but they are clearly appreciated. When we finally get the funds to remodel, they will be much better for our guests.

Life sometimes gets in the way of being a Board member, and we recently lost four of our most dedicated volunteers due to their day job and other issues. Kaye Turpin our Chair resigned due to retirement plans out of state. Successful work has forced Jeff Bizzack and Mike Moskowitz to step down, and Dr Giligan had some personal issues that needed attending to. The good news is that Jeff will still be able to stay

engaged with the Golf Tournament. The other good news is that we had no problem having other Board members step up to the plate on the executive committee. I honestly don't have enough space to list all their selfless contributions or to say thank you with the level of gratitude they deserve. But trust me when I say they worked tirelessly often behind the scenes to make our ministry the success it is.

Finally, the Thrift Store is going through some changes. We need volunteers there, especially on the weekends. If you want to experience a little bit of retail, we would love for you to sign up.

So let me close with one of the truths of our organization, we couldn't do it without you, so, thank you and -

God bless you all!

Mac



## OUTERKNOWN EXPANDS THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT WITH A VIP SHOPPING EVENT

Outerknown, Title Sponsor of our 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, has expanded their support of the Brother Benno Foundation by holding a **VIP Shopping Event** at their store in Carlsbad at The Forum. 25% of all sales during the event will be generously donated to the Brother Benno Foundation.

Outerknown isn't just a top tier sponsor; they're a partner who adds real value. From outfitting golfers and event volunteers to curating unique swag goodies and donating silent auction items, they make our tournament a memorable experience for everyone involved.





## CAUGHT IN THE ACT! Community Partners, Supporters & Volunteers Making a Difference

We deeply appreciate the support from our community partners, volunteers, and donors. However, we only manage to document a small portion of these acts of kindness. If you have a photo or story you'd like to share, please send it to us at [bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org](mailto:bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org). We'd be delighted to feature your story!

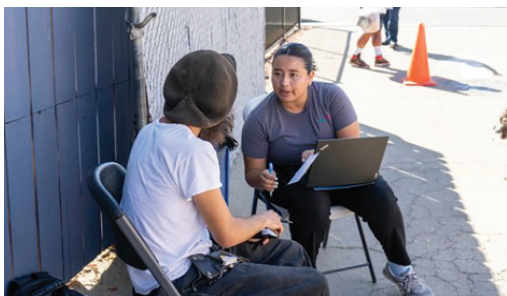
**San Luis Rey Valley United Methodist Church** members recently shared their late July morning volunteer experience. Volunteers served breakfast and helped guests in our Food Pantry.

We especially love the hashtags they used in their post - **#serve-withlove** and **#FaithInAction**.

We look forward to having them back! Thank you for your service and support!

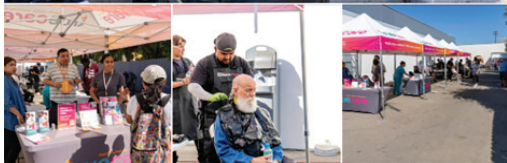


San Luis Rey Valley United Methodist Church



In honor of *Healthcare for People Experiencing Homelessness Day* on August 5th, the team from **TrueCare** visited The Center and connected with many of our guests.

Offering free podiatry and dental screenings and provided valuable healthcare resources. Our guests felt heard about their health concerns.



TrueCare & Ivy League Barber Academy

In addition, students from the **Ivy League Barber Academy** provided haircuts. Visit their Facebook pages and join us in showing them some love.

Your donations keep our Thrift Shop well stocked. Gently used and clean, coats and jackets, pants, shorts, shoes, socks, hats, beanies, gloves and scarves are often shared with the Center Clothing room which provides clothing to those in need. Gentle reminder: When you donate items, would you please package them in boxes, bags or disposable containers. It really helps.



Volunteers and staff collecting donations at the Thrift Shop.

## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Paul 'Mac' McNamara**

*Executive Director*

**DinaMarie Ahee**

*Administration Manager*

**Kathleen Diehlmann**

*Development Manager*

**Darryl Harris**

*Outreach Services*

*Manager*

**Marina Pozdnyakova**

*Clothing Services*

*Manager*

**Rob Sanchez**

*Essential Services*

*Manager*

**Jim Shlemmer**

*Recovery Manager*

**Elias Velazquez**

*Communications and*

*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](mailto:recovery@brotherbenno.org)

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

## THANKS FOR ASKING!

We look forward to receiving your feedback, your questions and especially having the opportunity to talk with you about all the remarkable things your donations make possible for those in need. **Last month, we received this question from Cynthia F.:**

*Each month you provide the services by the numbers. In the July edition the May 2024 number for lodging was 2,053. There are testimonials speaking of rental assistance. Are there other forms of lodging provided? I have heard that Brother Benno also provides lodging in motels/hotels and in private residences. I, and perhaps others, would like to learn more about forms of lodging provided. Tied into this--does Brother Benno use tiny homes for lodging?*

**Dear Cynthia,**

Thank you for your interest in Brother Benno’s services and for your insightful question about lodging. You have a sharp eye for details.

**You are correct** that our services extend beyond rental assistance, a service that helps over 500 households each year avoid eviction and the risk of becoming homeless. It is important to note that Brother Benno is not a shelter. We focus on providing connections to housing solutions and support services that empower individuals to achieve self-sufficiency.

**Beyond rental & utility assistance** - the solutions Brother Benno’s provides include

- **motel vouchers** - over 300 are issued each year to homeless persons and families offering temporary housing while longer-term supportive care is being arranged
- **a dedicated sober living home**

that houses up to six women as they continue to progress through substance abuse recovery; and

- **six homes** that house up to forty-two men participating in our twenty-six-week recovery program

**How we do this?** Our “Hub Center” at the Brother Benno Center offers a central location for our outreach team to combine efforts and work closely with many partners. These include government agencies and other non-profit organizations. This team effort generates a substantial increase in providing housing solutions to persons in critical need.

In addition, we are grateful for San Diego County’s Department of Homeless Solutions & Equitable Communities (HSEC) homeless services team. This team includes case managers, licensed clinical social workers, and benefits specialists all working out of our Hub Center.

**Tiny Homes** - We understand your interest in tiny homes as a potential housing solution. Brother Benno’s has considered offering tiny homes to our Guests; however, we lack the needed space to install and operate tiny homes.

We sincerely hope this information answers your question and gives you insight into the forms of lodging Brother Benno’s provides.

**Thanks for asking!**

*Your Brother Benno Newsletter Team*

P.S. Whether it is donating your time, needed goods, or through a financial contribution (no amount is too small!), **you make a difference in the lives of those in need.** Ω

# TEE UP FOR AMAZING DEALS on Silent Auction items

BY AMY SELICH, Golf Committee Co-Chair

Whether you're a golf enthusiast or just love being part of the action, we invite you to join the excitement at our upcoming online Silent Auction, kicking off Friday, September 13th.

Get ready to bid on amazing items like a weekend or weeklong getaway to a fabulous beach resort, a chance to play golf at a stunning club on the Kona-Kohala coast in Hawaii, or even a chance to bag autographed memorabilia from your favorite athletes. Items generously donated by local and regional businesses also

include surf and golf gear and valuable gift baskets. You won't want to miss out!

Claiming your winning bids is super simple and makes a real difference in the lives of those we support.

Start browsing and place your bids generously from Friday, September 13th onwards.

Click the auction button on our golf page, [brotherbenno.org/Golf-2024](http://brotherbenno.org/Golf-2024), to begin!



# SEPTEMBER 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



## YOUR NEWSLETTER TEAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

**What did you think of this edition?**

*Loved it, here's why...*

*I'd like more stories about...*

*This is how I think the newsletter could be improved...*

**EMAIL US AT:**

[bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org](mailto:bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org)

**LEAVE A MESSAGE AT:**

**(760) 231-1613**



## ♥♥♥ SEPTEMBER 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
2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Stephanie's Team	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
9 North Coast Methodist	10 Riverview Church	11 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	12 Servers R Us	13 St. Patrick's	14 Banfield Pet Hospital - Oceanside #2357
16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 <b>OPEN</b>	18 Friends of Brother Benno	19 Ernest Packaging	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
23 <b>OPEN</b>	24 Rotary Club of Vista	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Signal	27 Oceanside Sanctuary	28 Camp Pendleton Ortho. Dept.
30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis					



## MEMORIALS

Ron Alexander  
Dixie & Lou Bales  
Frank Barnet  
Brother Benno  
John & 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  
Ida Acuna  
Ron Beckman  
Frank Beeson  
Ream & Erik Braegger  
Bernadette Butler  
Lisa Cosgayon Garcia  
Jean Davis  
Timothy Diem  
Muriel Fahey  
Joe Galizio  
Steve Gallagher  
William Justus  
Toni Keane  
William Kragness  
Larry Lester  
Dr. Mike McCarthy  
Carolyn McCullough  
Mary Opatkiewicz  
David Rorick  
Peter Sharou  
Virginia Vandermel  
Roberta Young  
Tom & Joee

**IN HONOR OF**  
Jan Roberts  
Amy Selich

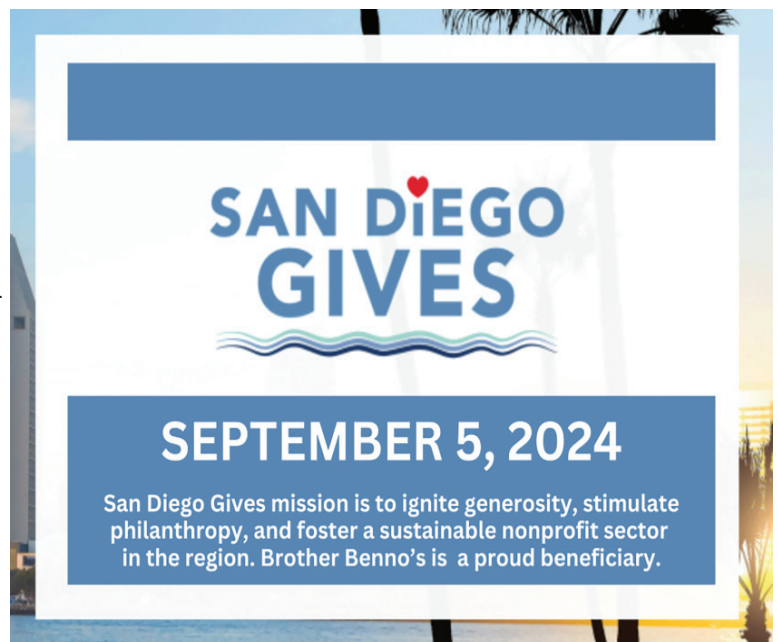
## A 24-HOUR DAY OF GIVING

For the third year in a row, The Brother Benno Foundation is raising funds and awareness by participating in **San Diego Gives**.

This fundraising program for local San Diego-based nonprofits encourages San Diegans to give locally and learn about the many nonprofit organizations that support our beautiful County.

The [San Diego Gives website](#) makes it simple to learn about local nonprofit organizations and their work. There are a diverse range of cause areas, including the arts, animal welfare, the environment, education, health, human services, equity, social justice, and more.

If you prefer, you can donate directly to Brother Benno's through our [Brother Benno donation page](#). Ω



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

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



*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](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**



**By the numbers: Your gifts are meeting needs**

	<b>JULY 2024</b>	<b>OUR 40th YEAR</b>		<b>JULY 2024</b>	<b>OUR 40th YEAR</b>
Meals	9,713	5,038,200	Blankets	116	54,480
Lodging	2,160	374,669	Tarps	101	9,226
Clothing	3,523	1,569,122	ID Vouchers	32	11,154
Showers	457	292,686	Lbs. of Food Rescued	115,800	4,787,822
Bus Passes	240	91,376	HUGS	1,000	1,031,244