



# BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

JANUARY 2026



## INTRODUCING BROTHER BENNO'S RE-ENTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM

BY STEVE SCHUMM, Deputy Director of Recovery Support Services

Brother Benno's has long been a place of second chances—supporting individuals facing homelessness, addiction, and instability with compassion and structure. We are proud to introduce a new service that extends that mission further: the **Re-Entry Support Program**.

Re-entering society after incarceration can be overwhelming. Many individuals face barriers similar to those experienced in early recovery—housing insecurity, employment challenges, mental health concerns, and limited support networks. Recognizing this need, Brother Benno's now provides targeted re-entry support for individuals preparing to leave state or county custody, as well as those recently released.

This program offers individualized assessments and one-on-one peer support to identify each par-

ticipant's unique needs. Services include referrals for transitional housing, employment opportunities, mental health and substance use treatment, and assistance navigating legal and re-entry barriers.

With its holistic approach, participants are encouraged to build stability through community connection and service. Opportunities to volunteer at Brother Benno's allow participants to give back while rebuilding purpose and confidence.

The goals are clear: reduce recidivism, promote self-sufficiency, foster personal growth, and build strong support networks that last beyond release.

For more information about the Program, contact Brother Benno's at 760-439-1244 ext. 101 or email [ReEntry@brotherbenno.org](mailto:ReEntry@brotherbenno.org).



### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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DONOR'S CORNER

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AMAZING HOLIDAY SEASON

KIDSMAS PARTY

SERVING TEAMS CALENDAR

NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW

*and more!*



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

# MEET DEDICATED VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER, PETER JOYCE

BY JOE MCDEVITT, Board Member

We are often reminded when working with our volunteers and staff members of how prophetic key words from our mission statement continue to be, especially the words “We place our foundation in God’s hands and rely on his divine providence to provide the people and the where-with-all to accomplish our mission”.

Such is the case with **Peter**

**Joyce** who became a Board member in January 2025 and subsequently took on the responsibilities of Treasurer.

Peter brings well-accomplished education and work experience to the Board starting with his Master of Science degree in chemical engineering at UC Berkeley, MBA from Columbia University, and his in-depth management experience of an environmental services company he owned and operated.



Throughout his career, Peter has been a valuable volunteer member of several charities dedicating himself to make a difference in helping people in need.

Peter brings this commitment to Brother Benno’s in carrying out his board member responsibilities, particularly his emphasis to follow the mission of **Harold and Kaye Kutler** to uplift and give hope to people we serve.

It was not a surprise to see Peter, his wife **Lori**, his son **Joseph**, his daughter-in-law **Lor**, and his grandson **Zeke** spending a good portion of their Thanksgiving Day helping serve over 350 Thanksgiving meals at the Center .

We are grateful to Peter and our entire volunteer staff who join in and support each other in helping others.

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**Connect With Us!** We are happy to answer any questions you may have about our mission and organization. Email us at [info@brotherbenno.org](mailto:info@brotherbenno.org) or visit <https://brotherbenno.org/contact/>  
**We’re excited to connect with you!**

*“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  
JANUARY  
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

**Jeff Epp**  
Chairperson

**Joe McDevitt**  
Vice Chairperson

**Gregg Prather**  
Secretary

**Peter Joyce**  
Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Jeff Bizzack**  
**Tara McGrath**  
**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,

In this article I want to share with you what is going on in 2026. As I've stated in the past, the need for our services is on the rise in every area.

To fulfill these needs requires time, talent, and treasure. The good news is that our supporters have stepped up to the plate.

We created a document we call it the CICB (Capital Improvement Capacity Building Plan). We review/update it monthly and get strategic direction and goals from the Board of Directors. Our own and volunteer observations of the needs of our guests are also considered.

The following list outlines, with some comments, what we are looking at for 2026.

- Improved Recycling Plan – Saves money
- Complete Solar Panels for the Recovery Homes – Saves money

- Repair/Remodel elements of the Recovery Homes – many are in need of some TLC.
- Parking Lot resurface – looking to do this in the Feb/Mar 26 timeframe
- Mental Health Strategy – Part of our strategic goals. Eliminate obstacles to self-sufficiency
- Recovery Offices Improvement – Long overdue.
- Storage Area – Preserve artifacts and centralizes storage for things used annually e.g. golf tournament
- Shower Remodel – Long overdue
- Women's Recovery Program – Needs a restart
- Improve Self Sufficiency Program – Needs to be enhanced

Finally, let me close once again with one of the great truths of our organization, we couldn't do what we do without you, so,

thank you and -  
God bless you all!

Mac

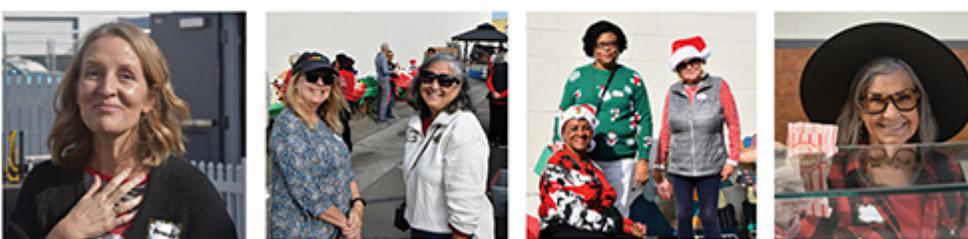


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*“To smile at someone who is sad; to visit, even for a little while, someone who is lonely; to give someone shelter from the rain with our umbrella; to read something for someone who is blind; these and others can be small things, very small things, but they are appropriate to give our love of God concrete expression to the poor.” ~ Mother Teresa*

# CAUGHT IN THE ACT! A Few Holiday Helpers.

*Thanksgiving dinner and Kidsmas, too,  
Neither would have been as joyous without YOU!*



## 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](#)



*“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



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.

## ANOTHER AMAZING BROTHER BENNO HOLIDAY SEASON

Brother Benno's Center turned into a true home for the holidays. It became a beacon of warmth, hope, and togetherness for everyone who walked through our doors.

Throughout those demanding weeks, the Center held a special atmosphere. The compassion our volunteers and staff pour into everyday tasks was magnified, filling the Center with an abundance of loving kindness that felt truly boundless.

This year's celebrations started with 367 Guests attending a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner right here at the Center. Our dedicated volunteers focused on serving each guest with love and dignity, ensuring plates were full and everyone felt welcome.

Guests and servers exchanged stories, laughter, and real gratitude. For many people, this dinner was a reminder that we are not alone and that we have a family here.

The spirit of giving was strong as we moved through December. Our friends at **Pacific Coast Concert Band** put on a free "Afternoon of Apprecia-

tion" concert at the Center for our volunteers and community partners.

On Saturday, December 14th we had our "Kidsmas Party" for our Guests with families. We also partnered with **Coastal Community Church** on Saturday, December 20th for the "Carols by the Pier" event at the Oceanside Amphitheater. On Christmas day we served our annual "Brother Benno Christmas Dinner" and, as always, all were welcomed.

"We are deeply grateful for every hand that serves, every heart that gives, and every soul that joins us in creating a season filled with kindness, compassion, and unconditional love."

Brother Benno's relies on volunteers who work tirelessly at the Center to make sure everything runs smoothly, supporters whose generous donations keep our services available, and partner groups who stand beside us to help. Our Guests bring their strength and spirit to every gathering.

We are truly blessed!

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# FROM GAMES TO GIGGLES: Inside This Year's Heartwarming Kidsmas Party

BY ABIGAIL MARTINEZ, Intern

Christmas magic filled the air at the annual Brother Benno Kidsmas party! On Sunday, December 14th, dozens of donors and countless volunteers united with the Brother Benno Foundation to create special Christmas memories for local unhoused and low income families.

As families waited for the party to begin, one volunteer dressed up as Cookie Monster handed out cookies to smiling children. Santa and Mrs. Claus posed for photos near their sleigh of stuffed animals while young ones competed in games of basketball and cornhole.

Classic Christmas music rang through the air as volunteers served hot chocolate, punch, homemade cookies, and freshly popped popcorn.

By the end, each child was able to go home with a toy, gift card, hand-knit beanie, books, stuffed animals, pajamas, and a stocking full of goodies.

The day was made possible by the incredible support of our community. **Alycia Anthony**, chair of this year's event, would like to thank the 45 volunteers who helped make the party a success.

**continued on page 7 ...**



*Thanksgiving dinner.*

## ♥♥♥ JANUARY SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

With heartfelt thanks, we accept your gifts of your time & loving service.

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 San Rafael Parish
12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Carlsbad Hi- Noon Rotary	15 <b>OPEN</b>	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 St. John The Evangelist	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

## January Memorials



Hugo Carlos & Family  
Bill Foran  
Jim Ford  
Marian Goodman  
Naoko Hiler  
Anne Hyde

Hedwig and Nicolay Johannsen  
Rev. Victor and Elsie Mitchell  
Peter Sharou  
Rose Targhetta  
Donatila Tello

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

### ... continued from page 6

Special recognition goes to **Rosana Martinez** and her staff, along with ten students from the Oceanside School District.

In addition, twenty-five students from **Oceanside and El Camino High Schools** wrapped hundreds of gifts in preparation for

the celebration.

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, donors, and community partners, the Brother Benno Kidsmas Party was a joyful reminder of the power of community and the true spirit of the holiday season.

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## We need YOU

Now is the perfect time to discover the joy and purpose that comes from experiencing the Brother Benno scene first hand through volunteering.

We invite you to explore the many ways you can make a difference and transform lives by joining us for one of our **Saturday tours**, where you'll see firsthand the impact of our volunteers' work and meet other volunteers and staff who bring Brother Benno's mission to life.

Whether you have a few hours a week or prefer a flexible schedule, volunteer opportunities can be tailored to match your unique interests, skills, and availability. From sorting donations and preparing meals to offering administrative support or greeting guests with a warm smile, there's a meaningful role waiting for you.

Volunteering is more than charity; it's a connection. It bridges communities, builds understanding, and reminds us that we're all in this together. When you give your time, you're giving a piece of your heart.

**Take the first step** —attend a Saturday tour and find the volunteer experience that's right for you.

*"It truly fills my heart to help and offer what I can. Even if it's a smile, a hug or just acknowledging folks by name. There is such love in this organization and the people who devote their personal time are truly amazing."*

~ Lori J., Volunteer

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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](http://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 2025	OUR 42nd YEAR		NOVEMBER 2025	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	7,591	5,172,291	Blankets	174	56,884
Market Visits	2,961	53,368	Tarps	123	10,905
Clothing	4,222	1,631,056	ID Vouchers	40	11,712
Showers	404	298,132	Lbs. of Food Rescued	113,021	7,310,193
Bus Passes	265	95,327	HUGS	1,000	1,047,244