



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

July 2017



## PROGRAM GRADUATE FOUND WHAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN LACKING

“It was a God thing,” **Ben** said. “That’s all I can say.”

What Ben was referring to was the story about how he ended up at Brother Benno’s, and how a “chance encounter” at the age of 37 led to the fulfilling life he is now living.

His growing-up years were pretty typical of the men and women we see in the Brother Benno Recovery Program—parents divorced, mother working a lot, kids left on their own, an abusive step-father, and his unwitting drift into the drug scene.

Although Ben was able to string together months of sobriety, it never lasted, because he was trying to do it on his own. He left his home state, thinking a complete change of scenery might be the answer. But of course it wasn’t. After wandering around California for a year, panhandling for money and traveling by bus, he ended up in San Diego.

On a Sunday morning in late 2015, he decided to see a movie; but when he got to the theater, he discovered there was a church service going on (the congregation rented the theater before movies began). Oh well, he thought, might as well go to that first. After the service, he felt moved to talk to the pastor, who saw Ben’s desperation and urged him to go to Brother Benno’s in Oceanside for help.

“I slept on the sidewalk outside your door that Sunday night,” Ben said, “so I’d be here when the doors opened Monday morning.” He had an interview with a staff member and was told he could hang around for a few days and do some volunteer work—cleaning up around the property, cleaning the restrooms. And he continued to sleep outdoors.

“I guess they wanted me to prove myself, to see if I was serious about getting help,” he said. He was accepted into the Recovery Program; and for the first time in his life, he felt he had the guidance and encouragement that had always been lacking in his life.

“If you’re ready to change your life, this Program will teach you how to be sober, how to be grateful. There’s always somebody there to guide you,” he said. Because it’s based on the 12 Steps of AA, he has a sponsor, he goes to meetings, and he continues to work the Steps.

On the day he graduated from the Program in June 2016, he got word that he got the job he’d applied for. It didn’t take long for him to get raises and even a special commendation, which he proudly shows to the men who are currently in the Program. “I’m not bragging,” he said, “I just want them to see what’s possible.”

After graduating, he lived in one of our transitional houses for five months, then in a sober-living house for another four. Now he’s in his own apartment and is making car payments (he said with a grin).

Ben admits that he had very little contact with his mother and brother and sister for about 25 years. He did keep in touch with his father, mostly when he needed money. Now all that has changed. He calls his mother at least once a month. And when he spent several days with his father recently, he got the best possible gift from him: “My dad told me, ‘If I were young, you would be someone I wanted to hang out with; I’d want you for a friend.’”

## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Health Service.** The San Diego County Health Center came to Brother Benno's early in June and again at the end of the month to vaccinate our homeless Guests for Hepatitis A. They set up a table on the sidewalk in front of the Center, where men and women could voluntarily receive the shot. On the first day, 52 Guests were vaccinated, and the second day was scheduled with the hope of reaching those not available the first time. In six months, they'll come again to give the recommended second shot.

**Wheelchairs.** If you look at the list of Needs on page 5, you'll see wheelchairs this month. It's surprising how many of our Guests are in need of one, either for a temporary problem or on a permanent basis. I sometimes see them wheeling down the street after our morning meal, and I've been told by a few of them that they come to the Center on the bus. Others are being pushed by family members or friends who have their own transportation. In any case, a wheelchair can make the difference between getting no help or being able to show up at Brother Benno's!

**It Doesn't Take Much.** Volunteer **Frank Doherty** shared a touching story recently. He said a homeless man came up to him with some much-knotted shoe laces in his hand. Every time they broke, he tied them together one more time. Frank told him to hold on; he'd find him some new shoelaces. He went into our Clothing Room, "borrowed" the laces from a donated pair of shoes, and gave them to the man. "You'd have thought I gave him a million dollars," Frank said. As we like to say, it's the little things . . .

**July Alert!** If you look forward every year to the Auxiliary's "Christmas in July" lunch at the Outback Restaurant, you'd better check the Auxiliary News on page 4. And if you've never celebrated "Christmas in July," you might want to check it, too. They have such an easy way to help Brother Benno's needy kids at Christmas time. You can do it from the comfort of your own home!

### Patience and Dedication.



These eager shoppers are waiting in line outside the Brother Benno Thrift Shop on the last Saturday of the month, when all goods are at half-price. "The line started at 8 o'clock," **Helen Parsons** reported. (The Shop opens at 10!). She added that staff members, volunteers, and students working non-stop made the entire day upbeat and fun. The motto of the Shop is: "Helping the Poor, One Sale at a Time." (Please see the back page for Shop info.)

**Priceless Gems.** Chatting with Program graduates always reminds me why I love volunteering at Brother Benno's. One Saturday I heard these gems:

"I strive to be like our Founders, Harold and Kay (Kutler), giving love and service."

"I messed up (the Program) the first time 20 years ago, came back and they welcomed me. And John Jarvie (our volunteer craftsman) taught me a trade that I still use today."

"Kay hugged me, and that was it. I was hooked."

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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](mailto:smartinek@miracosta.edu)

### FOR BROTHER BENNO'S, IT'S JUST NORMAL CONCERN

He called himself "Odz," a nickname that seemed to fit his flamboyant personality. He was a regular at Brother Benno's, coming for breakfast every morning, then hanging out with other homeless Guests. After not seeing him for a couple weeks, staff members and volunteers were shocked and saddened when they learned he was in the hospital, dying from lung cancer.

One of our volunteers, **Brother Kevin Dismas Moshier, FSP**, said, "In spite of his circumstances, Odz was a joyful soul, and he had a way of lifting people up. Sometimes I'd see him running along the road, wrapped in a blanket, looking happy."

**Carol Muehe**, who runs our Clothing Room, told a story about a donated pair of cowboy boots that Odz just had to have. "I reminded him that he'd just been given a pair of shoes recently, so he couldn't have another pair so soon," she said. Odz then pleaded his case to Staff member **Dennis Pinnick**, who relayed the request to Carol. Carol said that weakened her resolve. "OK, Odz, the boots are yours," she told him.

Dennis observed Odz's concern for other people one day when a taxi drove up to Brother Benno's and a homeless man in bad shape got out. The Center had already closed, so Odz told Dennis, "No problem. I'll take care of him." He took the man to his sleeping place, gave him some food, and brought him back to the Center the next morning, where he received further help. "It's just the way Odz was," Dennis said, "always concerned for others."

Odz knew that a nephew and his wife lived nearby, but he kept his own whereabouts a secret from them until he was in the hospital near death. Then he asked hospital personnel to call them, and through the niece, to contact Brother Benno's.

"As soon as we heard, another staff member and I went to see him," Dennis said. "And shortly after, Brother Kevin arrived."

"I prayed with him," Brother Kevin said, "and in less than an hour he looked at me, smiled, and died." Brother also conducted a memorial service at St. Francis Catholic Church in Vista, where a group from Brother Benno's was in attendance.

Odz's niece expressed gratitude for the obvious concern shown by those from Brother Benno's. But for them, it's just a normal part of the care they provide every day for those who have nowhere else to turn.

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### Third Wednesday Serving Team Brother Benno's Auxiliary Team 2



**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

There's been a change of plans for our "Christmas in July" fundraiser—we are going lunch-less! Because the Outback Restaurant is now open for lunch, they can no longer host us; but with your help, we can still support the Center's Children's Christmas Party. We're holding a Gift Card Drive in its place.

**During the month of July, we will be collecting \$25 gift cards for Target, ToysRUs, and Walmart. We've found this is the best way to help put a world of fun at the fingertips of children in need. Our goal is to collect 200 gift cards this year. If you can help us, please send your gift cards, or a check (made out to: Brother Benno Auxiliary) with which we can buy the cards to:**

**Brother Benno's Auxiliary  
Christmas in July  
P.O. Box 334  
San Luis Rey, CA 92068**

We've been blessed by the support of **Janice Koehler** and the Outback staff for holding this fundraiser in past years; and though this year will be different, we know we can count on your continued support.

The Auxiliary continues our service to Brother Benno's with a monthly serving team. This year so many members have been interested in serving that in April, **Penny Sallee** helped form a second team. Our teams include **Lillian Adams, Janetha Bailey-Long, Eileen Ciganko, Dotti Croghan, Caroline Glover, Juanita Hughes,**

**Edith Jones, Malcolm Jones, Jim Long, Rosie McDaniel, Dorine Meade, Doris Nyman, Al Nyman, Carol Sanford, Vicki Squires, Kumiko Sycks and Mary Milew.**

Auxiliary members first started a serving team in 2010. **Judy Harris** was the first coordinator, and a few of her volunteers still help out now and then. **Thelma Hendrix** took over in 2013. Servers have to be at the Center by 6:15 a.m., and these early birds love it! Ask any one of them, and they'll tell you about the pleasure and joy in interacting with our Guests and serving them nourishing food.

You're invited to join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, July 28, 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 at: <http://bit.ly/2oGkaB9>

**Our Annual Luncheon Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, December 2, at the Carlsbad Sheraton. Watch this space for more announcements and ticket information.**

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**Information & Online donations:**[brotherbenno.org](http://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	Richard Farhquar	Pope John Paul II	Walter Ulloa
Dixie & Lou Bales	William & Vennita	Kathryn D. Pent	June Williams
Frank Barnet	Flanagan	Mary Peterson	Fred Williamson
Brother Benno	Louise Foussat	Jane Pfau	Zeferino & Dancy
Edith Blaiser	Joe & Ida Friend	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Nares
Andrea Boersma	Mary Gerrity	Alan Port	Nysewander Family
Roland Bond	Bob Gleason	Mary Pullman	Squirrell Family
Bill Boster	Tom Hayward	Catherine L. Quinlan	Frances Cheek
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Elizabeth Holms	Dora Ramirez	Gilbert Brown
Bill Buckner	Alice Jordan	Dick & Terry Riley	Deanna Elderts
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Ben Kouns	Margaret Rossini	Bob Strawbridge
Mary Teresa Carr	Richard Kurtz	Ann Sauer	Lee Heuston
Anna Correia	Carole Kutler	Mary Shankle	Robert Buchach
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Kay Kutler	Naomi Shelton	James Johnson
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver	Mike Sefferlen
Frank S. Dolley	Ben E. Lewis	Will Skinner	Gabriel Weiss
Anita H. Donahue	Helen Lucas	Ann Grier Smith	Anna Gates
Dorothy M. Donahue	Bill & Joan Maloney	Mike Stendahl	Joyce Resh
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Helene McGill	Margaret Stephan	Robert DiCario
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Michael & Monty Nares	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Jane Cheadle
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB	Mary Nordstrom	Mother Teresa	
Myron Eichen	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Harold Thompson	
	Ben Osgrove	Rosemary Tucker	

### Needs

Gently Used Furniture                      Adult and Baby Diapers                      Men's Belts, especially large  
 WHEELCHAIRS                                  Gift Cards for Walmart and Target  
 Comfy Walking Shoes for Men and Women

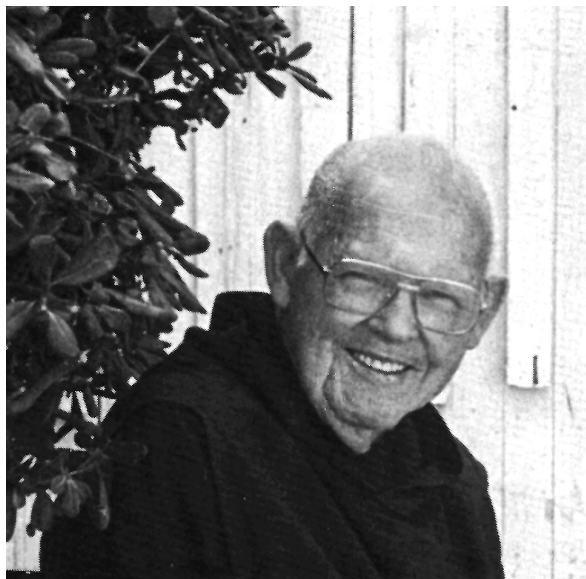
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July</b>						<b>1</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2017</b>	<b>3</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>4</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>5</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>6</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>7</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>8</b> Eileen's Nursing Students
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>10</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>11</b> Riverview Church	<b>12</b> 1st MLG FCPOA	<b>13</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>14</b> St. Patrick's	<b>15</b> Girlfriend's Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>17</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>18</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>19</b> Brother Benno's Auxiliary	<b>20</b> Rotary Club of Carlsbad	<b>21</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>22</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>24</b> Christ Church <b>31</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>25</b> St. Mark's San Marcos	<b>26</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>27</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>28</b> Sonrise Christian Fellowship	<b>29</b> Shiloh Church of God In Christ

### 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**

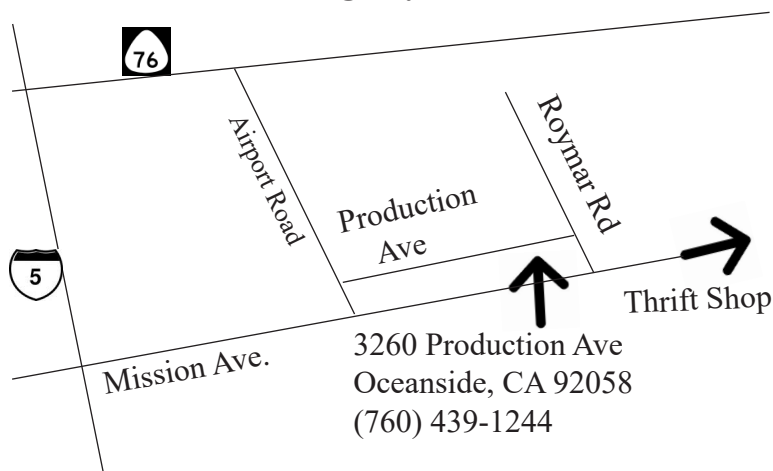
**Shop open Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!**

**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](http://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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	May 2017	Our 33rd Year		May 2017	Our 33rd Year
Meals	13,305	4,058,096	Loads of laundry	25	27,680
Nights of lodging	884	285,844	Food packs	1,294	317,271
Articles of clothing	6,260	1,258,771	Blankets	227	42,456
Showers	1,206	233,473	Tarps	93	2,312
Haircuts	97	21,642	ID Vouchers	9	8,973
Bus passes	94	82,156	HUGS	1,800	944,644