



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

OCTOBER 2025



You Built This: A New Era of Dignity and Choice at Brother Benno's

BY EMILY HASTING, Grants Director & Food Recovery and Redistribution Director

When the doors opened to our new Indoor Market this summer, something powerful took shape—Guests were no longer just receiving food; they were invited to choose it in a space designed for dignity, autonomy, and welcome.

This transformation was built—by you. Volunteers painted walls, assembled shelves, and stocked freezers. Donors provided funding, food, and encouragement. Recovery Program participants sorted and moved thousands of pounds of rescued goods. What was once a dream is now a reality because of your generosity and belief in our mission.

Previously, food distribution took place outdoors, with Guests selecting from available items and filling boxes in a loosely organized, weather-dependent setup. While functional, the experience lacked

privacy, consistency, and access to perishables like dairy and frozen foods. The new Indoor Market changes that—offering clean, accessible aisles, cold storage, and a respectful, grocery-style experience.

Now, parents shop for what their families will eat. Seniors browse with dignity. One Guest shared, “It feels like I’m a person again—not just someone in line for a hand-out.”

This new approach, which focuses on choice, consistency, and compassion, elevates how we serve—and how our Guests are seen.

To every volunteer, donor, and supporter who made this possible: **you built this.** And with your continued support, we’ll keep building hope, one shopping cart at a time.



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www.brotherbenno.org

LOOKING BACK AT HOW IT STARTED

October is anniversary month for Brother Benno's. We've now been serving the poor and homeless for 42 years! It's doubtful that our Founders, **Harold** and **Kay Kutler**, could have foreseen how their venture would grow from its modest beginnings into the widely encompassing outreach it is today.

In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, Harold wrote: "The Brother Benno Kitchen opened on October 21, 1983, and Brother was there with a big cauldron of soup he'd made at the Abbey. Twenty-one guests showed up— three were Kay's and my teenagers, and the other 18 were male street people."

"For the first few weeks, Brother Benno came every night

with food he'd prepared, until we slowly got a handle on cooking our own food. After that, he came about three times a week while he was on his evening furniture run, to say hello to us and our guests. Kay usually got him up on our stage to tell a few of his corny jokes. . . ."

Since then, Brother Benno's has moved to the Center on Production Avenue and services have expanded to meet the needs of our community. This would not have been possible without the compassionate and unwavering support **YOU**, our **volunteers, donors** and **supporters** generously give.

You are a testament to the good we can do when we come together with a shared mission.

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RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS AND MILESTONE REACHED

BY CHUY REYNA and AMY SELICH, Golf Committee Co-Chairs

We are thrilled to announce that our 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Goat Hill Park has achieved a new record, raising over **\$480,000**. This single-tournament milestone brings our seven-year total to over **\$1.3 million** for Brother Benno's Foundation.

This incredible success was made possible by our generous sponsors and donors, including Title sponsors **Outerknown** and **C3bank**, and Masters sponsors **ADP, Austin Surf Club, Allgire General Contractors, Firewire**, and

[continued on page 7 ...](#)

"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
OCTOBER
4 & 18
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,

Both the September 9th Golf Tournament and the Indoor Market Grand Opening on the 10th went really well. Both were well attended with a lot of positive media coverage. Our guests enjoy the new market. All who worked on it are proud of the finished product. Please come by and take a look. We think we have remained faithful to Harold's vision.

The offices on the second floor should be completed mid- October. Those of us doubling up in offices hope for a sooner date but mid-October seems realistic.

We have some important and fun events coming up in the next few months. First, we have the Thanksgiving dinner on November 27 and the Christmas dinner on December 25. Because we try to make them

special, our need for volunteers goes up a bit. Please contact **Elias**, at volunteers@brotherbenno.org.

On December 6, a 35-member concert brass band will be giving a holiday performance at the Center. You and other supporters are invited – we hope you attend. More details will be forthcoming.

The Children's Christmas Party will be December 13th. **Alycia Anthony** has volunteered to serve as committee Chair. There will be a few changes from what you may remember in the past-one being the party will be returning to the Center.

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



Donate Online or via check and we'll purchase gift cards in your name
Our goal is to collect 400 Walmart gift cards this year & we're counting on you!

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. _____

SEND Gift cards or check with [this FORM](#) to: The Brother Benno Foundation, PO Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049 -- ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/BBFChristmasGiftCards>

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



We caught **Leila Loya** in the Indoor Market preparing signs for the shelves and refrigerators. When asked about why she volunteered at Brother Benno's, she replied, *"I love volunteering here... The Foundation, the programs...there's a lot of purpose here and I love that and that's why I'm here."*



They say "it takes a village," and to hold a successful golf tournament, it really does. We caught a team of volunteers from **TaylorMade** lending their support. *Thank you team!*

Behind every project is a dedicated team. This industrious group helped **Ysabel Brenner** complete her Eagle Scout project. *Thank you Scouting America Troop 2000 in Encinitas.*



Ysabel is in the center with long braids and wearing the navy-colored cap.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara

Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee

Deputy Executive Director

Kathleen Diehlmann

Development Director

Darryl Harris

Supportive Services Director

Emily Hasting

*Grants Director
Food Recovery and
Redistribution 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

IN MEMORY: Joyce Cerimele

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN, Director of Development

With sorrow, we announce that a member of the Brother Benno’s family, **Joyce Cerimele**, died on August 29th.

Joyce served as the Auxiliary co-president with **Nita Rodriguez** in 2019 and then as president until the Auxiliary disbanded in February 2022. Before



her role as president, Joyce also served as secretary of this valued social and fundraising arm of The Brother Benno Foundation. Joyce’s beloved husband, **Frank**, was also a dedicated volunteer with the Auxiliary.

“Joyce had so much enthusiasm and wanted to serve Brother Benno’s with her whole heart,” shared Nita Rodriguez. “She was always willing, and whenever there was a need, she would step up.”

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Joyce and Frank made and donated over 500 disposable masks for Brother Benno’s guests. They were also supporters of Brother Benno’s annual golf tournament.

“Joyce was truly a remarkable person and a wonderful colleague,” shared **Belinda Smith**.

“I first met her as a member of the Auxiliary where her leadership helped guide and sustain the Auxiliary through its final years.”

Thankfully, Joyce’s dedication and contributions to The

Brother Benno Foundation didn’t end when the auxiliary did.

“When I reached out to ask if Joyce would join the scholarship committee, I didn’t know if she’d be interested,” said Belinda Smith. “I was so pleased when she agreed. Joyce did not hesitate to advocate for applicants she felt deserved a scholarship often funding extra scholarships to ensure applicants falling just outside the ‘top 20’ would receive some assistance. I will always remember her warmth and generous spirit.”

Joyce will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her at Brother Benno’s.

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EAGLE SCOUT CREATES COMMUNITY SPACE AT BROTHER BENNO'S

Ysabel Brenner, Cathedral Catholic High School Junior, St. Elizabeth Seton parishioner, and member of **Scouting America Troop 2000** in Encinitas, recently completed an Eagle Scout project that will benefit Brother Benno's community for years to come.

Working alongside nine volunteers including parents and fellow scouts, Ysabel designed and constructed a large custom table for the patio area.

Ysabel's connection to Brother Benno's began through her volunteer service at the Center. "I was volunteering here at Broth-



er Benno's in the morning, and I was in need of an Eagle Scout project," Ysabel explained. She collaborated with "**Cowboy**" **Rob Sanchez**, Brother Benno's Director of Operations, to identify a meaningful project.

The solution was a custom outdoor table to complement Brother Benno's newly constructed pergola. Ysabel modified an existing picnic table design, creating a piece that seats up to 12 people and serves as both an area of rest and gathering place for program members and staff.

continued on page 7 ...

♥♥♥ OCTOBER SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

The gifts of your time & loving service are received with heartfelt thanks.

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Stephanie's Team	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 OPEN	10 St. Patrick's	11 TVIA
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 OPEN	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Signal	24 Oceanside Sanctuary	25 La Costa Valley Volunteers
27 OPEN	28 Rotary Club of Vista	29 OPEN	30 OPEN	31 King of Kings	

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



The Perpetual Memorials list can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/BBFMemorials>

... continued from page 2

Phi Health. A special thank you to 11-time world champion surfer **Kelly Slater**. His generosity included hosting a pre-tournament VIP event at Outerknown Carlsbad, with 25% of the proceeds benefiting the cause.

Hole sponsors helped us educate golfers on the valuable services Brother Benno's provides, while local businesses and donors supplied delicious food, drinks, and top-tier items for our silent and live auctions.

We were honored to have Board of Directors President, **Jeff Epp**, and long-time staff member **Dennis Pinnick** share their inspiring thoughts on Brother Benno's work. The day was captured by local photographer **Todd Glaser** and included professional surfers **Rob Machado** and **Raimana Van Bastolaer**.

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Taking full responsibility for gathering materials and coordinating construction, Ysabel demonstrated true leadership throughout the project.

The table was built entirely onsite at Brother Benno's with materials donated by **Lowe's Carlsbad #2331** thanks to the support of Assistant Store Manager, **Rachel Frumess**.

Ysabel directed her team of volunteers through the process.

October Memorials

Joyce Cerimele
Antonio and Perla
Dimapilis
Lewis Gray
Jeanne Grier

Joan Jeske
Robin McMullan
Elizabeth Parrish
Ron Stauffer

Local media, including **CBS8**, **Fox 5 San Diego**, and **KUSI TV**, covered the event and interviewed many of our key supporters.

Many angels guided our success this year, including **Linda Engstrom**, an original committee member who created our signage for years, and **Joyce Cerimele**, who helped to launch the Tournament seven years ago as an original sponsor of the Tournament. We are heartbroken by their passing this year.

We are also grateful for the dedicated efforts of our Tournament committee, whose time and talent created a truly special experience.

Together, we all accomplished something extraordinary this year. For photos and a full list of sponsors, please visit brotherbenno.org/golf-2025

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Ysabel's project exemplifies the Eagle Scout tradition of creating lasting positive change through community service and youth leadership. Additional photos of the project can be seen on our Facebook page [here](#).

*Thank you **Rob Sanchez** and the **Brenner family** for helping us capture the details and essence of this generous project for our readers!*

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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

	AUGUST 2025	OUR 41st YEAR		AUGUST 2025	OUR 41st YEAR
Meals	8,740	5,147,358	Blankets	95	56,350
Market Visits	3,234	43,543	Tarps	101	10,525
Clothing	3,751	1,619,681	ID Vouchers	42	11,599
Showers	478	297,117	Lbs. of Food Rescued	125,185	6,946,450
Bus Passes	294	94,610	HUGS	1,000	1,044,244

Children's Christmas Party Gift Card Drive

Now thru November 30



Donate Online or via check and we'll purchase the gift cards in your name!
**Our goal is to collect 400 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/
BBFChristmasGiftCards](https://tinyurl.com/BBFChristmasGiftCards)

SCAN ME



SEND

Gift Cards or your check
with the form (below) 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."*

.....
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 # _____

IF FILLING OUT BY HAND, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.
DONATION CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS YOU PROVIDE

