



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

March 2015

COMMUNITY FACILITATES REACHING OUT TO THE POOR

Residents of Solamar Senior Community in Carlsbad came up with a way to help others; and in the process, they helped themselves as well.

Richard Toohey delivered a flyer to all of the 105 units in the complex, asking if people would like to clean out their homes in order to donate unused items to Brother Benno's. He quoted a favorite saying: "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Then he asked **Mary Holguin**, a resident and a volunteer at our Center, if she could arrange to have these items picked up.

The residents got caught up in the spirit of the event and were happy to be part of this outreach. Some even expressed thanks that someone finally got them to get rid of items they not only didn't use any more but often didn't even remember they had. They were asked to set everything out in front of their home on February 4, and one of Brother Benno's large trucks came by to load everything up. It turned out there was so much stuff that a second collection had to be made a few days later.

The donations ran the gamut: furniture, clothing, golf clubs, kitchen items, books, Christmas decorations, lawn chairs, surfing gear, and more. "Everybody said they were really motivated to give away things they knew someone else could use," Mary said.

Once again we have seen that banding together is often a great incentive when it comes to helping others.

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QUICK ACTION PREVENTS POTENTIAL DISASTER

Smoke poured out of a vent on the side of the Brother Benno Center on Friday morning, January 23. **Roger***, who happened to be walking across the parking lot between buildings, noticed it, ran into the building, and started what became a chain of events that probably saved Brother Benno's from a major disaster.

Knowing that the outside vent came from a wall in the warehouse where the industrial-sized clothes dryer sat, Roger ran toward the dryer, calling to **Morgan*** to pull the fire extinguisher off the wall. Even before Morgan handed it to him, Roger had turned off the gas and electricity switches near the dryer.

He directed the extinguisher first to the back of the dryer where he saw flames behind a small grill. Then he opened the dryer, which allowed fresh air to rush in and re-ignite flames curling around the towels inside. Whoosh, whoosh, flames doused.

At this point, he yelled to **Darren***: "I need another fire extinguisher!" Using a pole, he pulled the wad of burning towels out of the dryer and was able to finish off the flames.

"It was all teamwork," Roger said. "Darren got me the second extinguisher, and Morgan kept everybody out of harms' way. I just happened to be the first one who saw the smoke and knew where to find the source."

When the firemen arrived on the scene, they went right to work checking over every inch of the area, including looking for the possibility of noxious substances. "They were very thorough," Roger said—a sentiment that was echoed by Operations Manager **Dennis Martinek**.

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Appreciation. This newsletter is the result of the work of many hands and hearts—volunteers and staff members who never seem to waver in their commitment to Brother Benno's.

John McCaffrey has been so faithful in putting everything together on the computer, sending it out to the printer, connecting with all our email readers, and seeing that it gets posted on our Brother Benno website.

Mike Streicher at Tis Speedy Printing in San Marcos is Mr. Dependable, month after month and year after year. He delivers the finished copies to the mailing house and gets a batch ready for us to give out at the Center.

Dorothy Richardson, who also volunteers at Brother Benno's in other ways, picks up the Center copies from Tis Speedy Printing, along with any other printing jobs that have been ordered by B.B. personnel.

Jan Reinicke at Action Mail in Escondido takes care of having the newsletter delivered in a timely fashion to the approximately 5,000 homes and businesses on our mailing list, and she checks in with me whenever there are any changes to be made.

D. P. takes most of the pictures that appear in the newsletter

Too numerous to mention by name are the many Brother Benno people who send me information, write articles, and generally keep me informed about the daily goings-on throughout the Foundation.

And last, but really first, is **Harold Kutler**, who—ten years ago—entrusted me with this “baby” that he created way back when the Foundation was new. For me, it's a cherished gift.

Greeters. About a dozen volunteers take turns manning the front desk at the Center every morning, Monday through Saturday. Their duties include greeting everyone who walks in the door, guiding them to the right person based on their needs, and answering the phone. One person added, “To smile, and make them feel welcome.” When answering the phone, they are often able to refer the caller to other agencies if Brother Benno's doesn't offer the service they require.

In addition to the run-of-the-mill requests they deal with, three of the volunteers shared special experiences:

Tom Kirk said, “An older lady came in crying. I asked what we could do for her and she said, ‘Right now I need a hug.’ I gave her a hug and she cried until she was finally able to tell me she needed a place to stay. We managed to get her a place, and she was so appreciative. It was heart-warming.”

Barbara Driscoll gets special joy from seeing the smiles on Guests' faces when we are able to help them. “I truly receive much more than I give,” she said. “This is the highlight of my week!”

Marcia Kawahara said one of the best things she's experienced is when she takes a phone call from relatives who are looking for a loved one. “I refer them to **Julie (Petrie)** in the intake office,” she said, “and we find out that Julie knows them and has info about them. These relatives are greatly relieved.”

Options. Every once in a while, we like to remind our supporters of some options regarding newsletter delivery and donations.

Regarding this newsletter: you can receive it as snail mail, get it as an email, or simply read it online. To change from snail mail to email, send an email to brotherbennos@gmail.com and please include your name and mailing address so we're sure we have the right person.

About donations: we will soon have a new donation envelope that will include the opportunity to donate using a credit card. You can continue sending a check if you wish, or you can donate online using PayPal. We also have donors who prefer walking in the door at the Center and giving us cash! Whatever works for you, works for us.

If your donation is being made in memory of someone, or to mark a special day like a birthday or anniversary, please print the information carefully so we can be sure to spell names correctly in the newsletter.

As always, we thank you for your donations and for your help in keeping our records.

BUSINESSES TEAM UP WITH BROTHER BENNO'S

Brother Benno's has been able to pair up with local businesses over the past few years as a way of receiving much-needed donations. Some of these connections have included the opportunity to get the word out about all the services we provide, and even to add to our volunteer staff.

The most recent business to team up with Brother Benno's was Whole Foods in Encinitas. They sponsored a fund-raiser for the month of November, 2014, where shoppers could make a donation to Brother Benno's at the cash register if they wished. A check in the amount of \$1,900 was presented to **Harold Kutler** in February as a result of this collection, and the store donated four pallets of food.



Harold Kutler and Emily Troy

Also in February, the employees were given a presentation about Brother Benno's during a regular store team meeting. They were invited to come to the Center on a Saturday morning for a tour, and—if they wished—to meet and chat with Guests by standing in the food line with them and then eating together. A number of the employees did sign up for this experience.

Frank Doherty, a volunteer who had a part in setting up the events at Whole Foods, had this to say: "This fundraiser enabled Brother Benno's to receive greatly needed donations, while providing an opportunity for Whole Foods employees to experience the poor and (learn) what we do at Brother Benno's—a win-win for all. We hope to duplicate this experience with other supermarkets and companies in the future."

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from The Book . . .

In November 1995, twelve years after its founding, Brother Benno's served its millionth meal. The press was very kind to us, publishing articles and pictures to mark the event. One article in particular captured the essence of Brother Benno's, and **Harold Kutler** used an excerpt of it at the beginning of his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*. The article was written by **John Gaines** for the San Diego Union-Tribune.* Here is the excerpt:

"Brother Benno's was never about 'tough love,' as are some of the service providers for the homeless and needy today. Brother Benno's is about unconditional love. The down-and-out can walk in today, be fed, get a hug, hear the one kind word they might hear all day, and be welcomed back tomorrow.

"Maybe after enough of that, they'll be ready for tough love, and to try to get their affairs in order. But after being beaten down for who knows how long, it takes a little caring to get the homeless ready for tough love. That has been the philosophy at Brother Benno's."

(*Complete article on pages 178-180.)

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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>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Carol Sanford

Well, after a whirlwind start, I think we are moving right along with the smooth transition into the new year and many fun events ahead of us!

Our VP, **Penny Sallee**, dove right into the Annual Membership Drive/Tour event, which was held on Saturday, February 28, at Coco's in Oceanside. We welcome the new members who are joining us as a result of all the efforts of so many to put this event together and publicize it so widely. Our special thanks go to **Isobel Haring**, who donated all the costs of the restaurant refreshments, making it free to all who attended with their prospective members. The Coco's location allowed us to offer complete tours of our facilities nearby, and this was a new and wonderful experience for us. Let us know your thoughts about how it went and if we should do it there again next year.

Our first fundraising event will be the Applebee's Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 28, from 8-10 a.m., at the Oceanside location, 2146 Vista Way. Contact **Vera Bayliss** (760-295-0059) or **Terri Keyes** (760-305-7510) for tickets: \$10 per person. This is a fun event to volunteer to serve at, too, if you haven't tried it. Don't miss the good food and the fun! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join in to eat while helping a good cause.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Wednesday, April 22, and I hope to see you all there. Lots to do in 2015! How do you want to help?

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And our Safety Officer, who's in charge of Cal OSHA requirements, also stepped in to be sure everyone was safe.

Between 9:30 a.m. on Friday, and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Roger removed a portable wall next to the dryer, moved storage shelves and containers, and supervised the removal of the damaged dryer. He cleaned up the residual mess and repainted nearby walls and shelving.

Dennis Martinek went on the Internet and was surprised that a good used dryer sold for more than \$2,000. "I called Ezekiel at GTO appliance, our neighbor on Airport Road, who has helped us in the past," he said. "It was unusual that he had a commercial dryer, but he did. He sold it to us for \$400 and agreed to service it if we had any problems. Sometimes things just work out."

When your reporter was shown the area in question on the following Wednesday, the new dryer was spinning a load of towels; and the work of Brother Benno's was humming along as usual.

(* Names have been changed in order to respect AA anonymity.)

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Information & Online donations:brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:

 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

 [Twitter.com/BrotherBennos](https://twitter.com/BrotherBennos)

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 _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Tyler James Pinnick
Frank Barnet	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Nyswander Family
Brother Benno	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Squirrell Family
Edith Blaiser	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Amy Becker Rudd
Andrea Boersma	Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Sarah McPherson
Roland Bond	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Dorothy Barnell
Bill Boster	Tom Hayward	Dora Ramirez	Gilbert Brown
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Bobby King
Bill Buckner	Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Terri Shapiro
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Ann Sauer	John Wagner
Mary Teresa Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Jack Brown
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Zeferino & Dancy
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Nares
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Lakoff	Milton Silver	Bernie Weiler
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	Rose & Floyd
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Mike Stendahl	Caldwell
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Margaret Stephan	IN HONOR OF
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Jan and Brittany
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty Nares	Mother Teresa	
Fr. Abbot Claude	Mary Nordstrom	Harold Thompson	
Ehringer, OSB	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Rosemary Tucker	
Myron Eichen	Ben Osgrove	Walter Ulloa	
Richard Farhquar	Pope John Paul II	Fred Williamson	

Needs

Gently used furniture
Ground coffee

Diapers (all sizes)
Hotel size hygiene items

Reading glasses

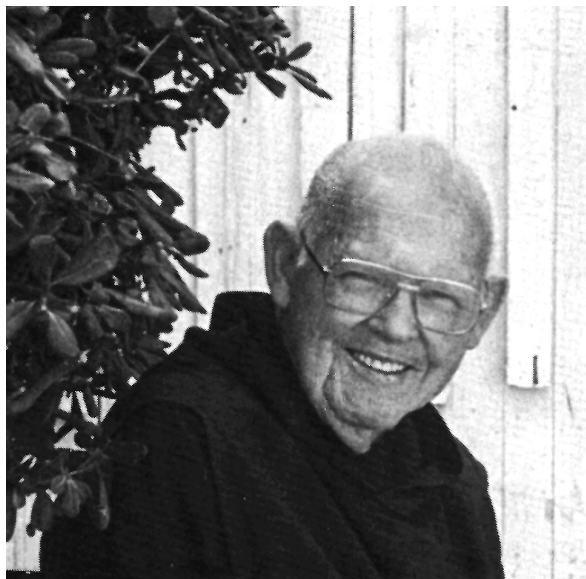
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March	2 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	3 St. John The Evangelist	4 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	5 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	6 San Luis Rey Mission	7 St. Thomas More
2015	9 North Coast Methodist	10 Hawkes Home	11 Stew's Crew	12 Oceanside Civitanis	13 St. Patrick's	14 Men of Nativity
Monthly	16 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	17 Christ the King Lutheran	18 Grace Anglican	19 Carlsbad Rotary	20 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	21 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	23 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	24 St. Mark's San Marcos	25 San Luis Rey Methodist	26 Pilgrim Creek	27 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	28 Catholic Daughters
Team	30 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	31 Welk Resort				
Schedule						

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 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.

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you are viewing this online you can donate by going to brotherbenno.org and click on Donations. This will allow you to make a secure donation using PayPal or a Credit Card.

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, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security, and veterans' issues, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. 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 Services:

	January 2015	Our 31st Year		January 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	13,576	3,687,066	Loads of laundry	28	26,960
Nights of lodging	1,036	258,579	Food packs	2,054	271,493
Articles of clothing	4,957	1,104,193	Blankets	224	38,063
Showers	1,103	201,356	Prescriptions	2	7,253
Haircuts	140	18,183	ID Vouchers	18	8,664
Bus passes	132	78,850	HUGS	2,250	890,194