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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Brother Benno's invites the public to learn about 2026 volunteer opportunities
with January 17 volunteer orientation**

*Agency anticipates need for 150 additional volunteers in 2026 to accommodate
expansion of services and hours of operation*

OCEANSIDE, CA – The traditional holiday gift giving may be past, but the spirit of giving can continue into the new year, and long after, at Brother Benno's.

The nonprofit organization, which provides food, clothing, addiction recovery and essential services to North San Diego County's homeless and working poor, invites the public to volunteer.

Volunteers may help in any of the following areas:

- **Indoor Market:** Assist guests with shopping at the Brother Benno Center's onsite market-style food pantry, load and stock pantry items.
- **Clothing room:** Helping guests select donated clothes.
- **Breakfast or lunch serving teams:** Helping serve Brother Benno's Center's daily breakfast or lunch to guests.
- **Thrift shop:** Helping sort, stock, and sell merchandise in a retail setting.
- **Newsletter:** Helping write or edit articles for the nonprofit's newsletter.
- **Social media:** Helping promote the Brother Benno Center's events on Facebook, Instagram or X
- **Special events:** Helping decorate, preparing or serving on holidays.
- **Truck drivers:** Collecting food donations from local grocery stores.

In calendar year 2025 Brother Benno's served 35% more guests and provided 30% more resources in comparison to calendar year 2024.

"Currently we have over 300 volunteers in the Brother Benno's family and would like to increase that number by 50% in 2026," said Elias Velazquez, information director and volunteer coordinator for Brother Bennos. "We expect the need for volunteers to be greater in

in 2026 with the launch of our indoor market and expanding the hours of operation at our Thrift Shop.”

People may volunteer alone or in groups. Brother Benno’s holds bi-monthly volunteer orientations at the Brother Benno’s Center, 3260 Production Avenue, on the first and third Saturday of every month, beginning at 9 a.m.

Reservations are not required. Attendees should park on the street and access the center at the front door.

For more information about volunteering at Brother Benno’s, please visit www.brotherbenno.org or email volunteers@brotherbenno.org.

About Brother Benno’s

Brother Benno’s is dedicated to serving homeless neighbors and working poor in North San Diego County by offering essential meals, addressing basic needs, fostering community outreach and supporting addiction recovery.

There are many ways to support Brother Benno’s mission. Beyond cash donations, people can volunteer, donate clothes, shop at the thrift store, host a clothing or donation drive, fund a scholarship for a student who has been in foster care, donate a vehicle or arrange planned giving. For more information, please visit www.brotherbenno.org.

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