



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

JULY 2026



FIGHTING ADDICTION ONE LIFE AT A TIME: The Brother Benno's Men's Recovery Program

BY STEVE SCHUMM, Deputy Director of Recovery Support Services

The battle against addiction and alcoholism is not won overnight. It is fought one day at a time, through courage, accountability, faith, community, and a willingness to change. At Brother Benno's, our Men's Recovery Program stands on the front lines of this battle, helping men rebuild their lives after years of struggling with substance abuse, homelessness, and hardship.

For many of the men who enter our program, addiction has taken nearly everything — family relationships, employment, housing, self-worth, and hope. Over 90% of the men who come through our doors have experienced homelessness. Our mission is not simply to provide shelter; it is to provide the tools, structure, and support needed for lasting transformation. We believe in offering a hand up, not a hand out.

Our 26-week recovery program is built around personal responsibility, counseling, community service, and the principles of the 12 Steps. Men learn to face the underlying causes of their addiction, rebuild healthy habits, repair relationships, and discover a new way of living. Recovery requires action, and every participant is challenged to become accountable for his future.

A unique part of Brother Benno's is that the men in recovery also give back. Through service to others, they rediscover purpose, gratitude, and their value in the community. The same men who once needed help often become the ones offering hope to someone else.

The fight against addiction is difficult, but recovery is possible. We see proof every day in our graduates who return to their families,

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and more!



www.brotherbenno.org

TWO GENEROUS GRANTS

BY EMILY HASTING, Food Rescue and Redistribution/Grants Director

1. Brother Benno Foundation is honored to announce a generous \$200,000 challenge matching grant from the **David C. Copley Foundation** in support of the complete renovation of our shower, restroom, and laundry facilities.

This project will transform some of the most essential services offered at Brother Benno's Oceanside campus. For individuals and families experiencing homelessness or deep poverty, access to a hot shower, a clean restroom, and laundry facilities is not a small comfort. It is a matter of dignity, health, and stability. These services help people prepare for work, school, medical appointments, housing opportunities, and the daily responsibilities that move them forward.

Through this challenge grant, the David C. Copley Foundation will match donations dollar for dollar, up to \$200,000, for gifts raised toward the renovation project. This means every qualifying gift from the community can go twice as far in helping Brother Benno's create clean, safe, and dignified facilities for the guests we serve. The Brother Benno Foundation must raise the matching funds by December 15, 2027.

Community members, businesses, foundations, and friends of Brother Benno's are invited to help us meet this opportunity and bring this long-needed renovation to life.

2. The Brother Benno Foundation is grateful to have received a \$30,000 grant to help low-income seniors remain safely housed when they are facing urgent needs such as rent, utilities, transportation, or other basic expenses that can threaten their stability.

For many older adults living on fixed incomes, one unexpected bill can put housing at risk. This support will allow Brother Benno's to respond with flexible assistance and compassionate care, helping seniors preserve their independence, avoid homelessness, and continue living with dignity.

This program was made possible thanks to grant support from **2026-27 Safe & Stable Housing Seniors**, a fund at **San Diego Foundation**. San Diego Foundation inspires enduring philanthropy and enables community solutions to improve the quality of life in our region.

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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

JULY 4

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

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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 you read the newsletter you
will see that this month's theme
is Independence. Not just inde-
pendence for the nation from a
historical perspective, but also
independence from addictions
and other issues that hold us
back.

When I think of what **Harold**
wanted to achieve and how he
expressed those goals, I feel
this organization has worked
the concept of independence
and what that can do for an
individual for over 40 years.
The success we've been able
to experience with our guests
is due to your hard work and
generosity of time, talent and
treasure. So during this month
that celebrates independence,
I would encourage you to feel
pride in your contribution that
helped others free themselves
and become independent.

I also want to share a concept

that came out of the Decla-
ration of Independence that
I believe all of you have em-
braced. As most of us know, the
Declaration of Independence
was written as somewhat of a
legal document explaining to
the world why we are separat-
ing from England. In that doc-
ument there are words that in
effect state – if you see some-
thing wrong, have the ability
to change it, then you have the
moral obligation to do so. You
have all committed to try and
change the condition of our
guests so that they can have a
better life. I think that is some-
thing you should feel pride in.
You have followed the spirit of
our Founding Fathers.

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



... continued from page 1

maintain sobriety, find employ-
ment, and become productive
members of society.

Brother Benno's has always
believed that every person
deserves dignity and the op-

portunity for a second chance.
Through compassion, structure,
and accountability, our Men's
Recovery Program continues
changing lives — one man at a
time.

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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. We'd be delighted to feature your story!



Board members Peter Joyce and Joe McDevitt with Deputy Executive Director Dina Marie Ahee display the generous donation check from the **Knights of Columbus**.

A guest receiving a pack of essential service supplies that were donated by **St Elizabeth Ann Seton** church.



Elias Velazquez, Information Director, giving an interview on Fox 5 about the relaunch of the women's recovery program.

Brother Benno's was proud to participate in **Genentech's 50th Anniversary Community Fair** in Oceanside. It was a great opportunity to connect with employees, share our mission, and celebrate our partnership with the community.



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.*

INTRODUCING OUR NEW AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of Brother Benno's," founder **Harold Kutler** wrote in his book *"Soup, Soap, Hugs, Hope."* With this in mind, the Development department has formed a new Ambassador Program. The volunteers who are part of this group are people who are passionate about what Brother Benno's does and who want to help others learn about our nonprofit.

The Brother Benno Foundation is truly grateful for the support we have received for 42 years from people who are dedicated to our mission. Creating the Ambassador Program helps give our supporters an opportunity to champion our mission. Ambassadors also help with fundraising efforts so that Brother Benno's can continue to thrive for many more years to come.

Some of Brother Benno's Ambassadors are regular volunteers who experience firsthand the rhythm of our work, while others are friends, supporters, and advocates who may not be here regularly but still want to help us share our message.

"I've seen that Brother Benno's guests come from all walks of life, but they share something

special: a kindness that's genuine. That kindness, along with the many services Brother Benno's offers with care, reminds me to carry that compassion beyond the doors of Brother Benno's." -**Anne Master**, Essential Services Volunteer

Ambassadors invite friends, neighbors, and partners in their circles to come and spend some time with us, see how we operate, and experience the warmth of our community firsthand. They also help express our gratitude through stewardship to other friends and supporters of The Brother Benno Foundation.

We are happy to share this new opportunity. Thank you, Ambassadors, for representing the Brother Benno family in North County!

If you would like more information about the Ambassador Program, or if you have not seen the changes at the Brother Benno Center and would like to come for a tour, please give me a call at **760.681.2616** or send me an email at dennis.pinnick@brotherbenno.org.

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REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

BY GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Join us on **September 24** at Goat Hill Park for Brother Benno's 8th Annual Golf Tournament—our largest fundraiser benefiting The Brother Benno Foundation. We're looking for golfers, sponsors, auction donors, and volunteers to be part of this unique event.

The evening before, Title sponsor **Outerknown** will host

a reception from **4–7 p.m. on September 23** at The Forum Carlsbad, donating **25% of proceeds** to the Foundation. Stay tuned for more exciting developments still to come!

Reserve your spot or explore sponsorship opportunities at brotherbenno.org/golf. **Registration closes August 20.**

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"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

~ Melody Beattie

♥♥♥ JULY 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 Stephanie's Team	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 Closed- Independence Day
6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	9 San Luis Rey Mission Staff	10 St. Patrick's	11 Community Bible Church
13 North Coast Methodist	14 Riverview Church	15 Friends of Brother Benno	16 OPEN	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 St. John The Evangelist	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Signal	24 Oceanside Sanctuary	25 La Costa Valley Volunteers
27 OPEN	28 Rotary Club of San Marcos	29 OPEN	30 OPEN	31 King of Kings	

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

The Shlemmers

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Beckman
Deacon Ron Diem
Timothy Diem

John J. Holeva
Leo & Grace Hutter
Stephanie Imig

LaMar Jones

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

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: Celebrating Independence Through Giving

BY ALYCIA ANTHONY, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

This year, our Christmas in July Children's Christmas party toy and gift card drive is dedicated to promoting independence, dignity, and hope for families in our community. While the holiday season may seem months away, summer is the perfect time to begin collecting toys and gift cards that will bring joy and relief to children during Christmas.

Toys do more than entertain. They encourage creativity, confidence in learning, and personal growth. A new book, educational game, or favorite toy can inspire a child to explore new possibilities and develop skills that foster independence.

Gift cards offer something equally valuable: choice. They allow parents and guardians the freedom to select the items their children need most, whether it's clothing, shoes, necessities, or a special Christmas surprise. By providing

families with options, we help preserve dignity while supporting self-sufficiency.

The Independence theme of our Christmas in July campaign reflects our commitment to empowering children and families. Through the generosity of donors, volunteers, and community partners, we are helping create opportunities that extend far beyond the holiday season.

We invite you to join us in making a difference. Together, we can celebrate the values of independence, compassion, and generosity while ensuring that every child experiences the joy of Christmas.

"This Independence season, your generosity helps children discover the freedom to dream big and families gain the support they need to move forward with confidence."

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To contribute online: <https://tinyurl.com/BBFChristmasGiftCards>

Or, Send your gift card contribution to:

The Brother Benno Foundation
Attn: Accounting/ Children Christmas
PO Box 308 Oceanside CA 92049

Send or deliver Toys to:

The Brother Benno Foundation
Attn: Alycia Anthony
3260 Production Ave, Oceanside, CA 92058

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

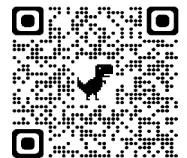
Saturday

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. 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

	MAY 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR		MAY 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	8,808	5,222,874	Blankets	115	57,735
Market Visits	3,568	72,778	Tarps	86	11,434
Clothing	5,029	1,658,976	ID Vouchers	39	11,970
Showers	505	301,110	Lbs. of Food Rescued	117,993	8,084,216
Bus Passes	87	96,587	HUGS	1,000	1,053,244