



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

SEPTEMBER 2025



YOUR SUPPORT IS BREAKING THE CYCLE

Imagine getting ticketed simply for trying to survive – for sleeping outside when you have nowhere else to go or sitting too long in a public space because you have no private place to rest.

For people experiencing homelessness in our neighborhoods, these “quality-of-life” citations are not just an inconvenience – they are another trap door in an already impossible situation. When someone without housing gets fined for bare acts of survival, those tickets become massive barriers to the very things they need most: stable housing and steady employment.

But here’s where your support has been making a real difference. Thanks to your generosity, Brother Benno’s was able to restart our participation in San Diego County’s Homeless Court Program this past spring. Since then, our Supportive Services team has helped 55 of our guests get 302 tickets

worth just under \$110,000 completely forgiven.

The Homeless Court Program was established in the mid-1980s, when county leaders recognized that individuals without fixed addresses often couldn’t receive court notices, resulting in missed appearances and arrest warrants. The solution? Collaborate with organizations like Brother Benno’s to provide comprehensive case management that addresses both tickets and related guest issues.

The program reviews misdemeanors, traffic tickets, and minor infractions issued anywhere in San Diego County, no matter how old they are. We have even had success getting tickets dismissed from as far away as Texas, Tennessee, and San Francisco.

Every ticket we help clear is one less barrier to employment. Every

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SERVING TEAMS CALENDAR

and more!



www.brotherbenno.org

C3BANK HELPS BROTHER BENNO'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT THRIVE

BY SUSAN SOMERS, FM Marketing LLC

When golfers gather Sept. 9 at Goat Hill Park for Brother Benno's seventh annual charity golf tournament, they'll have **C3bank** to thank for making the event possible.

C3bank is the tournament's title sponsor along with **Outer-known**, Kelly Slater's sustainable apparel brand.

C3bank, based in Encinitas, California, with other offices in Riverside, Lake San Marcos, and Nashville, Tennessee, is a business and commercial real estate lender founded in 1981. Three investors, including now-Chair **Michael Persall**, acquired it in 2014.

Its three C's stand for

- Connect stories.
- Create the future.
- Cultivate relationships.

In 2024, the San Diego Business Journal recognized Persall and C3bank President and CEO, **A.J. Moyer**, among San Diego's 500 Most Influential People for playing pivotal roles in the region's growth and prosperity.

Beyond his C3bank role, Persall is ABP Capital's found-

er and chairman; founded Blooma, an artificial intelligence-powered loan origination platform; and is a lead investor and board member for Vuori, a North County-based performance apparel company.

Michael is also a board of trustees member for the University of San Diego, his alma mater. He supports the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the Diabetes Research Connection.

Moyer, who joined C3bank in 2014, has led the bank since 2016. He created and led C3bank's CARES team which funded loans for about 500 local businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program.

We hope you will join us in extending sincere appreciation for their generous sponsorship.



Learn more:
www.c3bank.com

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"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
SEPTEMBER
6 & 20
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

Jeff Epp
Chairperson

Joe McDevitt
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

DONOR'S CORNER

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

Well, we've had the soft opening of the Indoor Market, and it is performing beyond expectations. Our guests' feedback has been very positive, and our food loss has dropped significantly. If there is an issue, I would suggest it's a little more labor-intensive than we initially thought.

During this past Saturday, which is typically our busiest day, we had ten volunteers keeping the food sorted and the shelves restocked. We did send out a call to arms for volunteers and received a great response, but we still need help if you can.

One of things I really liked was observing our guests walking around the market with shopping carts and not rummaging through boxes. It does uplift the dignity of those we serve. Additionally, we are working on reducing the feeling of scarcity with our guests. Before our

guests would come early in the morning, worried that all the "good stuff" was gone. Now we have limits on certain items and keep the shelves stocked, so it looks like a commercial supermarket at any time of the day.

It is an exciting time. I would invite you to drop by and take a look.

The other projects are moving along smoothly. The face of the Center has had some upgrades, and the offices on the second floor are framed. They are far enough along that one can imagine the finished product.

We still have a number of irons in the fire, and so I will update you as we move forward.

Finally, let me close once again 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



Leading Evaluators Award Top Ratings

Organizations like [Charity Navigator](#) and [Candid](#) review and rate nonprofits nationwide. The Brother Benno Foundation proudly announces receiving a 100% Charity Navigator rating and Candid's highest platinum seal of transparency. Please share this excellent news with your networks so we can continue uplifting the dignity of those we serve.

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



Meet **Jenalle Rankins**, a lively volunteer who this summer, decided to give back to Brother Benno's as a way to thank the organization which provided her with a scholarship many years ago.

Jenalle has more than 200 volunteer hours in Essential Services. There, she's been updating files, distributing bag lunches, hygiene prod-

ucts, bus passes and many other items that our guests require.

This October, Jenalle will receive her Bachelor of Science in Applied Management from Grand Canyon University. She describes her life as amazing and fortunate. Her lively spirit and engaging personality have made her a favorite with staff, volunteers and guests.

Jenalle says of her own volunteer experience that it has rewarded her with hope, compassion and empathy for her homeless Oceanside neighbors.

*Thank you **Ann Lomuto** for this wonderful volunteer portrait!*

We were twice blessed one day last month - a serving team *and* a helping hands team from **North Coast Church!**

We caught this team helping out in the indoor market! (Catch their serving team on page 6.) **Thank you!**



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara

Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee

Deputy Executive Director

Kathleen Diehlmann

Development Director

Darryl Harris

Supportive Services Director

Marina Pozdnyakova

Clothing Services Director

Rob Sanchez

Operations Director

Jim Shlemmer

Recovery Director

Elias Velazquez

*Information Director
Volunteer Coordinator*

Craig Yates

Accounting Director

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

[visit our website](#)



At The Brother Benno Foundation, we respect everyone who comes to us for help – and many are working toward a fresh start in life. So while their stories are true, guest names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.



“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 A PART OF EVERY STORY

BY DENNIS PINNICK, Community Specialist

At the heart of Brother Benno’s is a powerful belief instilled by our founder, **Harold Kutler**: no one is invisible and everyone deserves the chance to be whole again.

Inspired by Brother Benno’s conviction that compassion is an action, Harold created the Brother Benno Foundation not merely to offer charity, but to restore the dignity that hardship so often strips away. This is the legacy of love we strive to honor in every interaction and a common thread through the many stories shared.

You know a single meal can’t solve everything, which is why you support Brother Benno’s services that heal the body, mind, and spirit. From hot showers and clean clothes to rental and utility assistance that provides a critical lifeline to the stability that keeps children safely in their beds, you are a part of each story of hope and transformation.

Annie has been homeless and using our services for ten years. Three years ago, she expressed the desire to go to school. Brother Benno’s staff and volunteers helped her with her application, some initial fees, and books to get started. She often returns to share her

progress and receive encouragement through her doubtful moments. She continues to attend MiraCosta College and is thriving.

Recently, when asked what she wanted to do with her education, she answered, “I want to give back to our community. I am studying to be a social worker.”

Brother Benno’s is more than a building; it’s a community with a giant heart, powered by you - the volunteer who knows a guest’s name and asks about their day or the donor whose generosity stocks our pantry and keeps our doors open.

Your support also creates tangible moments of grace: a tired mother watching her children smile over a full breakfast, or a young man in our recovery program who, for the first time in years, sees hope in his own reflection.

As a member of the Brother Benno family, you don’t just serve our community; you love our community.

Thank you for being a part of the Brother Benno story and the stories of those you’ve helped fill with hope.

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Join Us for a Special Event

We are pleased to extend a warm invitation to a special gathering hosted by our generous **Title Sponsor, Outerknown.**

Mark your calendars!

**Monday, September 8
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Outerknown @ The Forum
Carlsbad**

This **Pre-Tournament VIP Shopping Event** will benefit Brother Benno's. Notably, 25% of all sales will directly support our essential community services.

Enjoy light refreshments, connect with dedicated sponsors and committee members, and engage with others who share a deep commitment to our cause.

This event is open to all Brother Benno's supporters and golf tournament participants.

We sincerely hope you will join us; your presence truly makes a difference.

For more information visit brotherbenno.org/golf. Ω



Thank you North Coast Church Serving Team!

♥♥♥ SEPTEMBER 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 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Stephanie's Team	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
8 North Coast Methodist	9 Riverview Church	10 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	11 OPEN	12 St. Patrick's	13 TVIA
15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 OPEN	17 Friends of Brother Benno	18 OPEN	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
22 OPEN	23 Rotary Club of Vista	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Signal	26 Oceanside Sanctuary	27 La Costa Valley Volunteers
29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Brother Benno's Volunteers and Staff				

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



September's Memorials

Douglas Evans
Lisa Gulino
Larry Knechtol
Millie the Mule

*The Perpetual Memorials
list can be viewed here*

<https://tinyurl.com/BBFMemorials>

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fine forgiven is money that does not have to come out of someone's first paycheck or housing deposit. Your donations don't just fund meals and services – they fund second chances and fresh starts.

Thank you for making this critical work possible. Because of supporters like you, we can

continue clearing these pathways to stability, one ticket at a time.

*Thank you, Supportive Services team member and Brother Benno Homeless Court liaison, **Alex Maitre** for sharing your knowledge and experience with the Homeless Court program.*

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YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR SOMETHING AMAZING!

The Indoor Market is here and we need YOU! Several shifts are available.

Full Shifts: 6:30 AM - 11 AM or
1:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Block Shift (2.5 Hours): 6 AM - 8:30 AM,
8:30 AM - 11 AM, and 11:30 AM - 2 PM

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Indoor Market! If you are interested in serving in this new opportunity, email us at MarketVolunteers@brotherbenno.org.

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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

	JULY 2025	OUR 41st YEAR		JULY 2025	OUR 41st YEAR
Meals	9,589	5,138,618	Blankets	167	56,255
Market Visits	3,934	40,309	Tarps	103	10,424
Clothing	4,289	1,615,930	ID Vouchers	52	11,557
Showers	442	296,639	Lbs. of Food Rescued	147,137	6,821,265
Bus Passes	307	94,316	HUGS	1,000	1,043,244