



PEOPLE WHO CARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BROTHER BENNO'S NEWSLETTER

Uplifting the Dignity of Those We Serve

OCTOBER 2026



BROTHER BENNO'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES NEARLY \$440,000 IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR

The eighth annual Brother Benno's Charity Golf Tournament drew a record crowd to Goat Hill Park in Oceanside on September 24, delivering another extraordinary day of community generosity and support. Thanks to returning and new partners, the event raised nearly **\$440,000**, directly funding the essential daily services Brother Benno's provides to individuals and families in need.

Community Champions Step Up

Major sponsors—including **Outerknown, C3Bank, Kelly Slater Surf Ranch, Allgire General Contractors, Phi Health, Firewire, Charles Schwab/SEIA**, and **11-time world champion surfer Kelly Slater**—played a pivotal role in the tournament's success. Their continued commitment underscores the deep local support for Brother Benno's mission.

Festivities began the day before at Outerknown in the Carlsbad Forum, where music, special discounts, and a generous pledge of 25% of the afternoon's proceeds helped kick off fundraising.

Many thanks to Hole sponsors **Alexandra Radcliff, Best Lending Co., Charles Schwab/SEIA, The Dewitt Group, FM Marketing, Nita Rodriguez, Strive and Selich Marketing**. The Hole-in-One sponsor **Crowley Car Company**—kept the course energized, while donors provided exceptional food, drinks, and auction items enjoyed throughout the day.

A Record-Breaking Auction

The live auction delivered some of the most memorable moments of the event. Surfing icon **Gerry Lopez** personally presented a

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and more!



www.brotherbenno.org

STAFF APPRECIATION BARBECUE CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE AND TEAM ACHIEVEMENT

The annual Staff Appreciation Barbecue brought employees together for an afternoon dedicated to recognizing the people who drive our organization's success.

Attendees enjoyed barbecued lunch served by volunteers, followed by a live concert that created an engaging and memorable atmosphere.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the **Employee of the Year Award**. This distinguished honor recognized **Don Johnson** as an individual whose exceptional performance, leadership, and commitment to excellence have had a meaningful impact on both his team and the organization. Don is the kind of person who simply gets things

done. When something breaks, he fixes it. When something needs to be moved, he moves it. When there is a problem, he doesn't wait for someone else to take care of it. He steps in. When there is a challenge, he creates a solution.

Don puts the needs of this organization first, and more importantly, he puts people first.

His achievement reflects the values, professionalism, and dedication that contribute to our continued success.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all employees for their hard work, commitment, and dedication throughout the year. Together, we continue to build a strong foundation for future success.

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**SOUP, SOAP,
HUGS, HOPE**
The Story of Brother
Benno's Life-Changing
Soup Kitchen



This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows. The important thing is that you have one.



Clip and Mail
your check & the donation form to
The Brother Benno Foundation
P.O. Box 308
Oceanside, CA 92049-0308

BOOK DONATION ORDER FORM

YOUR NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Donation Amount
\$ _____

No. of books

"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
OCTOBER 3**

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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O.S.B.**

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DONOR'S CORNER

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

This month's theme is **Compassion.**

October 10th is World Homeless Day. Its purpose is to raise awareness, challenge stigmas, advocate for systemic policy changes, and highlight practical solutions to homelessness.

When I read that description, I thought, It feels like World Homeless Day every day at Brother Benno's. And the reason I felt that way is **because of you.**

When you think about it, our team of friends, supporters, volunteers, and donors has been fulfilling that purpose for more than 42 years. And, if you'll permit me a little bragging, this team didn't need a special day to recognize that there was a need in our community—or to understand that responding to that need was simply the right thing to do.

As they say: Well done!

But there is another part of compassion that I think is important to recognize. We would all agree that compassion is a wonderful thing. But compassion can also come with a cost.

Chronic stress and burnout can deplete our emotional reserves. And empathy overload—absorbing too much of someone else's pain—can eventually lead to emotional exhaustion or even numbness.

There are ways to protect and restore that emotional energy: setting healthy boundaries, taking time to recharge, and recognizing when we need to step back for a moment.

But I believe one of the greatest safeguards we have against losing our compassion is **the support we receive from one another.**

There is an old saying: Many hands make light work. That has certainly been true at Brother Benno's. For more than 42 years, the Brother Benno team has stood shoulder to shoulder, working together to make our community a better place. Because it happens every day, we sometimes don't stop to acknowledge just how remarkable that really is.

But this October, I think we should.

We should acknowledge the compassion of the people who serve.

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RESPONSIBILITY: THE TURNING POINT IN RECOVERY

BY STEVE SHUMM, Deputy Director of Recovery Support Services

One of the most important changes someone can make in recovery is learning to take responsibility for their own life. Addiction often creates a pattern of blaming circumstances, other people, or the past. Recovery begins when they recognize that while they cannot change what has happened, they can take responsibility for what happens next.

At The Brother Benno Recovery Support Program, personal responsibility is at the heart of everything we do. Our goal is not simply to help them remain sober while they are with us. We want them to develop the skills, discipline, and confidence necessary to become self-sufficient and successfully manage their own lives.

That responsibility is practiced every day. They work, keep schedules, meet commitments, manage their money, and learn to handle the everyday challenges of life without turning to drugs or alcohol. Each responsibility may seem small, but together they build something extremely important: the ability to depend on themselves.

At night, that same principle continues through recovery. Working the Twelve Steps

teaches them to honestly examine their lives, recognize their part in past mistakes, make amends where appropriate, and continue taking personal inventory. The principles of honesty, humility, accountability, and service are not meant to remain inside a meeting room. They are meant to be lived every day.

Over time, something begins to change. Those who once depended on others to solve their problems begin solving them themselves. Those who once avoided responsibility begin accepting it. They learn that their job, finances, relationships, recovery, and future ultimately require their participation and commitment.

This is what we mean when we say Brother Benno's offers a **hand up, not a hand out**. We provide support, counseling, structure, and opportunity—but they do the work.

Ultimately, self-sufficiency is about more than living independently. It is about becoming someone who can be counted on—by their employer, their family, their community, and most importantly, by themselves. Ω

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul 'Mac' McNamara

Executive Director

DinaMarie Ahee

Deputy Executive Director

Alycia Anthony

Volunteer and Events Coordinator

Gabriel Ballentine

Food Recovery and Redistribution Director

Kathleen Diehlmann

Development Director

Bryan Fabricante

Accounting Director

Darryl Harris

Supportive Services Director

Emily Hasting

Grants 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.*

WHAT BROTHER BENNO MEANT TO ME AND MY FAMILY

BY BEATRIZ PALMER

It doesn't feel like it was 52 years ago when my family first met **Brother Benno** in the Eastside (Pozole) barrio of Oceanside. We moved often because of work and our complications with status — at least 25 times before I reached high school. I still remember the sound of his horn. He would drive through our neighborhood and honk 3 to 5 times in his old truck, loaded with clothing, furniture, toys, and rescued food from grocery stores and restaurants.

If a family needed something for their home that he didn't have in his truck, he would try his best to find it.

Because of him, we had beds, linens, clothing, food, and so many other necessities we just couldn't afford. I was just sharing with someone that I didn't purchase brand-new sheets until after I graduated from high school. It felt like such a privilege to finally buy new sheets, towels, blankets, com-

forters, curtains, and pillows. Even today, every time I purchase those everyday items, I think of him and what life was like with extreme scarcity.

So, seeing Brother Benno's grow into an organization that continues to serve individuals and families with dignity, compassion, and unconditional love — expressed through basic needs, housing, behavioral health, and supportive services — is such a full-circle privilege for me.

My family and I weren't supposed to overcome poverty, but we did. We didn't do it alone.

First and foremost, it was through the love and grace of God, working through trusted

messengers like Brother Benno and organizations that chose to see our humanity and invest in our future. Oh, and that pretty muchachita greñuda, con los pantalones arrastrados, that is little **Beatriz**. The photo was taken shortly after being forced to tempo-

rarily relocate. Her parents

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vintage, hand-shaped surfboard that sold for a tournament-record amount.

A day at **Kelly Slater's Surf Ranch** remained the top draw, bolstered by an extraordinary anonymous donor who matched bids up to \$150,000.

CBS8's Shawn Styles made his auction debut, generously offering an evening dinner prepared by **Shawn** and **Molly Styles**, another standout highlight. His coverage of the tournament also helped amplify awareness of Brother Benno's work, featuring **Andrew Cutting** and a team of lived-experience members demonstrating the impact of the organization's programs.

To cap off the evening, a live band traveled all the way from

England, making dinner and the closing celebration as unforgettable as ever.

Gratitude for a Community That Shows Up

We extend heartfelt thanks to our golfers, volunteers, donors, Brother Benno's staff, and the Oceanside community for showing up with unwavering support year after year.

Your generosity empowers Brother Benno's to expand its reach and deepen its impact on those who rely on our services. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the **ninth annual tournament** next year.

To view photos from the day, visit brotherbenno.org/golf.

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♥♥♥ OCTOBER 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 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 San Luis Rey Mission	3 St. Thomas More
5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Stephanie's Team	8 OPEN	9 St. Patrick's	10 TVI SD1
12 North Coast Methodist	13 Riverview Church	14 Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary	15 Ernest Packaging	16 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	17 Girlfriend's Care
19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 St. John The Evangelist	21 Friends of Brother Benno	22 Signal	23 Oceanside Sanctuary	24 La Costa Valley Volunteers
26 Mission San Luis Rey Staff	27 Rotary Club of San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 OPEN	30 King of Kings	31 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

Christopher Loos

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Beckman

Dorothe & Walter Jellig

Andrew and Jane Yandura

Maria Beckman Viers

Jim Sansevrino

Chuck Calcara

Dr. Richard Shlemmer

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

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went first, then her mom and dad had a friend pick them up and reunite them. Brother Benno learned about their situation and drove his truck across to bring them clothing and a few items they desperately needed.

Please consider supporting Brother Benno's. Never think your donation is too small, because we are all philanthropists in our own unique way. Your generosity will help strengthen the many programs that support people on their journey toward sobriety, stability, and hope.

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We should acknowledge the compassion of those who volunteer.

We should acknowledge the compassion of those who give.

And we should acknowledge the compassion of everyone who believes that no one in our community should be forgotten.

Most importantly, I want everyone associated with Brother Benno's to understand one simple truth:

We really couldn't do it without you.

For more than 42 years, you have helped make

There's even a mural coming; art is such a huge part of our healing.

If you ever wonder whether these services truly change lives, think of me and my family. We are living proof.

Ω

Brother Benno Garrity died on October 29, 1992. He often said he could not sleep when he knew people needed help; indeed, he regularly stayed up late delivering food and furniture to impoverished communities in Oceanside.

compassion more than an idea. You have helped turn it into action—day after day, person after person, and life after life.

So, as we recognize World Homeless Day this October, let's also recognize something else: **the people who make it possible for Brother Benno's to be there every day.**

That's you.

Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with us.

God bless you all!

Mac



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

	AUGUST 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR		AUGUST 2026	OUR 42nd YEAR
Meals	8,888	5,249,125	Blankets	91	58,030
Market Visits	3,681	83,653	Tarps	0	11,490
Clothing	5,212	1,675,211	ID Vouchers	53	12,129
Showers	478	302,609	Lbs. of Food Rescued	122,478	8,430,553
Bus Passes	112	96,871	HUGS	1,000	1,056,244