



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

AUGUST 2026



LOOKING FORE-WARD
09/24/2026

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF: A New Beginning

Last fall, a guest we'll call **David** came to Brother Benno's seeking help with what seemed like a simple request: obtaining a copy of his birth certificate. Unfortunately, it was anything but simple.

David's Illinois ID had expired more than 10 years earlier, and without a birth certificate, he couldn't obtain a California ID. While he still had his Social Security card, it wasn't enough to establish his identity.

As we dug into the case, we uncovered a complicated history. Born in Illinois in 1973, David had been adopted as a child, and his name was legally changed by his adoptive parents. Years later, he petitioned the court to restore his birth name. However, the court order unintentionally omitted one of his middle names, creating a discrepancy that complicated every request for his birth certificate.

Our first application to the Illinois Department of Public Health was denied because officials couldn't locate a matching record. After obtaining certified court documents, we identified the missing middle name and submitted another request. It was denied again. We called the department, reviewed every line of the application with staff, and tried again. Then again.

By the fourth application, the staff recognized the case immediately whenever we called. Weeks passed without a response, giving us hope, until another rejection arrived. One final phone call revealed the problem: we had listed only the initial of the middle name he was leaving behind instead of spelling it out completely. Fortunately, the department agreed the mistake was minor and corrected the issue without requiring another application.

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**I HAD NO IDEA
BROTHER BENNO'S
DID SO MUCH**

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DINNER, MUSIC &
FRIENDS**

**SERVING TEAMS
CALENDAR**

DONOR TOUR
and more!



www.brotherbenno.org

RECOVERY IS MORE THAN SOBRIETY

BY STEVE SCHUMM, Deputy Director of Recovery Support Services

When people think about recovery, they often focus on one thing—stopping the use of drugs or alcohol. While sobriety is the essential first step, true recovery reaches much deeper. At the Brother Benno's Men's Recovery Support Program, we believe lasting recovery is about rebuilding an entire life.

Many of the men who enter our program have lost more than their health to addiction. They have experienced broken relationships, unemployment, homelessness, financial hardship, and a loss of purpose. Simply removing alcohol or drugs does not automatically repair those areas. Lasting recovery requires learning a new way to live.

Our 26-week program helps men develop the tools needed to build a solid foundation for the future. Through counseling, the principles of the 12 Steps, personal accountability, and daily structure, participants begin to replace destructive habits with healthy ones. They learn how to manage stress without substances, communicate honestly, accept responsibility for their choices, and set meaningful goals for their lives.

Employment is another important milestone in recovery. Earning a paycheck not only provides financial stability but also restores confidence, responsibility, and independence. As men begin working again, many rediscover the satisfaction that comes from contributing to their families and their communities.

Recovery also means finding purpose beyond oneself. Through acts of service and giving back to others, our participants experience the fulfillment that comes from helping someone who is facing the same struggles they once endured. Service reminds them that their past does not define their future.

At Brother Benno's, we know that recovery is about much more than staying sober. It is about restoring hope, rebuilding character, and creating lives marked by integrity, responsibility, and compassion. Every day, we witness men proving that lasting change is possible when they are given the opportunity, support, and determination to begin again.

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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
AUGUST 1**

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,

As I write this article in July for the August Newsletter, our final P&L numbers for FY 25-26 are complete. I'm pleased to report that we had a good year. In almost every category we exceeded expectations whether it was staff staying under budget or donations/grants coming in. So, a huge thank you is in order for the entire Brother Benno family.

In practical terms that means we were able to improve capacity, repair some infrastructure, and stay focused on the mission. We also were able to make progress on our Board-approved strategic goals. The hard work and generosity of our supporters, volunteers and staff is always impressive.

For this next year we have plans in place to continue executing our strategic goals. While I've discussed them in previous articles, the big one that is moving forward and I am particularly excited about is **Self-Sufficiency**.

"I know the world is filled with troubles and many injustices. But reality is as beautiful as it is ugly. I think it is just as important to sing about beautiful

Our founder, **Harold**, had written about this from the beginning and while the organization made progress, there still was and is work to be done. As you also know, this strategic goal is essentially the Board rededicating the organization to fulfilling Harold's dream. Not just feeding a man a fish but identifying what obstacles are in the way to teach him how to fish. And by eliminating those obstacles we truly end homelessness and uplift the dignity of those we serve.

I predict thanks to this team and the providence of God that we will have another successful year. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

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



mornings as it is to talk about slums. I just couldn't write anything without hope in it."

~ Oscar Hammerstein II

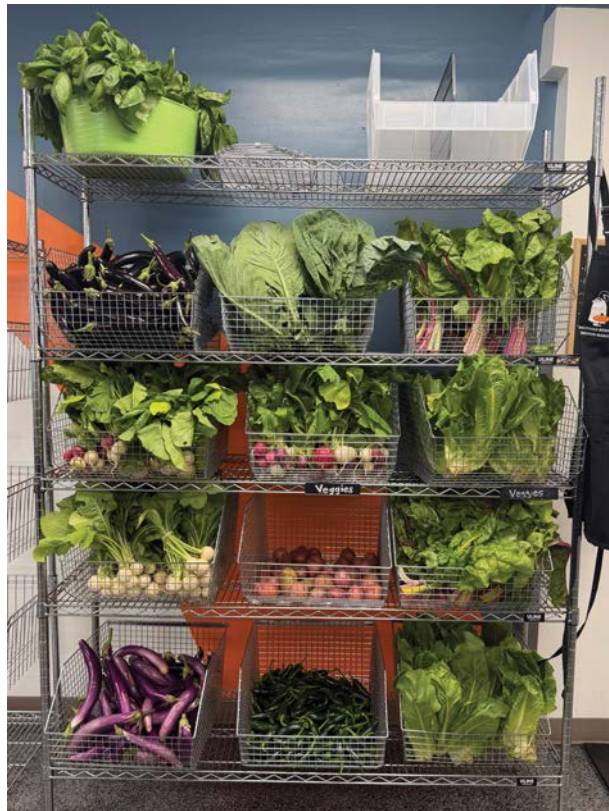
CAUGHT IN THE ACT! Community Partners, Supporters & Volunteers Making a Difference

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!



Brother Benno's recently donated books, toys, and other children's items to **MAAC**, helping support local families and strengthen our shared commitment to serving the North County community.

Barron Creek Ranch generously donated a variety of fresh vegetables to Brother Benno's Indoor Market, helping ensure our guests have access to nutritious, high-quality produce.



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

**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.*

"I Had No Idea Brother Benno's Did So Much" **A tour invitation from Dennis Pinnick**

Whenever we give someone a tour of the Brother Benno Center, there is one comment we hear again and again at the end: **"I had no idea Brother Benno's did so much."**

People may know us as a soup kitchen, a food pantry, a place for a meal or helping someone experiencing homelessness. What they often discover during a tour is how many lives are touched every day through a wide range of services designed to restore hope, dignity, and stability.

At Brother Benno Foundation, a warm meal is often just the beginning. We provide emergency food, clothing, showers, mail services, case management, housing-focused support, addiction recovery assistance, veteran services, senior support, and help connect people to critical community resources. Our thrift store helps fund these programs while providing affordable goods to the community. Volunteers serve alongside staff every day, creating a welcoming place where people are treated with respect and compassion.

"I came to Brother Benno's thinking I was volunteering to help people. What I didn't expect was how much the people here would change me. I've

learned that service isn't about rescuing anyone—it's about reminding people that they still matter."

Ryan Brower – Volunteer in Essential Services

Behind every service is a person with a story. It might be a senior choosing between food and medication, a veteran working to rebuild stability, a family facing a financial crisis, or someone taking the first steps toward recovery. The support they receive at the Brother Benno Center often becomes the turning point that helps them move forward.

If you have never visited our Center, we invite you to come see the work for yourself. If it has been a few years since your last visit, you may be surprised by how much the Brother Benno Foundation has grown and evolved. Seeing the programs in action is the best way to understand the impact made possible by our community of supporters, volunteers, and partners.

We would love to welcome you on a tour. Please contact me if you are interested:

Dennis Pinnick - call (760) 681-2616 or email me dennis.pinnick@brotherbenno.org.

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AN EVENING OF DINNER, MUSIC & FRIENDS ADDED TO ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

We added a new way to participate in the Brother Benno Foundation's annual golf tournament. Join us after the tournament at 5 p.m. for *An Evening of Dinner, Music & Friends*, an unforgettable night of dinner, music, and lots of fun with a sensational UK cover band that knows how to get the party started. Playing everything from classic rock and pop to soulful favorites, they'll help celebrate a great day of golf benefiting the Brother Benno Foundation. A favorite of surf legend **Kelly Slater** and a featured act at the **Kelly**

Slater Surf Ranch, this talented group knows how to throw a party.

Your \$100 ticket includes dinner, live entertainment, access to live and silent auctions, and a chance to support the amazing work of the Brother Benno Foundation. Space is limited, so register early.

Visit brotherbenno.org/golf to register for *An Evening of Dinner, Music & Friends*

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♥♥♥ AUGUST 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. Thomas More
3 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	4 St. John The Evangelist	5 Stephanie's Team	6 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	7 San Luis Rey Mission	8 Hilla Machhi and Team
10 North Coast Methodist	11 Riverview Church	12 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	13 OPEN	14 St. Patrick's	15 Girlfriend's Care
17 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	18 St. John The Evangelist	19 Friends of Brother Benno	20 Ernest Packaging	21 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	22 La Costa Valley Volunteers
24 OPEN 31 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	25 Rotary Club of San Marcos	26 San Luis Rey Methodist	27 Signal	28 Oceanside Sanctuary	29 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 HONOR OF

Joyce Cerimele

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dooley

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Beckman
Matthew Nowell
Ronald Alexander

Gilbert & Donna Brown
Donna Kurtz
Harold and Kay Kutler

Ben & Ozelle Lewis
Alva & Frances Snider
Andrew and Jane Yandura

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

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On July 22, nearly eight months after the process began, David's birth certificate finally arrived at Brother Benno's.

His first stop was the DMV to apply for his new California ID.

For many people, an ID is something they rarely think about. For our guests, it can be the key that opens the door to employment, housing, healthcare, and a fresh start.

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**BROTHER
BENNO'S**

Uplifting the dignity of those we serve.

**Join us for a
Donor Tour
Wednesday August 19th**

**Time: 10 a.m.
Location: The Brother
Benno's Center**

RSVP

Development@brotherbenno.org

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

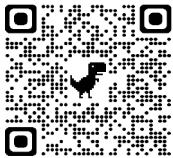
Saturday

10:00 AM – noon

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pickup.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to The Brother Benno Foundation or donate online 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

	JUNE 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR		JUNE 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	8,541	5,231,415	Blankets	101	57,836
Market Visits	3,543	76,321	Tarps	26	11,460
Clothing	5,423	1,664,399	ID Vouchers	51	12,021
Showers	547	301,657	Lbs. of Food Rescued	108,800	8,193,016
Bus Passes	75	96,662	HUGS	1,000	1,054,244