



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

APRIL 2025



THE HEART OF OUR MISSION: Volunteers

BY ELIAS VELAZQUEZ, INFORMATION MANAGER/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Brother Benno's was an all-volunteer organization for most of its lifetime. Longtime staff were once longtime volunteers, and they vividly remember the transition to hiring staff within the organization. However, even today, with a Benno's that has grown since those days, the heart of the Foundation remains with its volunteers.

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, a time to honor the incredible individuals who give their time, energy, and compassion to serve our community. Our volunteers make a profound impact on those experiencing homelessness and the conditions of poverty in Oceanside and North County San Diego.

Rain or shine, they show up with open hearts and willing hands. Whether it is those serving hot meals, collecting food from grocery stores, assisting our Thrift Shop, or supporting vital roles behind the scenes that make Ben-

no's great; they bring hope and dignity to those who need it most.

This month, we express our deepest gratitude to each volunteer who supports our work. To celebrate, we invite you to our annual Volunteer Appreciation party on April 26th at the Brother Benno Center! Join us as we recognize your contributions and share the company of like-minded and hearted supporters.

If you've ever considered volunteering, now is the perfect time to get involved! Whether you can spare an hour or commit to regular service, your time makes a difference.

From all of us at Brother Benno's—thank you. You are more than volunteers; you are family. Your dedication and kindness embody the spirit of compassion that is at the core of the Brother Benno Mission.



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www.brotherbenno.org



New Song Community Church volunteers Pat and Gina (standing left) Ed (leaning on the table) Kana (middle), Tom and Kelly (Back right) with Emily Hasting, Brother Benno's Kitchen Manager & Cook (bottom right)

PREDAWN'S DELICIOUS DEEDS: How Their Support Feeds Hundreds!

BY V.C. SMITH with EMILY HASTING, KITCHEN MANAGER & COOK

Long before the sun rises, while most of us are still deep in sleep, a remarkable group of New Song Community Church volunteers arrives at Brother Benno's kitchen. At 3:50 AM, these resolute individuals begin their vital mission: preparing over 600 sandwiches weekly for our community's homeless and working poor neighbors.

This extraordinary team of six embodies the true spirit of community service. The most recent group members, **Tom** and **Kelly**, have volunteered for four years. **Pat** and **Gina** have been with the group for six years. **Kana** has been making sandwiches for ten years. And, **Ed**, the longest-serving member with seventeen years of service, plans to keep making sandwiches until he retires

after completing his twentieth year. Undeterred by inclement weather, they arrive without fail to ensure that hundreds of sandwiches are available for hungry people.

Working with ingredients from Brother Benno's food recovery program, these volunteers transform donated deli meats and tuna into essential meals that fill brown bag lunches. Going far beyond sandwich making – they manage all aspects of their operation, from first setup to final cleanup.

In a world where commitments often waver, these volunteers' dedication is remarkable. **Ed** shared that he volunteers "out of joy, for the fellowship, and the feeling of helping someone."

... continued on page 3

"I am a client of Brother Benno's for many years. They are God sent. I lost my whole family. I was homeless for 7 years, been in many shelters and programs but because of the caring staff, too many names of volunteers, just wanted to say thank you and God Bless."

M.E. Lopez, Guest
Brother Benno Center



REMEMBERING
KAY KUTLER
APRIL 17, 1934 - FEB. 15, 2012



"Hugs, songs and a heart full of love for our guests."



SATURDAY
APRIL 5 & 19

9:00 AM
No reservation required.

Brother Benno Center

Monday - Friday
6:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Saturdays
Brunch
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Warehouse
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Closed
Sundays
New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day



Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joe McDevitt
Chairperson

Jeff Epp
Vice Chairperson

Gregg Prather
Secretary

Peter Joyce
Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Bizzack
Father Charles Wright
O.S.B.

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

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

DONOR'S CORNER

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

Anyone who has volunteered here knows that for the past 40 years the strength of Brother Benno's has been their volunteer corps. Through thick and thin, good times and bad, changes and program additions our volunteers have come through.

One of the great strengths of our volunteers is that they know their supportive actions are not about them. It is and always has been about the people as Harold puts it, "the people that God sends us."

I've always liked that approach. Because when you think about it, if we make our work about our needs, and that goes for paid staff as well, we run the risk of losing our way. Believe it or not, we discuss this concept at our Department Head meetings with frequency in the sense of does this change or that improvement, keep us, our team, true to the intent of Harold's vision.

... continued from page 2

Emily Hasting, Kitchen Manager and cook, shared "These volunteers are vital to the smooth operation of Brother Benno's in ensuring we can

As I've mentioned before, we are on track to double the number of guests this year that come to us and doubling the services we provide. The need grows, and we are now working to develop a reentry program for prisoners who have been incarcerated for a long time. It is as you might imagine a shock to the system to have lived in one environment and then after 20 years suddenly put in another. This concept is a real credit to our team.

Finally, we can never say thank you enough. Your work as volunteers inspires all of us every day. Harold said, "by working together to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters ...we will build a more loving, caring community." That is what our volunteers have done over these many years. Thank you!

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

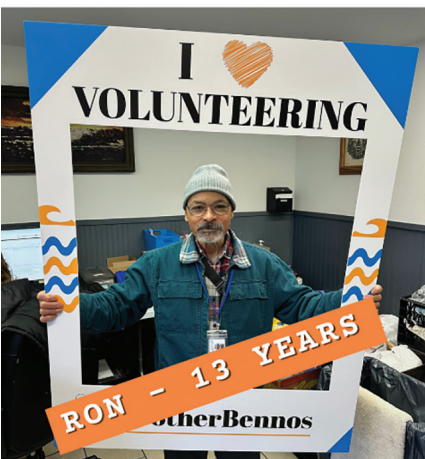
thank you and -
God bless you all,
Mac



feed hundreds of guests each week with nutritious meals. I don't know where we'd be without them."

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Each smile captured represents countless hours given, challenges overcome, and lives touched through service.



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](#)



"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."

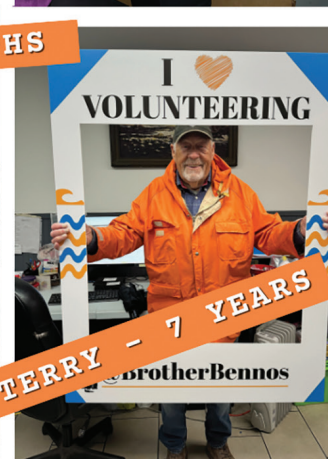
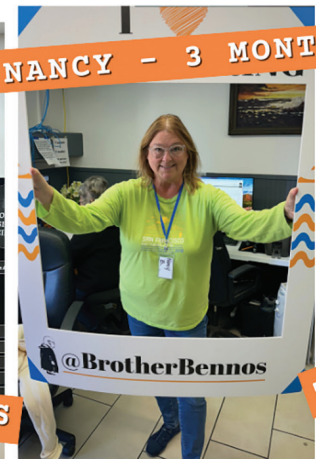
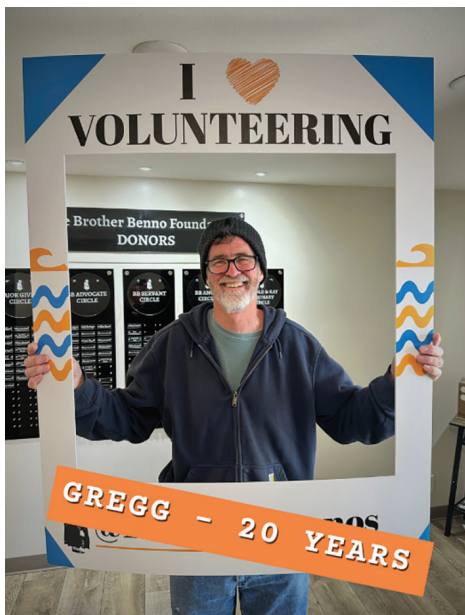
HAROLD KUTLER

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 are the heart and soul of Brother Benno's. We couldn't do what we do without you. Thank you!





SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY CHUY REYNA and AMY SELICH, GOLF COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

We are excited to announce that the next Brother Benno's Annual Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at Goat Hill Park in Oceanside.

Many of last year's top sponsors have stepped up for this year, including 11-time world champion surfer **Kelly Slater**, **OuterKnown**, **C3Bank**, and **ADP**.

Following last year's format, we will have a silent auction with many valuable items from local businesses and a live auction with unique experiences

like a day at **Kelly Slater's Surf Ranch**.

The tournament starts at 11 a.m. and will include food, beverages, swag bags, prizes, an awards ceremony, and live music.

The 2025 tournament webpage is coming soon! It will have information on registration for the tournament and sponsorship opportunities.

Want to volunteer for the tournament or join the fun? Send us an email to get started. golf@brotherbenno.org.



APRIL 26, 5 PM at THE CENTER
R.S.V.P.

volunteers@brotherbenno.org

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 go to the bottom of the page and enter your information.

www.brotherbenno.org



♥♥♥ APRIL 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. John The Evangelist	2 Stephanie's Team	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Riverview Church	9 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	10 <i>OPEN</i>	11 St. Patrick's	12 <i>Hand-To Hand Giving Circle</i>
14 North Coast Methodist	15 <i>OPEN</i>	16 Friends of Brother Benno	17 Ernest Packaging	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 Rotary Club of Vista	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Signal	25 Oceanside Sanctuary	26 La Costa Valley Volunteers
28 <i>OPEN</i>	29 Brother Benno's Volunteers and Staff	30 <i>OPEN</i>			

MEMORIALS

Ron Alexander	William & Vennita	Zeferino & Dancy Nares	Mike Stendahl
Dixie & Lou Bales	Flanagan	Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Stephan
Frank Barnet	Louise Foussat	Nysewander Family	Virginia Sylwestrzak
Brother Benno	Joe & Ida Friend	Jim O'Connell	Harold Thompson
John & Edith Blaiser	Mary Gerrity	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Carol & Herb Thornberg
Andrea Boersma	Bob Gleason	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker
Roland Bond	Chance Hales	Kathryn D. Pent	Walter Ulloa
Bill Boster	Tom & Louise Hayward	Mary Peterson	June Williams
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Elizabeth Holms	Jane Pfau	Fred Williamson
Bill Buckner	John Jarvie	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Andrew & Jane Yandura
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Dorothy & Walter Jellig	Alan Port	Alan Heim
Anna Correia	Alice Jordan	Mary Pullman	Timothy Diem
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Catherine L. Quinlan	Emma Tsikoyak Berry
Don & Lael Dewhurst	Richard Kurtz	Dora Ramirez	Erik & Ream Braegger
Deacon Ron Diem	Carole Kutler	Dick & Terry Riley	Frank Beeson
Timothy Diem	Harold & Kay Kutler	Margaret Rossini	Fred Mitchell
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Barbara Ladwig	Ann & Nick Sauer	Gloria Jean Foss
Frank S. Dolley	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Ron Schmid	Jim Chabala
Anita H. Donahue	Ben & Ozelle Lewis	Mary Shankle	Joe Galizio
Dorothy M. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Naomi Shelton	Nick Jellison
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Bill & Joan Maloney	Bernice, Samuel &	Ron Beckman
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Helene McGill	Milton Silver	Larry Sturges
Fr. Abbot Claude	Douglas E Milovicz	Will Skinner	Toni Keane
Ehringer, OSB	Rich Miro	Ann Grier Smith	
Myron Eichen	Peggy & Beverly Miville	Alva & Frances Snider	
Richard Farhquar	Monty, Natalie, &	Squirrel Family	
	Michael Nares	Jeanne St. Amant	

UPDATE: MARKET CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Construction of the highly anticipated Indoor Market at Brother Benno's Center officially began in early March, marking a significant milestone for our community outreach efforts.

The project moves forward with strong support from the community, who are eager to see this vision become a reality.

Funding for this transformative project came from **your generous**



donations, Feeding San Diego and the David C. Copley Foundation.

Once completed, the indoor market is expected to serve over 1,000 families and individuals monthly while creating new volunteer opportunities for community members passionate about fighting hunger.

Construction should be completed by the end of May.

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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)

OPEN EVERY DAY!

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. 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

	FEBRUARY 2025	OUR 41st YEAR		FEBRUARY 2025	OUR 41st YEAR
Meals	8,024	5,094,252	Blankets	183	55,403
Market Visits	4,020	20,207	Tarps	95	9,893
Clothing	3,454	1,596,079	ID Vouchers	26	11,370
Showers	258	294,944	Lbs. of Food Rescued	140,061	5,935,544
Bus Passes	248	93,049	HUGS	1,000	1,038,244