



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

MAY 2026



WHERE GROWTH BEGINS: Nurturing Paths To Independence

BY LILEIGH WALLER, Self-Sufficiency Director

This May, as we reflect on the meaning of Mother's Day, we are reminded that stability, care, and resilience are often nurtured over time. In many ways, that same principle guides one of our core priorities: expanding pathways to self-sufficiency.



As a board-stated goal, strengthening self-sufficiency efforts is central to the Brother Benno Foundation's long-term vision. This work focuses on helping individuals move beyond immediate need and toward lasting independence. Many of those we serve are working through complex barriers, including mental and behavioral health challenges, that can make forward progress difficult without the right structure and support.

With your continued partnership, we are building a more intentional system to meet those challenges.

A key step forward has been the addition of **Lileigh Waller** as department head, bringing deep experience across mental health and behavioral health systems. Her leadership is actively shaping programs that are structured, adaptable, and designed for long-term outcomes.

A critical component of this effort is the relaunch of our women's recovery program. This program is designed not only to provide support, but to create momentum. It is about helping women move from instability into action, offering a clear path forward through

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NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

and more!



www.brotherbenno.org

FROM HARDSHIP TO HOPE: How Your Generosity Is Changing Lives

BY BELINDA SMITH, Brother Benno Scholarship Committee, Chairperson

Every semester, EOPS students at MiraCosta and Palomar Colleges do something remarkable. Despite working multiple jobs, raising children, navigating recovery, or learning in a second language, they show up — to class, to clinicals, to a future they are building one credit at a time. Thanks to your donations, they don't have to do it alone.

Now in its ninth semester at MiraCosta and seventh at Palomar, the Brother Benno scholarship program awarded 40 scholarships of \$500 each this spring — selected from nearly 140 applicants. The recipients represent the full spectrum of what resilience looks like: a 70-year-old completing his Alcohol and Other Drug Studies degree after 30 years of homelessness; a single mother inducted into Phi Theta Kappa after surviving cancer and the loss of her son; and an undocumented student in her final semester, preparing to become an elementary school teacher who advocates for kids like her.

Roughly 80% of recipients are working while enrolled. Half are parents or caregivers. Many are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

“My education is no longer just a personal goal. It is an act against the cycle of poverty and a blueprint for my family’s future stability.” — Spring 2026 Palomar College Scholarship Recipient

Your donation doesn't fund ambition in the abstract. It pays for textbooks, transportation, certification exam fees, and groceries during weeks when work isn't an option. It tells a student that their effort is seen — and worth investing in.

“This \$500 investment is more than just financial aid; it is a vital tool that will help me cross the finish line.” — Spring 2026 MiraCosta College Scholarship Recipient

These stories aren't finished. With your continued support, and the dedication of members of the scholarship committee, **Kristal Cerimele, Ann Lumoto, and Jerry Weseloh**, they don't have to be.

To fund 80 scholarships for the 2026/2027 academic year, the Brother Benno Foundation needs \$40,000. Consider making a gift today at brotherbenno.org.

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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

MAY

2 & 16

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

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

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Vice Chairperson

Gregg Prather
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DONOR'S CORNER

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

Since May is the month we traditionally celebrate Mother's Day, I would like to share some of the initiatives that we have in development for women. As many of you know, we previously offered a recovery program and housing for women, among other services. Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances those programs/services were suspended. The good news is that the Board created a set of strategic goals and initiated a capital campaign to help fund those goals. Those goals include reinstating the women's programs/services.

We are currently working to restart a Recovery Program for women which includes not only counseling but also other supportive and necessary ser-

vices like - housing, clothing, food, etc. Additionally, we are developing a "wraparound" program designed to help women achieve self-sufficiency. This initiative has two primary focuses: first, providing services that remove obstacles to self-sufficiency like mental health issues, e.g., depression. The second focus is providing the vocational training necessary to secure a living-wage job. Of course, we would also provide the same additional services one would find in the recovery program. It's an exciting time.

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

Thank you and -
God bless you all!
Mac



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recovery, accountability, and community. For many, this represents the transition from being stuck to actively rebuilding. It reflects the kind of consistent care and encouragement often associated with motherhood, where growth is supported but progress is expected.

These efforts are interconnected. Our self-sufficiency initiatives and the women's recovery program are being developed together to create an environment where individuals can regain stability with purpose and direction.

Your support plays a direct role in making this possible. As these programs take shape, you are helping build not just services, but pathways that lead to lasting change." Ω

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!



Easter morning looked a little different this year! Brother Benno's volunteers were out at **Prince of Peace Abbey** serving with purpose. Huge shoutout to the dedicated volunteers who spent part of their Easter morning serving their community.

Thank you to the **San Diego County Probation Department** for having us at their community resource fair. We were grateful for the opportunity to connect with others and share how Brother Benno Foundation serves those in need throughout our community.



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“the greatest gift that I've received from Brother Benno's has been this absolute blessing: I don't have to live one minute at a time, I GET to live one minute at a time. I have been given the gift of sobriety and the gift of ~~the~~ deep, meaningful connection with the people around me.”

~ Recovery Program Member

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara

Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee
Deputy Executive Director

Alycia Anthony
Volunteer 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

Lileigh Waller
Self-Sufficiency Director

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.*

YOU + DR BRONNER'S = DOUBLE BROTHER BENNO'S IMPACT

BY KATHLEEN DIEHLMANN, Director of Development

At Brother Benno's, we are continually inspired by the generosity of partners who step forward when our community needs them most. This spring, we extend our heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Bronner's** for standing with families at risk of homelessness through a powerful matching gift opportunity.

Because of their generosity, **every [donation](#) made to Brother Benno's Rental Assistance Program is matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$10,000, through June 30.** This partnership ensures that each gift goes twice as far, helping us respond swiftly as more families face eviction and financial uncertainty.

Rental assistance provides the critical bridge that keeps families housed, children in school, and futures intact. With the support of Dr. Bronner's, you are not only giving; you are multiplying hope, stability, and dignity for neighbors during their most vulnerable moments.

We are profoundly thankful for this collaboration and for each one of you who chooses to participate. Together, we are proving that partnership and compassion can prevent homelessness before it begins.

Make your [gift](#) by June 30 to have it matched dollar-for-dollar and help twice as many families stay housed.

Click the links above OR

Donate Online: <https://give.brotherbenno.org/campaign/785886/donate>

About Our Partner: Learn more about Dr. Bronner's <https://www.drbronner.com/pages/about>

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“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

– Fred Rogers

BROTHER BENNO'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RETURNS SEPTEMBER 24

BY GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Brother Benno Foundation's 8th Annual Golf Tournament is heading back to Goat Hill Park on Thursday, September 24, along with returning tournament sponsor, 11-time world champion surfer **Kelly Slater**, and Co-Title sponsors **Outerknown** and **C3Bank**. As one of North County's most anticipated charitable events, we aim to exceed last year's fundraising record of over \$451,000 to support the day-to-day services provided by Brother Benno's.

The tournament brings together business leaders, owners,

surfers, and golfers for a fun day. All participants can take part in our silent and live auction featuring curated experiences, premium golf and surf gear, one-of-a-kind baskets, and favorite offerings from local restaurants. This year, the celebration continues with live music from an international band after the awards dinner.

Outerknown at the Carlsbad Forum will host a pre-tournament reception on Wednesday, September 23, from 4 to 7 PM, with proceeds benefiting The Brother Benno Foundation.

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Thank you Rotary Club of San Marcos Serving Team!

♥♥♥ MAY SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 San Luis Rey Mission	2 St. Thomas More
4 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	5 St. John The Evangelist	6 Stephanie's Team	7 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	8 St. Patrick's	9 San Rafael Parish
11 North Coast Methodist	12 Riverview Church	13 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	14 OPEN	15 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	16 Girlfriend's Care
18 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	19 St. John The Evangelist	20 Friends of Brother Benno	21 OPEN	22 Oceanside Sanctuary	23 La Costa Valley Volunteers
25 OPEN	26 Rotary Club of San Marcos	27 San Luis Rey Methodist	28 Signal	29 King of Kings	30 Nativity Men's Group

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 MEMORY OF

Ron Alexander
Daniel Boone
James Ford
Judie Huelsman

Albert Jurco, Jr.
Isaiah McIver, Sr
Rich Miro
Natalie Myers

Elizabeth Parrish
Jim Terry
Benny Tessie
Lara Lou Wicks

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

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Registration: Sign-ups for golfers opens in

May. To stay updated and get in on the fun, visit brotherbenno.org/golf.

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MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: ALCIA ANTHONY!

We're thrilled to welcome **Alycia Anthony** as Brother Benno's new Volunteer Director.

Alycia brings a warm spirit, a passion for service, and a deep appreciation for the incredible work our volunteers do every day. Whether you've been with us for years or you're just beginning your volunteer journey, Alycia is here to support you, cheer you on, and help make your experience meaningful and fulfilling.



For Alycia, this role is more than a position — it's becoming part of a family that lifts people up, meets needs with dignity, and shows love in action. She's excited to learn from you, work alongside you, and continue building the community that makes Brother Benno's so special.

Please join us in giving Alycia a warm welcome!

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“I was a mess, living on the street. (You) provided more than I ever could have expected. I was camped out by the water tower; bet my tent is still there along with clothing from BB that I couldn't carry when I finally left. I returned to Oklahoma, went to college, now I own my home, paid for, and a nice new car. I'm off the drugs and happy. . . If you need help, go to Oceanside . . . I found nothing but love and compassion there.”

~ Walter, Former Guest

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

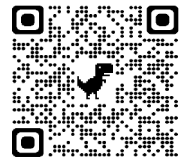
Saturday

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

	FEBRUARY 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR		FEBRUARY 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	7,503	5,195,451	Blankets	138	57,427
Market Visits	3,059	61,669	Tarps	91	11,167
Clothing	4,577	1,644,530	ID Vouchers	73	11,857
Showers	405	299,525	Lbs. of Food Rescued	132,302	7,691,712
Bus Passes	178	96,098	HUGS	1,000	1,050,244