



Dr. Benno
1984
R.N.

Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2015



BROTHER BENNO'S RECEIVES HIGHEST POSSIBLE RATING!

The Brother Benno Foundation has received a rating of four stars, the highest possible rating among charitable groups in the United States, from Charity Navigator!

Charity Navigator is America's premier independent charity evaluator. They help charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health and accountability and transparency of America's largest charities. Receiving four stars indicates that Brother Benno's adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities, and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

Our overall score is 96.30%. Our financial rating is 94.78%, and our accountability and transparency rating is 100%!

A letter from **John Dugan**, Founder and Chairman of the Board for Charity Navigator, stated: "Approximately a quarter of the charities we evaluate have received our highest rating, indicating that the Brother Benno Foundation outperforms most other charities in America." He also stated: "We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website (charitynavigator.org) than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America."

We at Brother Benno's are honored and proud for this recognition. We thank everyone for all the hard work put forth over the past 32 years to carry out the vision of Harold and Kay Kutler!

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BROTHER BENNO'S GETS NEW REFRIGERATOR TRUCK



After a successful ten-month campaign to raise funds, Brother Benno's recently purchased a new refrigerator truck to transport donations of food from area stores and restaurants. The fundraising efforts started with a \$16,000 grant from the Oceanside Charitable Foundation and a \$10,000 neighborhood development grant from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Many individual donations made up the difference.

Food donations are received from Alberson's, Costco, Vons, Stater Brothers, Trader Joe's, Sprouts, Ralphs, Fresh 'n' Easy, French Bakery, Carlsbad Danish Bakery, Target, Walmart, Starbucks, Chipotle, Pizza Hut, KFC, Red Lobster, and North County Vending. It is estimated that picking up these donations saves us more than \$100,000 every year in food purchases.

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The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.

~ Oscar Wilde

WOMAN WHO LOST EVERYTHING NOW ENJOYS “NORMAL LIFE”

by Barbara Ladwig

(Last month we featured “Kris,” who lived the first 40 years of her life in the darkness of drugs, poverty, and violence. This month you’ll read about “Claire,” whose life was “stable and ordinary” until she was 41, when she began using hard drugs. Both women credit Brother Benno’s with their new-found lives of sobriety and peace.)

At age 48, “Claire” looks back on her growing-up years as being stable, with two caring parents, a nice home, good schools, and no real problems. She admits trying marijuana and alcohol when she was 14—something “everyone” was doing. She didn’t like alcohol and still doesn’t, but marijuana became a regular part of her life, even into adulthood.

She knows now that using marijuana wasn’t a good thing, but she says it never interfered with her ability to do what needed to be done. She had a steady job for 19 years, always paid her bills, married, became a stay-at-home mom and took good care of her son.

On the outside, Claire said, they were a normal, happy family, but the marriage eventually ended in divorce. She married again; they had a daughter, bought a home, and she was able to take care of all the needs of her family. But this time the marriage floundered because her husband was an abusive alcoholic, and they split up.

Feeling stressed with having to take care of the children, make house and car payments on her own, and do everything else connected with being a single mom, Claire started hanging out with a couple who were heavy into smoking meth; and she decided to try it herself.

That was seven years ago, and her life quickly spiraled down in every way. She could no longer hold down a job, so she sold meth in order to make house payments and buy food. The police got wind of her drug selling, raided her house, and put her in jail. CPS took her daughter away from her, she lost her home, her car, and all her possessions—everything—including furniture, clothing, and mementos.

When her jail sentence was completed,

providence stepped in, but Claire didn’t know it. What she did know was that she was being offered the opportunity to participate in Drug Court, a very strict 18-month program that promised she wouldn’t have to do prison time if she adhered to the court requirements, which included attending court meetings five days a week, having random drug tests (usually four or five a week at first), and appearing in court once a week to have her case reviewed. Failing any of these requirements would put her back in jail; and if she were to qualify for Drug Court again, she’d have to start over at the beginning.

Being part of Drug Court, Claire had to live in a sober-living residence*, and the one she was assigned to was a Brother Benno House. She was picked up at the jail by one of our Program leaders. Her entire worldly possessions were a pair of flip-flops and the clothes she was wearing.

Claire graduated from Drug Court in February, 2015. She says it was the 18 months of knowing she had a place to live, being surrounded by like-minded people who were working toward important goals, and having mentors close at hand at all times that has made it possible for her to turn her life around. “The only people I associate with now are people in recovery,” she said. “You can’t be around users; they suck the life out of you. I know, because that’s what I did to others when I was using.”

Claire has had a regular job for a year and a half. She moved out of the Brother Benno House when she graduated from Drug Court and now rents a studio, where for the past several months her daughter has been able to be with her every other weekend. “I have my daughter back in my life. That was one of my main goals,” she said. She sees her son often, too. “A lot of what I do is for my kids. They need me, and now they know they can trust me, depend on me. When I say I’m going to do something, I do it. We get together at my place to watch movies, and sometimes we go hiking. I’m really enjoying having a normal life.”

She attends AA meetings regularly, even

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BROTHER BENNO'S RECEIVES GRANT FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

Genentech Foundation has awarded The Brother Benno Foundation \$75,000 to help in our work with homeless individuals and low-income families in North San Diego County. The funds will be used to provide food, clothing, emergency prescription assistance, tarps, blankets, and bus transportation to medical appointments.

Genentech is a biotechnology company headquartered in South San Francisco, with a manufacturing facility in Oceanside, California. A spokesperson at Genentech stated: "We are compelled to give back and make meaningful contributions to society. We believe that philanthropy fuels change, mentoring makes a difference, and many sets of hands are better than one. Through ongoing, incremental acts of kindness, we can achieve great outcomes for our communities and our patients."

The grant will help provide funds that will be used to serve more than 200 Guests a free hot breakfast six days a week at our Center. Guests are also provided showers, haircuts, clothing, mail service, and food boxes.

According to The Brother Benno Foundation Board President **Dennis Martinek**, that fact that over 200 volunteers give their time every month to carry out a wide variety of jobs was a significant factor in gaining the grant. The grant will be used to carry out the Foundation's motto of "**Uplifting the dignity of those we serve**" by providing necessities to those in need. "We are very appreciative of Genentech's generous support," he added.

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though her addiction was to a narcotic, because the Program leaders at Brother Benno's invited her to join them and the other residents at the Houses. "I like AA meetings," she said, "and I like being part of that community."

Claire has been honest with her children. They know about her drug life, and what that involved. But they also know about Brother Benno's, and how much she was—and still is—helped by so many people. She has brought both her son and daughter to the Center, where they've volunteered together. "They need to know about service to oth-

ers," Claire said, "and we love coming here."

**(Brother Benno's sober-living Houses are now called Program Houses. Like our Men's Program, the women now follow the AA model of the 12 Steps.)*

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"UPLIFTING THE DIGNITY OF THOSE WE SERVE"

Harold and Kay Kutler held **Mother Teresa** in high esteem, and they saw her as the example they wanted to follow in serving the poor in North San Diego County.

When Mother Teresa died in September of 1997, among those who mourned her passing were world leaders who were quick to express their praise of this unique woman.

Bill Clinton: "Hers was a ministry of action, passion, and compassion. She led by serving and showed us the stunning power of simple humility. Her unconquerable faith touched the lives a millions of people in India, here in the United States, and all around the world."

Javier Perez de Cuellar, former U.N. Secretary-General: "She is the United Nations. She is peace in the world."

Pope John Paul II: "Mother Teresa marked the history of our century with courage. She served all human beings by promoting their dignity and respect, and made those who had been defeated by life feel the tenderness of God."

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

Wednesday, July 15, is our **Outback Restaurant fundraiser!** Does everyone have their reservations? \$20 per person, \$10 for children under ten. No better way to combine two of life's pleasures: eating, and donating for a good cause. For last-minute reservations, you can call **Joan O'Connell** (760-730-9125) and arrange to pay at the door. Outback is on Vista Way in Oceanside, near Walmart. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:45. We hope you will join us to honor our Military guests, as well as provide funds for our Children's Christmas Party at the Center.

What could be more fun than an **afternoon Bunco Party** to help the summer move along? This is a new event for the Auxiliary, to be held at the Oceanside Women's Club on Wednesday, August 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. We're planning great finger foods/snacks and funny prizes. Flyers will be ready for distribution at our Outback event, but **SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

Another new event will be a **theatre event: "Barefoot in the Park"** scheduled for Friday evening, September 18. So, if local theatre is your cup of tea, you'll want to join us for that. This will be a joint fundraising venture with the San Luis Rey Rotary and Civitan, and we'll have the entire theatre to ourselves! We'll be serving delightful snacks and beverages, followed by a great show to support our individual organizations, as well as the arts in Oceanside, so **SAVE THIS DATE TOO!**

More information will be forthcoming on these last two events, as well as more details on the **Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show**, to be

held on Saturday, November 7, once again at the Sheraton Carlsbad.

Last month, the Auxiliary donated 14 self-adhesive bulletin boards to be affixed to the walls above the beds in the two Women's Recovery Houses, so they can have their own space to hold memorabilia meaningful to them. We hear the women appreciate our efforts to support them while they are in residence.

We are a busy and hard-working group and would love to have you readers join us as our guests at the next Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, July 22 (the fourth Wednesday) at 1 p.m. You just might want to become one of us, helping to continue the work of Brother Benno and our honored founders, Harold (and Kay) Kutler to give dignity to those in need.



Carol Sanford, Elana Bagley & Jan Roberts

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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	Freddie Turk
Frank Barnet	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Gilbert Brown
Brother Benno	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Tina Finn Cuppet
Edith Blaiser	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Alan Port
Andrea Boersma	Mary Gerrity	Mary Pullman	Squirrell Family
Roland Bond	Bob Gleason	Catherine L. Quinlan	Nysewander Family
Bill Boster	Tom Hayward	Dora Ramirez	John Kolostyak
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Elizabeth Holms	Dick & Terry Riley	Sarah McPherson
Bill Buckner	Alice Jordan	Margaret Rossini	Matthew Lloyd
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Ann Sauer	Zeferino & Dancy
Mary Teresa Carr	Richard Kurtz	Mary Shankle	Nares
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Naomi Shelton	Gary (Luke) Turk
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Kay Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	John Owens
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Milton Silver	Bill & Billy Pry
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Mike Stendahl	IN HONOR OF
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Margaret Stephan	Kathleen Curtius
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Sr. Constance Marie,
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Monty Nares	Mother Teresa	CSJ
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
Men's jeans, belts & underwear

Diapers
Bottled water

Motel-size hygiene items

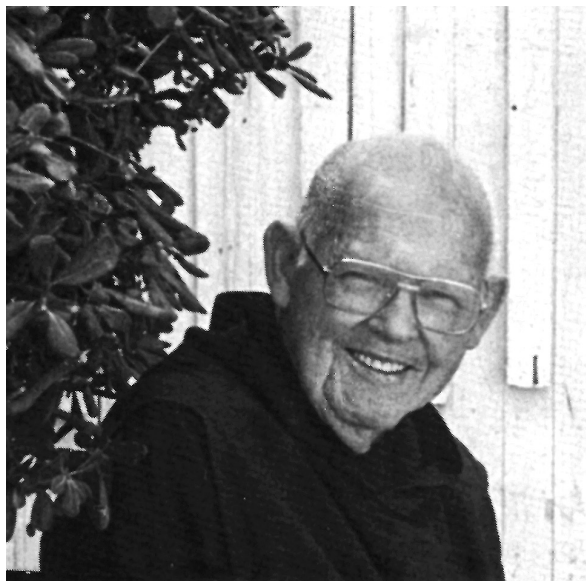
July 2015 Monthly Serving Team Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	2 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	3 San Luis Rey Mission	4 St. Thomas More
	6 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	7 St. John The Evangelist	8 Sisters in Sobriety	9 Oceanside Civitanis	10 St. Patrick's	11 Oak Hills
	13 North Coast Methodist	14 Hawkes Home	15 Grace Anglican	16 Carlsbad Rotary	17 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	18 Girlfriend's Care
	20 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	21 Christ the King Lutheran	22 San Luis Rey Methodist	23 Pilgrim Creek	24 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	25 Catholic Daughters
	27 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	28 St. Mark's San Marcos	29 Soroptimist International	30 MLG 1st Class Petty Officers Assn	31 King of Kings Lutheran	

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Tues. - 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

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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:

	May 2015	Our 31st Year		May 2015	Our 31st Year
Meals	12,758	3,739,459	Loads of laundry	22	27,056
Nights of lodging	979	262,655	Food packs	2,258	279,231
Articles of clothing	4,704	1,123,105	Blankets	111	38,593
Showers	1,003	205,488	Prescriptions	5	7,264
Haircuts	118	18,664	ID Vouchers	12	8,717
Bus passes	115	79,278	HUGS	2,250	897,844