



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Volunteers Making a Difference

May 2017



NEW VOLUNTEERS BRING JOY, COLOR, AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Word-of-mouth, the Internet, and being a donor are common ways many volunteers are introduced to Brother Benno's. **Laura Vaillancourt** came because a friend asked her to join her, **Cathy Eland** found us on the Internet, and **Teresa Keith** donated items to the Thrift Shop.

Laura and Cathy are the receptionists on Friday mornings, and they both said they were looking for a way "to get out of the house for a few hours."

"I love working here," Cathy said. "I feel like I contribute—I'm helping people." She said she has never been very comfortable in large groups, even though she had to overcome that when her husband was in the military. So when she decided to volunteer, she came with some trepidation; but that immediately disappeared when she walked in the door and was greeted by so many friendly people. Now she can't imagine not coming in every week.

Laura wanted to volunteer after she retired from her business. She tried another non-profit first, then came to Brother Benno's. "I fell in love with the people here," she said. "They're wonderful, generous, kind, sweet, and fun!" She added that most of the Guests are struggling, yet they are grateful and kind. That prompts a sense of gratitude in her, and she realizes that she doesn't have to take her own life too seriously.

Cathy and Laura create an oasis of joy in their little corner of the Center. Laughter seems to be the order of the day as they interact with

other volunteers and Guests. For example, when they learned that **Denise Seymour**, our Volunteer Coordinator, had suggested them as a good source of a newsletter story, their first reaction was: "We quit!" Denise didn't look worried. "They joke around all the time," she said.

Teresa brings a lot of energy into her work at the Center. She was looking for something worthwhile to do after she retired from her job at Ralph's, where she started as a bagger and worked her way up to cashier, bookkeeper, and employee trainer. At Brother Benno's, she works two days a week in the Center Clothing Room, decorates the Dining Room walls, and is a member of the Auxiliary

She said she enjoys helping Guests pick out clothing, and her bookkeeping background comes in handy with the detailed record-keeping involved. She recently went through the box of Guest cards, refiling the ones that had slipped out of alphabetical order. "Guests sometimes have to be reminded that they've already used up their allotment for the month," she said with a grin.

Her decorating skills involve paper crafting, something she learned after she retired. She fills the Dining Room with brightly colored items and banners that match the season or celebrate some special event such as our Four Millionth Meal. Easter items just came down, and summer is on the way!

"I love working with the women in the
continued on page 3....

EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Knowing Someone Cares. We have an update on “**Maria**,” whom we featured in our March newsletter. She’s the mother of three children ages six, five, and two, who was evicted from her apartment and prevented from taking away any of their possessions. We gave her clothing for the children and a once-a-month food box. She is living temporarily in a friend’s converted garage and is waiting to receive a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher from the County. When she came to the Center in April to pick up another food box, she stopped in **Mary Holguin’s** office to thank her again for all the help Brother Benno’s has given her. Mary said she was visibly free of stress, compared with the first time they met. Often a little help goes a long way, and just knowing someone cares is priceless.

Many Willing Hands. Putting out this newsletter is a collaborative effort, and I’d like to especially thank **John McCaffrey**, **Mary Spitz**, and **Dorothy Richardson** for their contributions every month. John works the magic of making everything fit on a page. He crops pictures and can decrease or increase the spaces between lines to a minuscule degree, often making it possible to keep an article all on one page. And he’s so patient about doing it!

Mary keeps our mailing list up to date, adding, deleting, or changing information as it becomes available. This information usually comes from donation checks, which means she has to carefully scour a huge pile of paper every week. Then about once a month, she sends her updated list to our mailing company so that our readers continue to receive their copy. (Our mailing list currently includes 5,445 names!)

Dorothy picks up a box of newsletters from the printer so that we have copies to hand out to anyone who comes to the Center and isn’t yet on our mailing list. She also helps address thank-you cards every Wednesday and keeps our scrapbooks up to date.

Two businesses also deserve our thanks: **Mike Streicher** at **Tis Speedy Printing** in San Marcos, and all the staff at **Action Mail** in Escondido. They provide us with fast and accurate service, and we appreciate our long history with both of them.

Thank You, Thank You! Two vans were donated recently. One, from **San Diego Gutter**, was fixed up and given to a family to sleep in. The other, from a private donor, is being used as a shuttle to transport items between the Thrift Shop and the Center.

Bargains. A local motel donated 20 used small refrigerators to the Thrift Shop. There are still a few left, so hurry down there if you’re interested. (Thrift Shop info on back page.)

Works of Art. **John** and **Ron**, our two famous builders-repairers-fixers, have done it again. They built and installed a new cabinet with three shiny sinks in the Dining Room so Guests can wash their hands before they get in the food serving line. What always strikes me about their projects is that they aren’t just utilitarian, they’re works of art. This cabinet has to be seen to be appreciated. Built of wood, it has artistic details that immediately catch your eye. Even though our Guests may not consciously think about it, I believe they are touched in some way by the beauty our volunteers create in the Center.

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Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-439-1244, ext. 116 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

FINDING MEANING AT BROTHER BENNO'S

by Frank Doherty

We at Brother Benno's have a unique opportunity to live out lives of mercy and compassion. I don't think there has ever been a time when the need for love and compassion has been greater.

Our numbers of chronically homeless, unemployed, and disfranchised people continues to grow. Our staff and volunteers have the blessed opportunity to provide unconditional love and compassion each day, and our donors provide us the financial means to carry out our work.

Most of the people we encounter each day are in need in some way. The materially poor need food, clothing, showers, and housing. And almost everyone needs a smile, a kind word, a prayer, and an outward sign of our love and appreciation.

One of the greatest gifts we have to give is our presence, the giving of ourselves. Joy comes to those who in a sense forget themselves and become focused on the needs of others. A hug and a smile can free our poor and disfranchised from their prison of loneliness, and sometimes an encouraging word can help remove their blindness to their own goodness.

So often when our volunteers return a smile and provide a service, it is they who receive the most. In so doing, they realize that they can make a difference in the lives of others. They find a new sense of meaning and joy, whether it be at the Center, our Thrift Shop, or while working on the many projects undertaken by our Auxiliary. Volunteers who experience the most joy are those who have sought and learned how to serve.

Many of the men and women who have successfully beaten their alcohol and/or drug addictions in our Recovery Programs attribute their success to AA, and also to the love they experienced during their time at Brother Benno's.

The staff, volunteers, Auxiliary members, and donors are a family. They are all vital to our success. Brother Benno's could not exist without them.

Serving at Brother Benno's provides us with a way to live out a life of mercy and compassion, making a real difference in our world and in our own

lives as well.

(This article is reprinted from our July 2016 newsletter.)

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Recovery Program," she said. She encourages them to share their ideas with her, and they help her hang the creations on the walls. "This gives the room a happy feeling," she said. "I also want to support the Program members, show them they can feel positive without the booze."

No matter what brings new volunteers into the Brother Benno Family, we're fortunate to have them!

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Fourth Thursday Serving Team Pilgrim Creek



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 Karen Gallagher & Nita Rodriguez

May is a busy month for the Auxiliary. Not only do we have the usual monthly service activities, but we are also involved in two special events for the Brother Benno Center: Mother's Day Gift bags for our Guests, and helping with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

Our members are putting together the gift bags to be distributed at the regular brunch on the Saturday before Mother's Day. We are preparing 50 bags, filled with items such as socks, granola bars, hard candies, hand lotion, and a journal and pen. A special thank you to **Claire Carter** for coordinating all aspects of this event, and to our members who donated items and helped assemble and distribute these much appreciated gifts.

Auxiliary members will participate in the NALC drive on May 13 at the La Costa Post Office in Carlsbad to help load the food items that postal carriers have picked up from residents' doorsteps into Brother Benno trucks. We will be aided by Brother Benno Recovery Program men and also by military personnel from Camp Pendleton.

This is definitely a "more-the-merrier" activity, so if you'd like to join us, call our Auxiliary Coordinator Janetha Bailey-Long (760-630-1093).

We are happy to announce that our March Applebee's Fundraiser was a big success. Thank you to all who supported this event by purchasing

breakfast tickets, leaving generous tips, or sending a donation. We couldn't have done this without your support, the leadership of **Judy Harris**, this year's Chairperson, and her team of servers and hostesses.

Looking ahead, planning is already underway for our "Christmas in July" fundraiser at the Outback, and our Annual Luncheon in December. Watch this space for more information in the coming months!

As always, you're invited to join us at our next Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, May 24, in the Center Dining Room. Social time and snacks start at 1 p.m., followed by the meeting at 1:30. Why don't you check us out? We welcome all to join us and give input. Can't attend a meeting but want to become a member? Download our membership application here: <http://bit.ly/2oGk-aB9> (Copy and paste, or just type the link in your computer browser and it will take you directly to the member application.)

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"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 **[Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.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	Louise Foussat	Alan Port	Alma Hillyer
Dixie & Lou Bales	Joe & Ida Friend	Mary Pullman	Helen, John, Matt
Frank Barnet	Mary Gerrity	Catherine L. Quinlan	Hagar
Brother Benno	Bob Gleason	Dora Ramirez	Ed Lloyd
Edith Blaiser	Tom Hayward	Dick & Terry Riley	Waymon Roberts
Andrea Boersma	Elizabeth Holms	Margaret Rossini	Mary Kennedy
Roland Bond	Alice Jordan	Ann Sauer	Andrew & Jane
Bill Boster	Ben Kouns	Mary Shankle	Yandura
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Richard Kurtz	Naomi Shelton	Michael Sifferlen
Bill Buckner	Carole Kutler	Bernice, Samuel &	Edward Smith
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Kay Kutler	Milton Silver	Family
Mary Teresa Carr	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Will Skinner	Robert Buchach
Anna Correia	Ben E. Lewis	Ann Grier Smith	Harold Pirlot
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Helen Lucas	Mike Stendahl	Russell Family
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Joan Maloney	Margaret Stephan	Lee McDowell
Frank S. Dolley	Helene McGill	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Elizabeth Baumgarten
Anita H. Donahue	Michael & Monty	Mother Teresa	Bill Heath
Dorothy M. Donahue	Nares	Harold Thompson	Molly & Johnny
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Mary Nordstrom	Rosemary Tucker	Samuelson
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Walter Ulloa	Bob Strawbridge
Fr. Abbot Claude	Ben Osgrove	June Williams	Joseph Shubert
Ehringer, OSB	Pope John Paul II	Fred Williamson	Floyd Atkinson
Myron Eichen	Kathryn D. Pent	Zeferino & Dancy	Rosemary Watson
Richard Farhquar	Mary Peterson	Nares	
William & Vennita	Jane Pfau	Nysewander Family	
Flanagan	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Squirrel Family	

Needs

Gently used furniture Adult and Baby Diapers Ladies socks
 Women's underwear sizes 4 - 5 - 6 Comfy walking shoes for women and men
 Men's & Women's Razors Gift cards for Walmart and Target

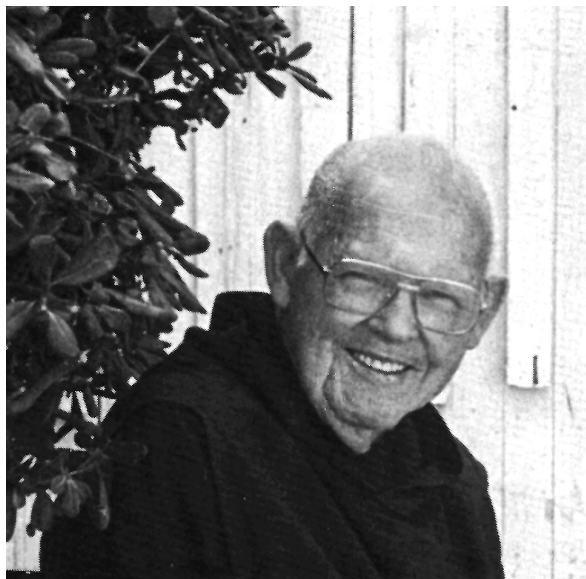
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY	1 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	2 St. John The Evangelist	3 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	4 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	5 San Luis Rey Mission	6 St. Thomas More
2017	8 North Coast Methodist	9 Riverview Church	10 1st MLG FCPOA	11 Oceanside Civitanis	12 St. Patrick's	13 Female Athletic Volunteers
Monthly	15 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	16 Christ the King Lutheran	17 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	18 Rotary Club of Carlsbad	19 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	20 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	22 Christ Church	23 St. Mark's San Marcos	24 San Luis Rey Methodist	25 Pilgrim Creek	26 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	27 Catholic Daughters
Team	29 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	30 Welk Resort	31 Soroptimist International			
Schedule						

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-529-5481 ext. 200 **Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to 1 pm**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.102 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 Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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:

	March 2017	Our 33rd Year		March 2017	Our 33rd Year
Meals	13,875	4,032,131	Loads of laundry	36	27,629
Nights of lodging	883	284,085	Food packs	1,385	314,704
Articles of clothing	5,987	1,246,972	Blankets	184	42,094
Showers	1,273	231,183	Tarps	75	2,158
Haircuts	87	21,489	ID Vouchers	16	8,953
Bus passes	116	81,944	HUGS	1,800	940,594