



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

NOVEMBER 2024



Message from the Chairman, Board of Directors

To all our friends, donors, and volunteers, I want to express my gratitude for the support Brother Benno's receives to help uplift and give hope to people in need. This year we continued to celebrate our 40th anniversary and it was good to step back and remember the hundreds of supporters over the years that became a key part of Brother Benno's assistance to our neighbors in need. Now we have entered the next 40 years with renewed energy to increase our capability to provide critical assistance to the working poor, those persons who are homeless, and those persons in recovery from substance abuse.

We continue to be encouraged by our food rescue program which saves food received from grocery stores and restaurants from waste and supports hundreds of meals and food boxes distributed each week. Our Essential Service staff and volunteer members are active six days a week in distributing clothing, hygiene products, lunch bags, bus passes, and meeting other special needs of extremely low-income individuals and families. Our Outreach team strives to meet an urgent and increasing need to provide rental assistance to prevent evictions and avoid the risk of becoming homeless. We are particularly pleased with our 26-week substance abuse recovery program which is staffed by dedicated certified counselors.

If you are interested in volunteering to help people in need, please consider volunteering at Brother Benno's. We have a constant need for volunteers, particularly to fill various positions at differing experience levels. Examples of needed skills are grant writers, financial controller, HR expert, retail clerks for the thrift store, and capital campaign fundraising experience.

The following words from Harold Kutler, our founder, are remembered in carrying out our mission: "Living out the gospel each day means that we humbly serve those in need with love and compassion...They hunger for a smile, a kind word, a prayer. They want the gift of love, compassion, appreciation, caring, or affection. Just touching or hugging someone can free them from their prison of loneliness, and sincerely complementing a person can help remove their blindness to their own goodness."

Joe McDevitt, Chairman, Board of Directors

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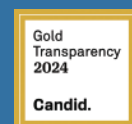
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www.brotherbenno.org

A HARVEST FULL OF GRATITUDE

BY ELIAS VELAZQUEZ, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. At Brother Benno's, our greatest blessing is our volunteers who make a significant impact not only on Brother Benno's but on those we serve.

From Brother Benno's truck drivers who ensure our market shelves are always filled to our Thrift Shop workers who help keep our store running smoothly, each volunteer plays a vital role in helping to fulfill our mission. Special committee volunteers work tirelessly to organize successful fundraisers, holiday meals, celebrations and administer the scholarship program. Receptionists and greeters welcome visitors with warm smiles and provide essential assistance.

Clothing room volunteers and warehouse workers help distribute essential items and food to those in need. Case workers provide compassionate support and guidance. Tech assistants keep our computer systems, website and email running smoothly. Newsletter production team volunteers and writers keep you informed about activities and events. Volunteers also help prepare the meals,

make and bag the lunches, and serve a hot breakfast to the working poor and unsheltered with kindness and smiles. And many "hidden hands" make light work of the countless tasks at Brother Benno's, including our Board of Directors.

Over 175 volunteers (not including several dozen serving teams) embody the spirit of giving. Their dedication makes a world of difference in the lives of those we serve. Harold Kutler's words from *Soup, Soap, Hugs, Hope* still ring true: "Volunteers are the heart and soul of Brother Benno's...and we appreciate every single one of them."

Interested in volunteering? Join us for a Tour – we would love to meet you! If you have a special skill or talent that you don't see covered on our website <https://brotherbenno.org/how-to-help/volunteer/> let us know and we will see how we might be able to bring you into the Brother Benno family. Whatever you would like to do at Brother Benno's, your involvement can be as simple or extensive as you care to make it.

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BEYOND BORDERS: Abundance Shared

BY ELIAS VELAZQUEZ

Late September, Brother Benno's embarked on another journey to share its donations south of the border. The Operations team, **Rob Sanchez** and **Elias Velazquez**, and a sibling volunteer, **Ariel Velazquez**, drove a van stuffed with rescued food to the children of the Nazareth Orphanage in Tecate, Mexico. Despite everything in the vehicle being food for orphans in need, the team almost always encounters issues

crossing the border.



Even with a letter from the Mother
continued on page 6....

"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 Benno's has a lot of resources for the community! I highly recommend them!!!! Thank God for Brother Benno's!!!!"

Rochelle Diane
Unsolicited Google Business
Review December 2023



SATURDAY

November 2 & 16
9:00 AM

No reservation required.

COME & JOIN US

Center tours are held twice a month. You can see what's new, what's changed, and also learn more about volunteer opportunities.



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
O.S.B.

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Boone
Dr. Patrick Gilligan
Mary Holguin
Dr. Richard Shlemmer

DONOR'S CORNER

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

We have about 25 big irons in the fire that are keeping the staff and volunteers busy. It's exciting to see everyone working together to improve our services for our guests. I tell my friends that working here is a transformational experience. Not just for our guests, but it also transforms our staff and volunteers. In a very real and tangible way, we see our guests' lives improve, but we also see on the staff/volunteer side what can be accomplished when we work together as a team. When the world tells you there is no hope for change, our answer is come to Brother Benno's and see how change is possible.

You may have heard that the Thrift Shop is changing its hours. That is true and you will see that happen in

the not-too-distant future. We did a top to bottom review of the Thrift Shop, and we noticed that for some of our guests the hours of operation are not that convenient. So, we decided to extend the hours in the evening until 8 PM. Keep an eye out for a more detailed notification on our social media.

Finally, not all our efforts are big projects, we have made little improvements as well. I want to give a shout out to the Essential Services team that worked to get the chapel back up to speed. Next time you are here check it out.

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

God bless you all!

Mac



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

~ Melody Beattie

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

We are blessed to have The Brother Benno Foundation's story, services and events shared with the broader public. In case you missed these, the links will take you to the programs so you can listen and watch.



Executive Director, **Paul 'Mac' Mc-Namara**, had an opportunity last month to share the mission of Brother Benno's and the ways those in need are supported on **K-LOVE** media's **LOCAL CLOSER LOOK** Program.

LISTEN HERE <https://tinyurl.com/BBKLOVE>

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. We'd be delighted to feature your story!



FRONTWAVE CREDIT UNION MEETING NEEDS Consumer Lending Supervisor, **Joan Perez**, coordinated a winter clothing drive across all their offices. Thanks to their generosity, Brother Benno's received **76 much needed warm sweaters and coats for our Guests.**

Holding a drive for clothing, essential items or food for Brother Benno's is a wonderful way to support our mission. Need help getting started? Check out our guide <https://brotherbenno.org/how-to-help/drives/>

ERNEST PACKAGING "GIVEMBER" 2024

Marina Vilaysane, Director of Operations, and her Ernest Packaging associate **Jackie Hudson** delivered a van full of **337 t-shirts** for our clothing room mid October!

We are grateful for their support - whether it's serving breakfast or donating much needed clothing, **Ernest Packaging makes an impact!**



KEEPING ESSENTIAL ITEMS ORGANIZED

Ron (left) and **Robert** (right) are always willing to lend **helping hands** around the Center and warehouse.

Those in need can receive personal care items through Essential Services at the Center. Your donated essential items, especially hygiene products, are crucial to uplifting the dignity of those we serve.



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara

Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee

Deputy Executive Director

Kathleen Diehlmann

Development Manager

Darryl Harris

Outreach Services Manager

Marina Pozdnyakova

Clothing Services Manager

Rob Sanchez

Operations Manager

Jim Shlemmer

Recovery Manager

Elias Velazquez

Operation Deputy Volunteer Coordinator

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**

YOU CAN BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Providing access to food has been a top priority for The Brother Benno Foundation since it started in 1983. Unfortunately, food insecurity continues to be an issue for many of our neighbors in North San Diego County.

To address this issue and uplift the dignity of those we serve, Brother Benno’s has plans to begin construction on a new indoor market in our warehouse at the Brother Benno’s Center.

This market will provide our Guests with the opportunity to choose food they need and continue to reduce food waste in our community. The Brother Benno Foundation has been a leader in rescuing food from landfills and helping to get it to those who need it most.

Men and women line up early each morning to pick up food for their family members, including children and grandchildren. Thanks to dona-

tions from local farmers and grocery stores, the Brother Benno Foundation distributes fruits and vegetables as well as other food items. The indoor market refrigeration and coolers will help extend the life of perishable and healthy foods.

Please help us with the construction of this important project. [Your donation](#) will be doubled by **The David C. Copley Foundation**, which has generously agreed to match donations for the Indoor Market project up to \$10,000 between now and **December 15, 2024**. Money raised for this project will be used for construction and equipment costs.

Feeding San Diego also made a substantial grant for the construction of the Indoor Market at Brother Benno’s. Thanks to this support, Brother Benno’s plans to provide a food oasis with a goal to prevent hunger and support nutrition in our community.

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KENDRA GIVES BACK

We’re grateful for the support we receive from local businesses. Whether it is a direct donation or hosted events where a portion of sales is donated to Brother Benno’s, every one of these generous efforts helps us fulfill our mission. **Kendra Gives Back** is one of those events.

On **November 30th, from 4-6 pm**, Kendra Scott UTC will be holding a special sales event; 20% of purchases made in-store during the event or online 11/30-12/1 using code GIVEBACK-HTUKP through KendraScott.com will directly benefit the Brother Benno Foundation. *(This event is only at the UTC store.)*



[Click here to download the flier](#)

...continued from page 2

Superior saying that everything in the van is for the kids, border officials still make it difficult to cross. **Father Kelly**, the primary organizer of the outreach to the orphanage along with **St. Elizabeth Seton Church**, said the food helps keep the orphanage open. Mexican government officials inspect the orphanage with particular scrutiny on their food pantry's ability to stay stocked, so Brother Benno's shared donations help keep them full.

After completing the delivery and speaking to the Mother Superior about future needs, Ariel and Elias grabbed a soccer ball they brought out of the van and invited the kids to play a pick-up game. They all ended the day laughing and playing soccer together, the nuns and little girls cheering from the shade.



A surprising new face arrived at the orphanage just before our visit – an

8-month old baby boy. Long-time volunteer **Dennis Ofcacek** said, "In all my years volunteering here, I have seen toddlers, but never an infant!" This 8-month old boy is now among those receiving Brother Benno's donations.

Our ability to share the blessings we receive with those in need goes back to how Brother Benno originally helped the poor and needy in our community.

The bond that is created between the one who gives and the one who receives blurs the lines that separate us; it is what has kept Brother Benno's legacy alive and made the Foundation he inspired as special as it is after all these years.

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Staff are preparing a section of donations for the next trip specifically to support this baby boy. If you would like to contribute, email Elias at elias.velazquez@brotherbenno.org. He is coordinating collecting baby milk formula, diapers (1 year+), baby/infant clothes (1 year+).

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♥♥♥ NOVEMBER 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 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 La Costa Valley Volunteers
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 Liberty Military Housing	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

THIS MONTH'S URGENT NEEDS

UNDERWEAR

men's & women's - new

SOCKS

men's & women's - new & gently-used

BLANKETS

VIEW ADDITIONAL ITEMS ON OUR [WEBSITE](#)



DONATIONS for our Guests?

DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS

...

ALL CLOTHING



THRIFT SHOP

FOOD & OTHER ESSENTIALS



THE CENTER



Can we accept your item? Check our list.



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

Bill Daley
 Dr. Mike McCarthy
 Elizabeth Parrish
 Harry Littel
 Robert Nelson
 Ron Beckman
 Andy Tarango
 Sean Rogers
 Toni Keane
 Marie Pry
 David Carter

IN HONOR OF

Tanya & Kent Gibson

♥ *Thank you early donors! We are already halfway to our goal. ♥
 If you are able, any amount you can contribute will help us
 provide these gift cards to needy children this Christmas.*



Donate Online or via check and we'll purchase the gift cards in your name!

Our goal is to collect 450 WALMART gift cards this year
 & we're counting on you!

ONLINE

To make an online donation to the gift card fund, visit <https://tinyurl.com/BBFGIFTCARDS>

or [CLICK HERE](#)

BY MAIL

Send gift cards or your check with the form to:

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

Gift Cards can also be dropped off at the Thrift Shop. Please label your envelope
 "Children's Christmas Gift Cards."

CUT AND MAIL WITH YOUR GIFT CARDS or CHECK

YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP CODE

EMAIL (optional)

[] I am enclosing _____ Gift Cards
 @ \$25.00 each

[] Please purchase Gift Cards in my
 name. Donation amount: \$ _____
 Check No. _____

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. 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

	SEPTEMBER 2024	OUR 41st YEAR		SEPTEMBER 2024	OUR 41st YEAR
Meals	6,864	5,055,517	Blankets	43	54,527
Market Visits	2,865	2,865	Tarps	98	9,427
Clothing	3,176	1,576,415	ID Vouchers	26	11,221
Showers	366	293,456	Lbs. of Food Rescued	158,000	5,103,787
Bus Passes	210	91,839	HUGS	1,000	1,033,244