



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

*Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve*

JUNE 2026



## The Quiet Power of a Voucher

BY MARINA POZDNYAKOVA, Clothing Services Director

Brother Benno's Thrift Shop is widely known as a place to shop, donate, and find affordable items. However, one of its most vital roles is fulfilled through our voucher program. Through this initiative, we provide essential items completely free of charge to individuals and families facing hardship. Clothing, household goods, furniture, shoes, blankets, and other basic necessities are made available at no cost to those who need them most.

In 2025, Brother Benno's issued 573 thrift shop vouchers. This included 451 clothing vouchers, 89 household item vouchers, and 31 furniture vouchers. That critical support has extended into 2026. From January through April alone, we have already provided 296 vouchers, consisting of 213 clothing vouchers, 69 household item vouchers, and 12 furniture vouchers.

These numbers reflect the incredible impact of donor generosity. Every bag of clothing, every donated couch, every set of dishes, and every household item helps us meet real needs in a direct, practical way. The voucher program allows us to respond immediately when someone needs clean clothes, when a family is trying to furnish a home, or when a neighbor simply needs basic items they cannot afford. It transforms donated goods into immediate, life-changing support.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to Brother Benno's Thrift Shop. Your generosity does more than just keep our doors open. It empowers us to give freely to those in need and extend Brother Benno's mission in a tangible, everyday way. Because of our donors, the Thrift Shop is far more than a retail store—it is a

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TRUCARE & BROTHER BENNO'S

GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

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VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

*and more!*



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

# VOICES OF COMPASSION: Honoring Our Communications Volunteers

BY ELIAS VELAZQUEZ, Information Director

Strong communication is essential to the mission of The Brother Benno Foundation. Every social media post, newsletter, flyer, photograph, and community update helps connect people to the work being done every day for our neighbors in need. Behind much of that important communication is a dedicated group of volunteers who generously give their time, creativity, and energy to help tell our story.

We are deeply grateful for the volunteers currently supporting our communications efforts. Their work helps keep the community informed, inspired, and engaged. Whether they are designing graphics, taking photos at events, writing newsletter content, managing social media platforms, or helping share important updates, these volunteers strengthen our ability to reach donors, supporters, and families who rely on our services.

Their commitment reminds us that communication is more than promotion. It is relationship-building, advocacy, and community outreach. It helps people understand the impact of compassion in action. As our organization continues to grow, so does the need for additional volunteers in communications and media support. We welcome individuals with experience in photography, videography, graphic design, writing, social media management, marketing, or simply a passion for sharing meaningful stories.

If you are looking for a way to make a difference using your creative talents, we encourage you to join our communications volunteer team and help amplify the mission of The Brother Benno Foundation. Email our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@brotherbenno.org](mailto:volunteers@brotherbenno.org).

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place where community generosity is transformed into digni-

ty, comfort, and relief for our neighbors.

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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**

**JUNE 6**

**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

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**Jeff Epp**  
*Chairperson*

**Joe McDevitt**  
*Vice Chairperson*

**Gregg Prather**  
*Secretary*

**Peter Joyce**  
*Treasurer*

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Jeff Bizzack**  
**Angela Kuhn**  
**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,

If you've been following the newsletter over these past months, you will have seen that we have a lot of irons in the fire. We have program restarts in-work and new programs being developed. We are applying for more grants and other sources of income to fund these efforts. In short, the staff along with the help of a lot of volunteers is busy.

What might not be obvious but is important to note is that the work we are doing is the work Harold discussed many years ago. Our current Board of Directors recommitted to the path forward Harold laid out in the early years of the organization. I know some of the readers knew Harold personally, but I was not one of them. But I can

say that his plan to help the community demonstrated a vision that is hard to find. We are very fortunate to still be able to follow and execute that path.

Another point that I think bears mentioning is that at our breakfast service, we still play Kay's warm welcome and farewell. She ends with a line that I think reflects our organization. She says, "Thank you for giving us the privilege of serving you today." It is a daily reminder that service to our fellow human beings is a privilege.

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



## MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT!

BY ALYCIA ANTHONY, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

School's out — and it's the perfect time to get involved. Join the Brother Benno Foundation as a summer volunteer at its thrift store or food recovery program and help support programs that strengthen our community. Earn service hours, build leadership skills, and

meet new friends while giving back. Flexible schedules are available all summer long.

For additional information contact Alycia Anthony at [Alycia.anthony@brotherbenno.org](mailto:Alycia.anthony@brotherbenno.org).

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## 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](mailto:bbnewsletter@brotherbenno.org). We'd be delighted to feature your story!



Thank you to the Women's Auxiliary at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Carlsbad for the donation of eighty one-gallon "Blessing Bags" filled with hygiene items, granola bars, water, socks, pens and notebooks for homeless and needy.

Vista Community Clinic generously donated essential supplies to Brother Benno's, helping support our neighbors in need through compassionate community partnership.



Brother Benno Foundation staff and guests enjoyed a special tour of Dr. Bronner's, a longtime supporter and valued community partner of our foundation.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Paul 'Mac' McNamara**

*Executive Director*

**DinaMarie Ahee**  
*Deputy Executive Director*

**Alycia Anthony**  
*Volunteer and Events Coordinator*

**Kathleen Diehlmann**  
*Development Director*

**Bryan Fabricante**  
*Accounting 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*

## 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.*

## **TRUECARE & BROTHER BENNO’S: Providing Care and Meeting People Where They Are**

BY DR. DANIEL DICKERSON, True Care Podiatric Physician

Serving at the TrueCare mobile clinic at Brother Benno’s has been one of the most meaningful parts of my work. This walk-in clinic allows us to care for anyone who comes to us. We see a wide range of needs, from chronic wounds and infections to preventive care, foot pain, mobility concerns and injuries.

Many of the people we serve face significant barriers to traditional health care and may delay treatment, even when something is serious. Bringing care directly to them allows us to step in earlier, help prevent complications and make care more accessible.

What stands out most is the opportunity to build trust over

time. People return, engage in their care and take meaningful steps to improve their health. There is a strong sense of resilience and appreciation at every clinic.

It is an honor to be part of a partnership that brings compassionate, accessible care to the community and allows us to meet people where they are with dignity and respect.

*Dr. Daniel Dickerson is a board-certified podiatric physician with TrueCare. He provides foot and ankle care across North County and has spent the last three years helping expand access through mobile clinics.*

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[Dr. Dan Dickerson, Nayeli, Marco](#)

# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE ANNUAL BROTHER BENNO'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Registration is officially open for the 8th Annual Brother Benno's Golf Tournament, returning to Goat Hill Park on September 24, 2026, at [brotherbenno.org/golf](http://brotherbenno.org/golf).

Golfers, sponsors, and volunteers are invited to be part of one of North County San Diego's most anticipated charitable events — bringing together business leaders, supporters, and 11-time world surf champion and legend **Kelly Slater** for an unforgettable day benefiting the Brother Benno Foundation.

We want to thank some of the incredible sponsors who have already stepped forward to

sponsor this year's tournament and help make a meaningful impact on the clients of Brother Benno's, including **Outer-known, C3Bank, ADP, Fire-wire Surfboards** and so many more.

Now is the time to get involved by telling your friends, family, and colleagues to volunteer or participate. And ask your favorite restaurants to donate gift certificates, as they are great for our silent auction.

Visit [brotherbenno.org/golf](http://brotherbenno.org/golf) to register, sponsor, volunteer and learn more.



## ♥♥♥ JUNE SERVING TEAMS ♥♥♥

*Thank you serving teams! The gifts of your time and caring service are received with heartfelt thanks.*

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

Doug Milovicz

Bill Porter

## IN MEMORY OF

Jean Davis  
Kevin Ehringer  
Linda Engstrom  
Joshua Gibbons  
Anne Hyde

Hedwig S. & Nicolay E.  
Johannsen  
Red & Dottie Moorhouse  
Nysewander Family  
John & Janet Park

Anastasia & John Ryan  
Squirrell Family  
Alfred Vasquez

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

## Volunteer Appreciation Awards

BY ALCIA ANTHONY, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

The Brother Benno Center hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Awards Ceremony on April 25, recognizing the individuals whose service strengthens our mission and supports our community.

Volunteers play a vital role in every aspect of our work — from meal service and food sorting to distributing essential items, collecting donations, assisting in the Thrift Shop, and providing critical behind-the-scenes support.

Five volunteers were honored with special awards for exemplary service:

- **Amy Selich** — Volunteer of the Year- Volunteer with the greatest impact in the calendar year 2025
- **Nita Rodriguez** — Miro'Connell Award- Volunteer who made a sustained impact over multiple years
- **Bonnie Agee** — Barbara Ladwig Award- "Rookie of the year" shown exceptional promise for sustained service

- **Blake Kern** — Halo Award- Longest serving volunteer
- **Susan Broyer** — Golden Tag Award- Volunteer with the greatest impact at the Thrift Store in the year 2025

Additionally, more than fifty volunteers received service pins in recognition of their continued dedication.

The evening was filled with gratitude, connection, and a reminder that every act of service, big or small, contributes to the hope and dignity we strive to bring to our community.

To all our volunteers: **thank you.** Your kindness strengthens our mission and touches countless lives.

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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**

*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 saleable 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**

	APRIL 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR		APRIL 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	9,305	5,214,066	Blankets	94	57,620
Market Visits	3,746	69,210	Tarps	99	11,348
Clothing	4,281	1,653,947	ID Vouchers	46	11,931
Showers	573	300,605	Lbs. of Food Rescued	131,662	7,966,223
Bus Passes	196	96,500	HUGS	1,000	1,052,244