



# PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

MAY 2025



## With Welcoming Smiles and the Comforting Warmth of a Hot Breakfast, Serving Teams Offer Connection and Hope

BY STEPHANIE WILSON AND V.C. SMITH

Every morning something remarkable happens. As dawn breaks over Brother Benno's Center, dedicated volunteer groups gather 4-8 members together to serve hot, nutritious breakfasts to our community's working poor and unsheltered neighbors. This daily act of compassion has been transforming lives since 1983, and we invite you to become part of this inspiring tradition.

### A WARM WELCOME AND A HOT MEAL

Six days a week, volunteer teams arrive bright and early to open for service at 6:30 AM, bringing warmth and sustenance to those who need it most. Each day offers a different menu with a weekday special of a traditional hot breakfast complimented by a continental-style helping of dairy, fruit and pastries as local grocery donations

provide. All our guests get a lunch tray and can choose which options they want as they go along and the volunteers interact and serve them food items. Breakfast options are always finished with a hot coffee and cream, of course!

### SATURDAY BRUNCH

On Saturdays, a special 10:00 AM brunch is served featuring the community partner, Chik-Fil-A (with a little addition of gravy) or traditional spaghetti and always a side of vegetables and garlic bread.

On the second Saturday of every month, we are treated to one of a few rotating volunteer teams - each team may end up serving a few times per year. Some volunteers help with breakfast on the traditional serving line, dishing food, helping with coffee and

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## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED**

**TOURNAMENT  
UPDATE**

**DONOR'S  
CORNER**

**CITA**

**SERVING TEAMS  
CALENDAR**

**and more!**



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

## You Help Make a Better Future Possible

BY B. SMITH, CHAIRPERSON, BROTHER BENNO'S SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Brother Benno Scholarship committee is proud to share with you that 40 scholarships totaling \$24,000 were recently awarded to EOPS students at Palomar and MiraCosta Community Colleges.

This spring saw a remarkable increase in applications, with over 150 students competing for this crucial support. From recent high school graduates taking their first steps in higher education to determined individuals returning to college to reshape their career trajectories, these 40 students represent the diverse and inspiring faces of educational perseverance and resilience.

In a brief email acknowledging her selection, scholarship recipient C.M. shared, "Thank you so much! There have been MANY times that I have wanted to give up, drop out, and quit pursuing my dreams. Opportunities like this push me to continue."

Impacted by challenges including poverty, substance addiction, homelessness, and single parenthood, these awardees show academic promise, extraordinary resilience, and dedication to personal growth. Their diverse career aspirations

span agriculture, business administration, computer security, chemical and electrical engineering, nursing, teaching, and social work.

One scholarship committee member shared, "It is a privilege to get to know these students through their applications and an honor to be able to support them as representatives of our donors and the Brother Benno Foundation."

Every \$600 scholarship this spring was only possible through the generosity of individual donors and the diligent work of scholarship committee members **Jerry Weseloh, Joyce Cerimele, Kristal Cerimele, and Belinda Smith.**

Your generosity creates tangible pathways to success for these determined individuals. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of education.

If you would like more information about the EOPS program, our scholarship committee and award process, volunteer opportunities, or how to make a donation to the scholarship program, email [bbscholarship@brotherbenno.org](mailto:bbscholarship@brotherbenno.org).



*"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



**SATURDAY  
MAY 3 & 17  
9:00 AM**

*No reservation  
required*

*"The personal satisfaction I receive from seeing firsthand what Brother Benno's does for the homeless makes it all worthwhile."*



**John Jarvie**

## 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**  
**Helen Parsons**  
**Dr. Richard Shlemmer**

## DONOR'S CORNER

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

In the month of May we have  
Mother's Day and that is my  
theme. My mother has long  
since passed but the theme  
made me think about her and  
the values she taught me in my  
youth. It made me think about  
how do those values apply to  
what I now do at Brother Ben-  
no's.

Well, my mom was a loving  
mother who cared about her  
children and their success. She  
stuck with me and my siblings  
through thick and thin. She  
offered support and advice,  
but we had to make the deci-  
sions and live with our choices.  
I think one could say that is  
how Brother Benno's treats its  
guests.

We stick with them, we offer  
counsel, we try to help, but we  
also understand that our guests  
live with their choices as well.  
Yet they are not abandoned  
when the choice may have been  
a bad one. As the sign says, we  
will love you until you love  
yourself.

Thinking back on my mom, I

thought our volunteers had a  
similar mom. She taught me  
that we were given a good life  
and that we needed to give  
back.

I see that in our volunteers with  
their selfless dedication to this  
organization. My mom would  
say that when you help some-  
one it is not about you, but it  
is about them. I see that same  
wisdom when our volunteers  
interact with our guests. They  
demonstrate the best of our  
humanity.

When it came to charity, mom  
said that while we didn't have a  
lot, we should always help oth-  
ers. We get donations from our  
supporters that range from large  
to small. Again, I see the values  
of my mom in the hearts of our  
Brother Benno family.

I guess as I reflect, I understand  
better why I enjoy being a part  
of the Brother Benno team.

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





## 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!



Thank you **La Costa Valley Volunteers** for dropping off amazing donations AND serving our guests with a smile!

Thank you **Michelle** and **Brian** for your generosity and support.

You delivered (in large bags) 33 specially made hygiene packs for us to hand out to our Guests!

We appreciate your kind hearts and know our Guests will too!



## 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**

*Accounting 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**

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keeping the dining area tidy.

## **THE BREAKFAST EXPERIENCE**

Each morning begins with a cherished tradition: **Kay Kutler's** recorded greeting, the "Pledge of Allegiance", and the "Serenity Prayer", followed by a heartfelt thanks to our serving team. Then the music plays, and all Brother Benno's guests have a chance to sit together and share a meal. This meaningful start sets the tone for what matters most – the genuine connections formed between volunteers and guests as they share smiles and conversation along the serving line.

Currently, over 200 volunteers from diverse backgrounds – individuals, church groups, businesses, and service organizations – dedicate their time to this vital mission – feeding the hungry.

## **OUR COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION**

Many community teams have served faithfully since our founding in 1983, creating a legacy of care that spans generations. These include **Carlsbad Rotary, Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis and Sunrise Kiwanis Club of Vista** and recently retiring from this foundational collection, the **Soroptimist**

**Club.** Our Serving Team Calendar, updated monthly, lists our current groups. It also shows openings we have for one-time or monthly serving teams.

## **A VOLUNTEER'S REFLECTION**

**Stephanie W.** shared, "I went to one of the monthly volunteer orientations to see how I could help with the Foundation's efforts and am so grateful to have now built my own serving team - three years and counting! *I love that I get to joke, laugh and interact with the guests that come through the line that day.* I also am in recovery myself and members of the Recovery Program will serve alongside the teams; those interactions hold weighted significance to me and reaffirm the values that I carry with me daily."

## **OPEN INVITATION**

Does your community group want to create a serving team? Your team can serve as often as monthly or even just once.

Contact us by email - [servingteams@brotherbenno.org](mailto:servingteams@brotherbenno.org) or by phone at 760-231-1613 to get more details.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our serving teams community!

**Ω**



# Golf Tournament Registration is Open

BY CHUY REYNA AND AMY SELICH, GOLF TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRS

Reserve your spot to golf or be part of the fun at the 7th Annual Brother Benno's Charity Golf Tournament on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at Goat Hill Park in Oceanside at [brother-benno.org/golf](http://brother-benno.org/golf).

More prizes, sports items and experiences, make this a tremendous day for participants. Specially curated silent auction items and an extended bidding period before the tournament round out this year's auction's

improvements. And, you do not need to attend the tournament to bid or win auction items.

We welcome returning sponsor 11-time world champion surfer **Kelly Slater, Outerknown, C3Bank, Austin Surf Club, ADP, Surf Ranch and BMW Carlsbad.** The tournament starts at 11 a.m. and includes food, beverages, swag bags, prizes, an awards ceremony, and live music.

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St. Elizabeth Seton Serving Team

## ♥♥♥ MAY SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

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

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Stephanie's Team	8 <b>OPEN</b>	9 St. Patrick's	10 TVIA
12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	15 Ernest Packaging	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 San Rafael Parish	21 Friends of Brother Benno	22 Signal	23 Oceanside Sanctuary	24 La Costa Valley Volunteers
26 <b>OPEN</b>	27 Rotary Club of Vista	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 <b>OPEN</b>	30 King of Kings	31 Nativity Men's Group

## THIS MONTH'S URGENT NEEDS

**MEN'S UNDERWEAR**  
small and medium

**WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR**  
small and medium

**SOCKS**



Kindly deliver your donations to the Thrift Shop

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

**SATURDAY**  
**10:00 AM - NOON**

**VIEW our Donation Guide**



# MEMORIALS

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

## GIFT CARDS ARE HERE!



**Thrift Shop Gift Cards** are now available. You can purchase them for a redemption value that fits your needs. Visit the Thrift Shop to purchase. Perfect for the “thrifter” in your family, a friend, a co-worker, or to share with someone in need. Ω

## ... continued from page 6

One of Brother Benno’s largest fundraising activities of the year, it takes a village to produce this event. We welcome new golfers.

To register, sponsor, or donate, visit [brotherbenno.org/golf](http://brotherbenno.org/golf). For questions or to work with the committee, contact [golf@brotherbenno.org](mailto:golf@brotherbenno.org).

Ω

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

REGISTER TO GOLF - BECOME A SPONSOR - DONATE A ROUND FOR A MILITARY MEMBER



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

TITLE



MASTERS



HOLE IN ONE



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](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

	MARCH 2025	OUR 41st YEAR		MARCH 2025	OUR 41st YEAR
Meals	8,962	5,103,214	Blankets	195	55,598
Market Visits	4,126	24,333	Tarps	143	10,036
Clothing	3,550	1,599,629	ID Vouchers	28	11,398
Showers	329	295,273	Lbs. of Food Rescued	154,882	6,090,426
Bus Passes	231	93,280	HUGS	1,000	1,038,244