

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation

Your donation is used each month at our main center and eight operational houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, laundry facilities, bus vouchers, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. We thank you for your continued support. 100% of your contribution goes directly to assist those we serve. Our modest administration costs are paid for by our Thrift Store revenues.

www.brotherbenno.org



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

September 2011



FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO BECOME INVOLVED

In the August newsletter, we told you about an Immersion Program that has recently been set up at Brother Benno's. It allows people to interact one-on-one with our Guests in order to get a better understanding of what it means to be poor and/or homeless. After a tour of the Center and an overview of our philosophy and our services, participants get in the food line, then eat with Guests, where they often discover that there really isn't much difference between those who serve and those who receive services.

Harold Kutler is extending his invitation to be part of this Program to families in order to help young people, especially teens, learn about poverty. It has been our experience that many of them are eager to help, once they discover the many ways they can be of service.

Children under 18 can volunteer at the Center only if they do so with a parent or other adult, but all kids can participate by putting on collection drives at their school or neighborhood. It's been amazing to see how many socks, underwear, toiletries, or food staples they can gather from family, friends, schoolmates, and neighbors. We also welcome creative ideas for new ways to be of service to others.

If you'd like more information about the Immersion Program, please contact **Dennis** (760-439-1244, ext. 116, or dennispinnick@yahoo.com). If you'd like to schedule a Saturday morning tour and immersion, contact **Suzy** (760-439-1244, ext. 118, or suzymartinek@brotherbenno.org).

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NEW CONVENIENCE AT THRIFT SHOP

by Helen Parsons

Brother Benno's Thrift Shop in Oceanside has a 15-foot white box truck that sits in the parking lot in front of the Shop to collect donations every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Someone will be there to help unload your heavy objects.

We have a big sign on the truck to attract your attention; but if you miss it somehow, there's a sign on the back gate asking you to bring your donations to the truck. If you miss that sign, you'll see another one on the back door.

Our devoted staff, under the direction of our Manager, **Michelle Hoppe**, and Assistant Manager **Mary Yett**, are continuously finding ways to attract customers and keep us competitive with Goodwill. **Christie Sahhar**, our Cashier, reminds customers about using the donations truck, and T.S. is manning the truck. All our faithful volunteers are working harder than ever to make sure our neediest customers are provided for.

Remember, we're open every Wednesday evening until 7 p.m. You'll receive a 20 percent discount on almost everything and will be treated to refreshments.

We're located at 3965 Mission Avenue east of Albertson's in Oceanside. Please come shop and see our amazing inventory!

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If you can't feed a hundred people,
then feed just one.

~ Mother Teresa

Brother Benno's Services:

	July 2011	Our 28th Year		July 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,241	3,132,193	Loads of laundry	29	25,832
Nights of lodging	1,202	214,534	Food packs	2,278	168,340
Articles of clothing	4,979	878,799	Blankets	50	31,890
Showers	923	158,691	Prescriptions	42	6,566
Haircuts	155	12,897	ID Vouchers	10	8,168
Bus passes	103	74,719	HUGS	2,250	808,294

Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

The Thrift Shop

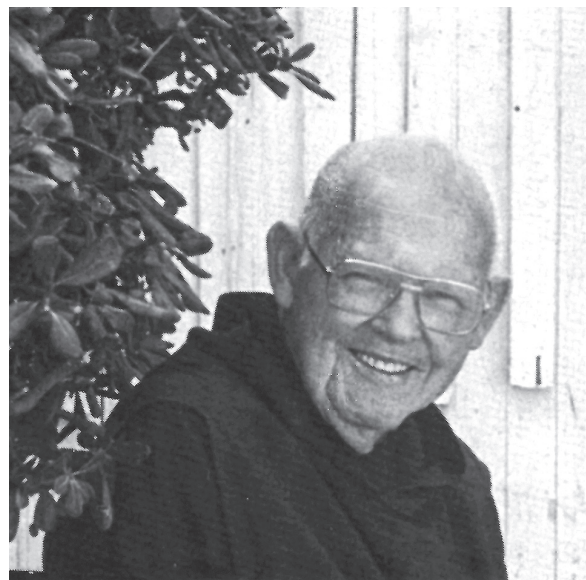
3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Kudos to the Police. One morning, **Harold Kutler** saw two police cars drive into the parking area next to the Center. Concerned about what their presence might mean, he left his office to check.

The officer in one car was helping a woman and her three small children exit the car; a man and another officer got out of the other one. "We found these people sleeping under the freeway," one officer reported. "Obviously, they need help."

Harold took them into the Center and asked the kitchen crew to give them something to eat. **Kathy**, who works at the front desk, went into the Clothing Room to find some things for the children. They learned that the man was the woman's boyfriend, and they had arrived in Oceanside with one suitcase and no money. They also found out that they had left their home in Northern California after a disagreement with the woman's family.

Brother Benno's gave the woman a two-night motel voucher for herself and her children, and suggested she contact her family and ask them to help her return home. "We urged her to call us if that didn't work out," Harold said. "She didn't call, so we're assuming that they are back where they belong."

The icing on the cake came when one of the police officers returned to Brother Benno's the day after he'd dropped them off to find out what had happened to them. Harold gave him the name of the motel they were staying at, and the officer said he'd drop in to see if they were OK.

Hand-Crafted Care. The vast majority of Brother Benno supporters are unknown to me, but every once in a while I get to experience the goodness of someone I know. Such is the case with my son **Tom's** girlfriend **Shoshana**. She lives in San Diego and never heard of Brother Benno's until she and I met. One day she brought me a bagful of soft, warm hats she had crocheted and asked me to take them to the Center. A couple months later, she did the same—this time it was a beautiful sweater. **Mary Robinson** said she'd make sure the recipients of these gifts would know that they were

hand-made by someone who cared.

Frontiersmen? New volunteer **Dave Crockett** was quickly introduced to **Dan Boone**, long-time Board member and head of the Accounting Office. "Now all we need is Jim Bowie," someone quipped.

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KNITTERS FILL VOID, HOPE OTHERS DO THE SAME

Jean McMath volunteers in Brother Benno's Clothing Room, and she noticed last winter that we had very few scarves to give to our Guests. "I've been a knitter for a long time and love simple projects," she said, "so I proposed to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church in Oceanside that we make it a summer project to knit scarves."

The group's initial goal was 25 scarves, but they already have more than 50. Jean is hoping there are others out there who like to knit or crochet and would be willing to make scarves, and even hats. She also suggests that people who are no longer able to do this handiwork because of arthritis or whatever, but still have yarn, would like to donate it.

Jean adds, "The general description for the scarves is 7-8 inches wide, 60-64 inches long. I use a #13 needle and need about 23-25 stitches. The yarn should be "4" or "5" weight to get something substantial. Simple works best, as the scarves will probably get rough treatment. . . Most of the homeless who come to the Clothing Room are men. . . but I have hopes of getting some prettier scarves for women and children for the holiday season."

All donations of knit goods and yarn can be dropped off at the rear of the Center with the bag clearly marked **CLOTHING ROOM**. If you have any questions, please call Jean (760-722-4003).

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Memorials

Brother Benno
Pope John Paul II
Mother Teresa
Ann Sauer
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Nordstrom
Myron Eichen
Alice Jordan
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Richard Farhquar
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Catherine L. Quinlan
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Pullman
Joan Boyd
Agnus Boyd
Harold Thompson
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Bob Gleason
Jane Pfau
Ron Alexander

Mary Peterson
Frank Barnet
Frank S. Dolley
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Monty Nares
Margaret Rossini
Dorothy M. Donahue
Mary Teresa Carr
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Elizabeth Holms
Edith Blaiser
Ben Kouns
Bill Lakoff
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver
Anita H. Donahue
Margaret Stephan
Bill Boster
Louise Foussat
Tom Hayward
Richard Kurtz
Helen Lucas

Bill & Joan Maloney
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Bill Buckner
Mary Shankle
Walter Ulloa
Fred Williamson
Carole Kutler
Will Skinner
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Naomi Shelton
Rosemary Tucker
Ben E. Lewis
Roland Bond
Anna Correia
Geraldine Howard
Bill Kennedy
Floyd & Rose Caldwell
Jack Leahy

Bernie Weiler
Hartley Lowe
Frank Onstott
William Flanagan
Patricia Weseloh
Art Ramirez
Nysewander Family
Squirrell Family
Dorothea Rice
Ann & Tom Witherow
Andrea Boersma
Charles & Josephine Campbell
Philip Larsen
Margaret Zachan
Stanley LaMonte

Birthdays

Pat Jenniches

Needs

Canned goods
Men's bicycles

Men's clothing
Motel-size toiletries

Socks
Aluminum cans for recycling

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept.				1 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 St. Thomas More
2011	5 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	6 St. John The Evangelist	7 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	8 Oceanside Civitans	9 San Luis Rey Mission	10 Shiloh Church of God In Christ
Monthly	12 North Coast Methodist	13 Friends from Vista	14 Naval Hospital	15 Carlsbad Rotary	16 St. Patrick's	17 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	19 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	20 Christ the King Lutheran	21 Grace Anglican	22 Pilgrim Creek	23 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	24 Catholic Daughters
Team	26 Christ Anglican	27 St. Mark's San Marcos	28 San Luis Rey Methodist	29 Grace Anglican	30 King of Kings Lutheran	
Schedule						

Brother Benno's Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT WORKING AT BROTHER BENNO'S

Volunteers at Brother Benno's fulfill a need; that's a given. But what is not always known is that the volunteer may have a need himself that can be fulfilled just by his being there.

Two young men, both extremely shy, came to our Center to do a job. Eighteen-year-old "Mike" was actually brought in by his parents, who were concerned that his difficulty interacting with others would hinder his ability to get a job. "Bert" came by way of another volunteer who saw that his abilities were being overshadowed by his shyness.

In just a few months, Mike has gone from a young man who looked down at the floor every time someone approached him, to one who can now look people in the face, ask questions, and even carry on a good conversation with a select few. "We're just going at his pace," said P., who oversees Mike's work in the kitchen. "He has come so far already; it's a miracle."

Bert has been at the Center about eight months, and his area of expertise is refinishing furniture. "He learned a lot from D. (former Program Member)," said **Thomas**, who runs the Furniture Warehouse, "and he keeps improving on his own." Each piece of Bert's handiwork bears a tag that reads: "This treasure has been refinished by loving hands at Brother Benno's."

We are not in the "therapy business." If someone sees that professional help is needed, that avenue is pursued. But what we can do with the Mikes and Berts who come our way is to give them the one-on-one care and attention that will at least make their lives more comfortable. And while we're doing that, they are providing needed services.

Many volunteers and staff members at the Center have already made a big difference in the lives of these two young men. **Harold Kutler** echoed P.'s sentiments when commenting on Mike. "He's one of our miracles," he said.

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We cannot hold a torch to light another's path
without brightening our own.

~ Ben Sweetland

ROSES AND RASPBERRIES *

by Helen Parsons

Recently a very special lady left us at Brother Benno's to spend time with family and to heal from a lingering illness. **Helene McGill** devoted many years to Brother Benno's, actively involved in our Auxiliary and as **Harold Kutler's** personal assistant. Helene was always the first to lend an extra hand, send a special card, and offer prayers for those in need. We want her to know that her quiet departure did not go unnoticed! Helene, you are a very special lady and will be deeply missed. A dozen roses to you!

Raspberries to whoever stole a magnetic Brother Benno Thrift Shop sign from a car parked at the Shop. This person also ripped down arrows that were pointing to the special event at the Shop!

Get-well roses to **Charlotte Wilson** who is recovering from a recent illness, and to **Pat Kouns** who has ongoing health problems—both faithful Auxiliary members. You are missed!

Roses to **Genentech Corporation** for donating five bikes to five very excited children at the backpack giveaway event in August. Thank you for all your generosity, Genentech!

Roses to **Clare Fisher** a faithful teacher in our Reading Room for more than two years. She has given so many children an unwavering dose of love every third Saturday! Clare is pursuing a career in Special Education. We wish her all the best!

One more bunch of roses for **Hanna Martinek** for turning our dining room into a beautiful rose garden, bringing much cheer to our guests! It makes everyone smile!!

** (Editor's Note: We use this headline with a bow to the North County Times and hope they will be flattered rather than offended!)*

Information & Online donations

brotherbenno.org

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vikki Ramey

Back-to-School backpacks and school supplies were distributed to more than 460 children on August 13. Thank you to all members who came on Friday to fill the backpacks, and those who were there on Saturday. Many thanks to everyone who purchased supplies, and especially to the following for their generous donations:

RBF Engineering, Southern California Edison, Triple Gear, Blanchard for Others, Mary Vernaci, and Kathy Gates. Special thanks to **G.** and his staff for setting up and crowd control. Great job!



Alma Boone, Susan Kragness, Mary Milew & Joanne Derby



Carol Sanford, Isobel Haring & Claire Carter

Our Annual Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 3, at 11 a.m. at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Tickets are \$50 each, \$500 for a table of ten. This year's theme is "The Giving Spirit," and what better way to give than by making this luncheon a Christmas gift for your neighbors, friends, and family members.

There will be entertainment by "The Hot Flashes Follies," a delicious lunch, beautiful door prizes, opportunity baskets, and silent auction, all for a good cause—supporting our two women's shelters (MAMI and DBRJ). For more information, contact **Vera Bayliss** (760-739-9061).

Members wanting to donate to the baskets and/or money trees, contact **Sharon Tasker** (760-597-2890). Deadline is October 26.

Carol Richards is asking all members to bring in items for the teen baskets to be distributed to girls during the Christmas holidays.

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Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do

My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: \$ _____
(make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)

In memory of: _____
Please send a card to:

(name) _____
(address) _____

For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.): _____

Send a card to: (name) _____
(address) _____

Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

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...

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____