



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

JANUARY 2025



## HOW ARE WE TO SERVE? A Reflection for the New Year BY THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

As we step into 2025, many of us are drafting resolutions and setting goals for personal improvement. Yet thirteen years ago, our founder **Harold Kutler** offered a different kind of New Year's reflection – one that shifts our focus from self-improvement to the transformative power of humble service. In this timeless piece from January 2011, Harold's words resonate with particular poignancy today.

Harold's fundamental vision of service – rooted in humility, performed with love, and expressed through simple daily acts – continues to guide everything we do. In a world that increasingly values grand gestures and viral moments of kindness, Harold's message is a timely reminder.

As we navigate the changes and challenges ahead, we find ourselves returning to these foundational principles. We're honored to share Harold's words anew, not just as a tribute to his legacy, but as a living blueprint for the way forward. His reflection remains as relevant today as when it was first written.

**"How Are We to Serve?" by Harold Kutler, Jan 2011**

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and told them that

this was the way they were to serve one another. (John 13:4- 9) This symbolized how our Christian service is to be performed: with great humility. We cannot wash someone's feet while we are standing or sitting. We must get down on our knees in a nonjudgmental position of humility and prayer. Then we are serving out of our own poverty, not out of our strength.

Living out the gospel each day means that we humbly serve those in need with love and compassion.

Most of the people we encounter each day are in need. 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 complimenting a person can help remove their blindness to their own goodness.

Mother Teresa and Brother Benno have shown us the way to live out the gospel in our everyday lives. Humbly serving the needy with love and compassion is an irresistible force that can make a real difference in our world and in our own lives.

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### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

**DONOR'S CORNER**

**CAUGHT IN THE ACT**

**A COMPREHENSIVE START TO NEW YEAR**

**RECOVERY TOOLS & STRATEGIES**

**URGENT NEEDS**

**HOW TO DONATE A VEHICLE**

**SERVING TEAMS CALENDAR**

**and more!**



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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BY JOE MCDEVITT, CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With support from our friends, donors, volunteers and staff, Brother Benno's is moving forward with five key initiatives to better serve people in need which includes the working poor, those persons who are homeless, and those persons in recovery from substance abuse. The initiatives are





- improved Thrift Store customer service
- expanded community outreach assistance (focused on the specific needs of individuals and families particularly to avoid eviction or to find a path out of homelessness)
- upgraded indoor grocery service with greater food selection for extremely low-income families, renovated shower service for homeless persons offering privacy and improved access for disabled, and
- the renovation of two recovery and sober living homes to provide a supportive living environment to program members progressing in achieving sobriety.

We are able to proceed with these initiatives through the dedicated support from our generous donors, staff members and key volunteers, many of whom have committed their lives to help people in need.

Many staff and volunteer members have themselves progressed out of homelessness, recovered from substance abuse, have overcome living in poverty or experienced living with family members suffering from substance abuse. They offer a common background to the people they support and their sincerity, patience and understanding opens communications and trust in finding paths forward to uplift and give hope. Our staff and volunteers understand the importance of listening, not judging, and remain in contact with people they assist to offer encouragement and support.

In moving forward with these key initiatives, our donors, staff members and volunteers are guided by the words of **Harold Kutler**, our founder: "Only love and acceptance can reach a heart that has been disfigured by rejection, conditional love or ridicule." Ω

## Help support our mission by donating a vehicle - running or not!

 <b>CALL or go ONLINE</b> It's free and easy.	 <b>TOW</b> Schedule a vehicle pick up, at no cost to you.
 <b>COLLECT</b> Brother Benno's will receive the proceeds.	 <b>RECEIVE</b> Receive a donation receipt at the time of the pick-up.

**More Info:** <https://tinyurl.com/BBFCARS>  
**Call 855-500-RIDE (7433)**

**We accept all types of vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, boats, and more!**

**Our vehicle donation program is coordinated by CARS a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that helps us, as well as thousands of nonprofits provide for turn-key vehicle donations.**

*"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

## TAX ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTERS

will be mailed by  
**January 31, 2025**  
for your donations  
over \$250



**SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 4 & 18**  
**9:00 AM**  
*No reservation required.*  
**COME & JOIN US**



## Brother Benno Center

**Monday - Friday**  
6:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**Saturdays**  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Brunch  
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Ware-  
house

**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,

I grew up on the East Coast and January was typically the coldest month of the year. And even though it was cold, I really enjoyed January because the days became longer, and the promise of Spring and new beginnings was close at hand. This month we start a new year and once again we have the opportunity for a new beginning.

So, what does that mean in practical terms here at Brother Benno's? Well, I think it is a recommitment to the mission of our ministry. As I've written earlier, our volunteers and staff have worked very hard in refining our processes so we can serve better the ever-increasing number of guests who are in need of our services. And with that dedication and head down focus on work, we might lose sight of the forest for the trees.

So, it is important to take time to remember the words of **Harold** written almost a quarter century ago.

We operate on faith, we are dependent on God, our programs are based on the needs of the people God sends us, what we do is not based on cost effectiveness but rather is it what God wants us to do. And finally, we are based on gospel values, specifically, Matthew 26:40-41 "As often as you did it to the least of my Brethren you did it to me."

A good thing was created when Brother Benno's was founded and for 40 years it served the community. I think of this January as the start of the next 40.

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



”

*Those of us who live “ordinary” lives hardly ever have the privilege of meeting people who are overcoming unbelievable odds, people whose inspiring examples prove the strength and resiliency of the human spirit. Many who serve at Brother Benno's, one of God's vineyards, do have that extraordinary privilege. ~ A Volunteer*

Thank you  
**Valley View  
Casino** for  
their gener-  
ous donation  
to the annual  
Christmas  
Party for the  
working poor.



Pictured, **Jim Napier**, Board of Directors (center) receiving their generous donation



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

We deeply appreciate the support of our community partners, volunteers, and donors. Sadly, 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!



What a sweet catch! Providing pies for our Thanksgiving meal has been a long standing tradition of St. Thomas More's parishioners. The variety they provided offered all our guests a chance to enjoy a favorite or try something new.



We caught one of our wonderful donors, Mary "Joanna" McClure, dropping off hundreds of books for the Children's Christmas party. There is nothing like the gift of reading!



Frontwave Credit Union's Consumer Lending Supervisor, Joan Perez and Andres Serrano were caught donating warmly welcomed blankets, socks and underwear (a constant need!) for our guests. Thank you for collecting them!



Unfortunately, we didn't catch them, but we wanted to give a shout out to Martin Luther King Middle School National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) students for their donation of coats for our guests and children in need. These honor students organized the clothing drive and inspected the donations to make certain they were clean, without holes, broken zippers or missing buttons. They also donated coats to the Women's Resource Center and Operation HOPE-North County.

## 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**

*Information Manager  
Volunteer Coordinator*

**Craig Yates**

*Grant Manager*

## FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

[visit our website](#)







# RECOVERY TOOLS AND STRATEGIES: Building a Foundation for Lasting Sobriety

BY STEVE SCHUMM

Recovery is a journey that requires dedication, support, and effective strategies. At the Brother Benno Foundation, participants learn tools that empower them to achieve and sustain long-term sobriety. Central to our program's success is the 12-step model, a proven framework that provides both structure and community for individuals to overcome addiction.

The 12-step model plays a vital role in helping participants navigate the complexities of recovery. Its focus on personal accountability, spiritual growth, and peer support offers a roadmap for healing. Through regular attendance at meetings, working closely with a sponsor, and progressing through the steps, participants

build resilience and gain a deeper understanding of their addiction. This process fosters self-awareness and provides a support network that extends well beyond the program.

In addition to the 12-step approach, managing triggers and temptations is an essential aspect of maintaining sobriety. Counselors and program graduates emphasize the importance of identifying high-risk situations and developing personalized coping strategies. For instance, avoiding environments associated with substance use, maintaining healthy daily routines, and setting realistic goals can help reduce vulnerability to relapse.

*continued on page 7...*



Thank you! North Coast Methodist serving team.

## ♥♥♥ JANUARY 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 Closed Happy New Year	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 Carlsbad Hi- Noon Rotary	9 Servers R Us	10 St. Patrick's	11 Mission San Luis Rey Parish
13 North Coast Methodist	14 Riverview Church	15 Friends of Brother Benno	16 Ernest Packaging	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 <i>OPEN</i>	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Signal	24 Oceanside Sanctuary	25 La Costa Valley Volunteers
27 <i>OPEN</i>	28 Rotary Club of Vista	29 Soroptimist International	30 <i>OPEN</i>	31 King of Kings	

# This Month's URGENT NEEDS

## UNDERWEAR

men's & women's - new

## SOCKS

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

## BLANKETS

*PLEASE DROP ITEMS OFF  
AT THE THRIFT SHOP*

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SATURDAY  
10:00 AM - NOON

*View our Donation Guide*



# DONATE - SHOP VOLUNTEER 7 DAYS A WEEK

↔ NEW ↔

## THRIFT SHOP HOURS

MON. - SAT.  
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

CLOSED JANUARY 1

## 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  
Deacon Ron Diem  
Timothy Diem  
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  
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

Douglas Kopsco  
Ahiot Claude OSB  
Bill Stone  
Diana Garot  
Elaine and Jack Port  
Frank Beeson  
Hugo Grace  
Joan Boyd  
Larry and Basel Lester  
Milton Silver and his parents  
Samuel and Bessie Silver  
Ron Beckman  
Tim McCoy

### IN HONOR OF

Clara Ziegler  
Dr. Wandz Costanzo  
Harold and Kay Kutler  
Irene Kinnear

...continued from page 6

Graduates of the program often highlight the value of mindfulness and grounding techniques, such as deep breathing and meditation, to manage stress and cravings. Staying connected to a supportive community—whether through AA meetings, volunteer work, or sober living homes—also plays a crucial role in sustaining progress.

At Brother Benno's, participants are not only given tools but also taught how to use them effectively in real-life situations. By combining the structure of the 12-step model with personalized strategies for managing challenges, individuals gain the confidence and skills needed to rebuild their lives and achieve lasting sobriety.

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Thank you, Brother Benno's Children's Christmas party stocking stuffers!

**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)

**NEW HOURS!**

**Monday - Saturday**

**10:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

**Sunday**

**10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

**DONATE**

**Monday - Friday**

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

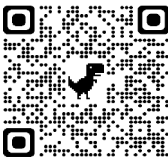
**Saturday**

**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](https://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**

	NOVEMBER 2024	OUR 41st YEAR		NOVEMBER 2024	OUR 41st YEAR
Meals	7,901	5,071,821	Blankets	204	54,826
Market Visits	3,474	9,967	Tarps	93	9,620
Clothing	4,230	1,585,023	ID Vouchers	28	11,271
Showers	353	294,156	Lbs. of Food Rescued	127,429	5,394,216
Bus Passes	262	92,338	HUGS	1,000	1,035,244