



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

MARCH 2026



YOU ARE MEETING THE MOMENT: How The Indoor Market Is Serving More Families

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

Brother Benno's has seen a noticeable increase in the number of families coming for food assistance since the Indoor Market opened last August. What used to be an average of 100 families visiting the warehouse each day has grown to about 179 families per day at the Indoor Market—a significant increase.

Nearly 80 additional families are now being served each day, which means hundreds more individuals are gaining access to food on a regular basis. Over the course of a month, this adds up to more than 3,000 visits, reflecting how essential the market has become for many households.

The increase also suggests that families are coming back more consistently. With the ability to choose their own food, people are making the Indoor Market part of their routine rather than a one-

time visit. This has helped create a stronger connection between Brother Benno's and the community you help serve.

In addition, because your donations supported the addition of refrigerators, the market is now able to safely store and distribute more fresh items such as produce, dairy, and proteins. Many visitors have shared positive feedback, noting that the food is fresher and better suited to their needs.

When interviewed by [NBC 7 San Diego](#) shortly after the market opened, 85 year old **Armand Baddillo** shared "At first it was kind of embarrassing, but now I see that there's so many people that need help...The food's fantastic here. It's fresh. You walk in, you go to your dairies, get eggs, milk, and then you go down a little further. You get fresh produce." He also

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www.brotherbenno.org

EXCITING NEWS FOR YOU AND OUR VOLUNTEER FAMILY!

BY ELIAS VALAZQUEZ, Information Director/Volunteer Coordinator

We're thrilled to share that Brother Benno's will soon be launching a new volunteer platform called Golden. This user-friendly app will make it easier than ever for you to sign up for volunteer opportunities and stay connected with our mission.

This wonderful opportunity came about when **Robert Kamensky**, CEO of **Feeding San Diego**, visited our facility earlier this month. After touring our programs and discussing how we can work together to serve more people in our community, he invited us to join Golden—the same system Feeding San Diego uses for their volunteers.

If you have a smartphone, you'll be able to browse available volunteer opportunities and shifts, sign up with just a few taps, and receive reminders—all from one simple app.

No more playing phone tag or long email chains to coordinate with your schedule. You'll

have the flexibility to volunteer when it works best for you, whether that's every week or once in a while.

For those of you who prefer other methods, don't worry—we'll still be here to help you find ways to serve.

We are hoping this change will help us communicate with you more effectively,

keep better track of your generous volunteer hours, and help staff spend less time on paperwork—

which means more time focused on serving our neighbors in need.

As Brother Benno's programs continue to grow, we want to make volunteer experiences better for everyone.

Look forward to more details about the rollout soon, including how to get started.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support—you are the heart and soul of all we do.

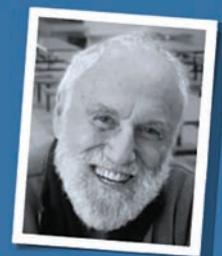


"I am a client of Brother Benno's for many years. They are God sent. I lost my whole family. I was homeless for 7 years, been in many shelters and programs but because of the caring staff, too many names of volunteers, just wanted to say thank you and God Bless."

M.E. Lopez, Guest
Brother Benno Center



REMEMBERING
HAROLD KUTLER
SEPT. 22, 1926 - MAR. 6, 2018



"He taught so many of us the meaning of unconditional love,"



SATURDAY

MARCH

7 & 21

9:00 AM

*No reservation
required*

Brother Benno Center

Monday - Friday
6:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Saturdays
Brunch
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

INDOOR MARKET
6:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Closed
Sundays & Federal
Holidays*

* Breakfast & sack lunches will be available on most holidays. Exceptions are:
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

Dr. Patrick Gilligan
Helen Parsons

DONOR'S CORNER

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

One of Harold's goals was developing a self-sufficiency program. Something that had wrap around services that addressed the issues and obstacles of the program participant but also the training necessary. Basically, not just feeding a person a fish but teaching them how to fish. While some progress has been made over the years, none of us think it is as robust as we think it should or could be.

Our Board of Directors made self-sufficiency a strategic goal this year, and staff has been working on the details ranging from funding and program development to staffing. We had a few false starts this year, but I finally think we are close to having the leadership we need to get this program launched.

I also think it is important to remember that we are not just executing an existing program but rather developing the program and then executing it. That takes a lot of time thinking through all the "what

ifs" and developing a phased approach which includes the acquisition of the supporting staff and infrastructure as well as the specifics of the program itself. We remain excited about this next level step.

On another front, we are close to getting some kennel cages built. As you may be aware, for a guest to come in and wait on a service it may be difficult to keep their dog inside. If they tie it to the fence, the animal is left unattended. The solution is to have a kennel that allows the guest to put their animal in a safe environment while they receive a service from Brother Benno's. We have the funding now to build the kennels, but what we don't have is the volunteers to staff and maintain the kennels. If you are interested, please contact us.

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



I really respect the mission of the Brother Benno Foundation and everything you do for our community. I am honored to receive this scholarship for my college education and career goals. Thank you so much for your generosity and for supporting my education.

~ O.M. a Fall 2025 Scholarship Recipient

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. We'd be delighted to feature your story!



Thank you so much Valley Center's **St. Stephen Catholic Church** and their youth group for their generous donation - 100+ blankets and 50 hygiene kits with Well Wishes cards!

Your support makes it possible for us to serve those in need.

We were honored to host **Vista Community Clinic** at Brother Benno's recently.

Their team provided overdose awareness education and distributed Narcan to support the health and safety of our community.

Thank you VCC for your partnership in supporting our guests!



We were so excited to welcome **Girl Scout Troop 1599!**

Thank you for your generous donation of hygiene items and especially for supporting our community.

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

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.

How YOU Can Help

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN, Director of Development

Tax Day is rapidly approaching! As you gather your documents and prepare to file your tax returns for 2025, it's not too early to start thinking about your charitable donations for 2026.

The Brother Benno Foundation has recently benefited from several **Qualified Charitable Distributions** (QCDs) thanks to donors like you. These are gifts made to Brother Benno's by supporters who are required to make minimum distributions from their retirement accounts. If you are over 70 and want to make a contribution to Brother Benno's, a QCD is something to discuss with your tax or financial advisor.

Other donors have thoughtfully and successfully donated **stocks** to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you would like to learn more about making a *stock transfer*, please contact **Kathleen Diehlmann**, Director of Development at (760) 888-7986 or via email at **Kathleen.diehlmann@brotherbenno.org**.

Perhaps you have a car you'd like to donate? Brother Benno's has a successful collaboration with CARS (aka Charitable Rides for Adults). To make a vehicle donation, please contact **CARS at (855) 500-7433** or visit **<https://careasy.org/non-profit/brother-bennos>**. Vehicle pick-up is free, whether running or not.

If you donate once or twice a year to Brother Benno's, you might consider becoming a recurring donor instead. Those who donate four or more times a year are known as **Guardian Angels**. It's easy to sign up to become a **Guardian Angel** online. You can also mail monthly or quarterly donations to our P.O. Box 308 Oceanside, CA 92049.

Reading this newsletter and sharing it with family and friends is also a great way to help Brother Benno's! Thank you for all the ways you make a difference and uplift the dignity of those we serve. We are grateful to you.

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Brother Benno's does the things that need to get done: taking care of the poor, the homeless, and those in need. They're performing the right mission in the right way. This is why I've chosen to volunteer my time at Brother Benno's and be a recurring donor. I've even chosen to make a gift to Brother Benno's as part of my estate plan. ~ Rich M.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT TEEING UP FOR YEAR EIGHT

BY BROTHER BENNO'S GOLF COMMITTEE

Planning is officially underway for the 8th Annual Brother Benno's Golf Tournament, returning to Goat Hill Park golf course.

We're thrilled that longtime sponsor and 11-time world champion surfer, **Kelly Slater**, will once again generously lend his time and support.

Looking to exceed last year's record-breaking fundraising total of nearly half a million, we have can't-miss additions planned.

We are targeting mid-to-late September, and the official date will be announced soon.

Now is the perfect time to get involved.

We are actively seeking new committee members, including those with graphics skills.

If you know someone who would value this fun and unique experience, please email golf@brotherbenno.org.

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Thank you St. John Encinitas!

♥ ♥ ♥ MARCH SERVING TEAMS ♥ ♥ ♥

Breakfast would not be the same without you!

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Stephanie's Team	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
9 North Coast Methodist	10 Riverview Church	11 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	12 OPEN	13 St. Patrick's	14 San Rafael Parish
16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 St. John The Evangelist	18 Friends of Brother Benno	19 OPEN	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
23 OPEN	24 Rotary Club of San Marcos	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Signal	27 Oceanside Sanctuary	28 La Costa Valley Volunteers
30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Brother Benno's Volunteers & Staff				

URGENT NEEDS

EMERGENCY BLANKETS

ADULT DIAPERS

BABY DIAPERS - SIZE 6

MEN'S & 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

IN HONOR OF

Joyce Cerimele
Douglas Hatch

Bill & Jen Liggan
Peg & Dick Wilson

Carmelina Reyes-
Rodriguez

IN MEMORY OF

Joan Bermeitinger
Victor Chavez
Kay Kutler
Bill Foran
Marian Goodman
Nick Jellison

LaMar Jones, Jr.
Elizabeth Kruidenier
Joan Larocca
Paula Mathis
Helene McGill
Rich Miro

Matthew Nowell
Barbara Olish
Ben Osgrove
Jim Sanseverino
Alva & Frances Snider
Sue Stiger

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

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shared, "Where I live, there's a lot of seniors that can't get out, and so I just come for a few things and the rest of it I give to people there that have no transportation."

The level of activity each day has also significantly increased. Shelves are restocked more often by volunteers, program members and staff working at a faster pace to keep up with the higher number of visitors. Thanks to their com-

mitment and hard work, the market continues to run smoothly and remains a welcoming space for everyone who comes through.

Overall, the jump in daily visits highlights how much of an impact you and the Indoor Market have made in a short amount of time. Your impact grows with each new family served. **Thank you for your part in uplifting the dignity of those we serve and ensuring those in need have reliable access to healthy food.**

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Recognizing her faithful Saturday donations to Brother Benno's since 2018, **Sudha Shah**, Founder and CEO of the **Noble Family**, was presented with a service recognition award by Brother Benno's **Rob Sanchez**.

Noble Family - San Diego is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to unite our community to nourish our neighbors in need.

Noble Family conducts weekly food distribution activity at Brother Benno's Center every Saturday morning and quarterly distribution of special items.

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

Donate! Shop! Volunteer!

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

	JANUARY 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR		JANUARY 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	7,367	5,187,948	Blankets	181	57,289
Market Visits	2,262	58,610	Tarps	48	11,076
Clothing	4,667	1,639,953	ID Vouchers	39	11,784
Showers	473	299,120	Lbs. of Food Rescued	119,835	7,559,410
Bus Passes	249	95,920	HUGS	1,000	1,049,244