



**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

*A Volunteer Christian Ministry*

April 2008

**Our Mission**

*To Bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.*

*We deliver furniture, household items and food free of charge to those who seek assistance.  
There are no prerequisites for service.*

*“We’re just the delivery people, this is the person who sent you the furniture.”*

**Nothing Lost in Translation**

*By Kathy and Marty McCarthy, Braintree*



On a snowy morning in **Brockton**, we joined **Ryan Thorley** (*My Brother's Keeper* staff), **Bob Hughes** (**South Easton**), and **Bob Souza** (**Brockton**) in a delivery we'll never forget.

**Pierre** was awaiting our arrival on the front porch of his building. After we introduced ourselves, **Pierre** brought us into his small second-floor apartment. He explained to us he had four children under the age of twelve years old. He had moved from **Haiti** ten years ago with his family to try to receive better medical care for his wife **Marie**. **Marie** sadly passed away in 2002 from cancer. **Pierre** was doing everything he could to provide for his children, and he was thrilled we were there to help.

We brought four twin beds for the children and **Pierre** jumped right in to give us a hand. We brought in a bed for him too, and we were soon running out of space in the small two-bedroom apartment. **Pierre** was thrilled to finally have a kitchen table that his whole family could sit at. He quickly assembled the legs and put the leaves in the table so that there would be space for everyone.

**Pierre** was beaming with excitement as he opened the bags of linens and the boxes of dishes and pots and pans. He was

surprised and overjoyed to see that our volunteers had packed a beautiful table cloth, and quickly spread it across his new table. **Pierre** did not speak much English but he said “*thank you*” to each of us as he shook our hands at the end of the delivery.

It was then that we presented **Pierre** with the crucifix and told him this was who sent him the furniture. He kissed the crucifix and clutched it to his chest saying, “*thank you God!*” He then asked if we would join him in saying a prayer of thanksgiving. We gladly obliged and joined hands.

**Pierre** began to sing a beautiful hymn in French, his native language. The hymn was followed by a very passionate prayer, again spoken in French. **Ryan** translated the prayer as best he could, saying that **Pierre** thanked **God** for the blessings for his family, the help and support of *My Brother's Keeper*, and for the privilege of living in **America**. It was truly a heart-warming and beautiful spiritual experience.

We were in awe as we left **Pierre's** apartment. Here was a man, living in a foreign land, speaking limited English, who had lost his wife, yet his **Faith** in the **Lord** was steadfast and unwavering. This delivery reaffirmed our belief that **God** hears the prayers of everyone, regardless of the language they speak.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

My Brother's Keeper



**Gala Celebration**

Honoring Cofounders  
Jim and Terry Orcutt



*My Brother's Keeper will honor our cofounders*

**Jim and Terry Orcutt**

*with the*

*Life in Christ Award and  
celebrate all God has accomplished  
through us as a community since 1988.*

**Marriott Hotel, Quincy**

**6:00 pm – Cocktail Reception**

**7:00 pm – Dinner**

**Tickets \$100**

Honorary Event Co-Chairs  
Jack Shaughnessy Sr. & John McNiece

*Tickets and sponsorship information  
to follow by mail.*

**Invocation**

**Rev. Arthur J. Colgan, CSC**

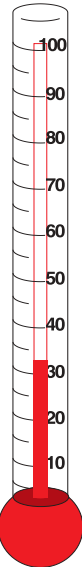
*Provincial Superior, Congregation of Holy Cross*

**Master of Ceremonies**

**Francis X. Dillon**

*Vice President for Advancement, Stonehill College*

## *“Mom, I can see my breath... It’s freezing in here!”*



Many times this winter, our staff and volunteers made deliveries in homes where the oven door in the kitchen was open—the oven was the family’s only source of heat because of the tremendous price of oil this winter. *My Brother’s Keeper* knew we couldn’t just stand by and ignore this need—as a **Christian** ministry, we had to respond.

To help our more humble brothers and sisters, we included a special appeal in our January newsletter and the response was **OVERWHELMING!** We’re so proud of our community. Though we’re all feeling the pinch of heating costs, you responded so generously we were able to purchase **\$20,000** worth of oil for struggling families.

*My Brother’s Keeper* collaborated with **Brockton Area Multi-Services, Inc. (BAMSI) Helpline** which had a program in place that could refer families in need to us. When we started providing assistance in January, the cost of oil was **\$3.00** per gallon. It’s since risen as high as **\$3.80!** To help as many families as possible, *My Brother’s Keeper* set a maximum amount at **150** gallons per request. Your generosity allowed us to purchase more than **6,000** gallons of heating oil which served **40** families in need.

Most importantly, all this was done in **Christ’s** name. In keeping with our mission, every family received a letter and a crucifix telling them it was **Jesus** who provided for their needs. It was **He** who answered their prayers.

## *A Ministry of Education*



*My Brother’s Keeper* was founded as a ‘Ministry of Loving Service’ but over the years, we’ve also become a ‘Ministry of Education.’

We are privileged to offer students a unique volunteer experience—the opportunity to go directly into the homes of those we serve. So as our ministry helps families in need, we also teach the joy of Christian service to hundreds of young people each year.

As just one example, *My Brother’s Keeper* hosts **Urban Plunge** each January, a three-day service retreat offered through the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. This year’s Plunge included students from Notre Dame, Stonehill, and Bentley.

Students literally lived at *My Brother’s Keeper* for three days. They spent most of their time directly serving families in need because they are truly our greatest teachers.

### *Excerpt of an Urban Plunge Reflection by Jackie Ladino, Stonehill College*

What I liked most about the **Plunge** at *My Brother’s Keeper* was interacting with families in need. My past volunteer activities with “the poor” involved collecting cans or toiletries. Although I know these items make a huge difference in people’s lives, I did it to simply go through the motions. I did it because it’s what we should do at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Knocking on the door of a triple-decker apartment in **Brockton** and seeing a child’s eyes light up over a box of brownie mix or a package of granola bars made two things happen: first, I realized people don’t just need help during the holidays but every day, and second, I was able to put a face to “the poor”.

When I donate in the future, I can say more than “*This can of soup is for the poor.*” Instead I can say “*This soup will help make sure little girls like **Shania** have something to eat so they can do well in school.*” Being able to put a face to the poor really makes all the difference because the reactions, the expressions, and the sheer joy of some of those recipients will be cemented in my mind forever.

**Urban Plunge** has been one of the most amazingly fulfilling experiences in my life. The sense of community I felt as soon as I walked in the door at *My Brother’s Keeper* is something I will miss. You should be so proud of all that you accomplish not just in the lives of those that receive deliveries but for students like me that you allow to enter and be a part of your amazing family.

I look forward to volunteering in the future. Thanks so much again!

God Bless, Jackie Ladino

## “Nice and quiet, thank God.”

By Josh Smith, My Brother's Keeper Staff

It was a beautiful Thursday morning when *Bob Souza (Brockton)*, *George Comeaux (Easton)*, *Chris Ezepik (Stonehill College)*, and I pulled up to a modest white duplex on a side street in Quincy.

The family we were delivering to—*John, Jenny*, and their four children—had been living in *Boston* a couple of months ago when crime began to take over their lives. The final straw was when their oldest daughter managed to fight off an attack from a stranger, the second in as many months. *John* and *Jenny* moved out of the apartment in an effort to protect their children... but had nowhere to go. Soon the family was homeless, with the six of them living out of their car.

Moving into this apartment in *Quincy* was a godsend for them, even though they had been forced to leave their furniture behind. When we arrived it had been a full month since the family had moved in and still all they had was a couple of air mattresses and a rickety table they'd pulled from a dumpster.

*John* was an incredibly polite man, introducing us to his family and giving us a tour of the apartment. I asked how the neighborhood seemed so far, to which *John* replied, “Nice and quiet, thank God.” It wasn't a minute later that the commuter rail tore past—no more than 25 feet behind the house—but I knew exactly what he meant.

Crime is a real problem in many of the communities we serve, not just in *Boston*. In *Brockton*, there were four shootings in less than a week; *Taunton* and *Randolph* also experienced a couple of high-profile assaults. Many of those we serve must always be on guard from crime, for themselves and their children, something that creates a tremendous amount of anxiety and stress. Living in fear is no way to live at all.

So *John* and his family were understandably relieved to be in their new apartment in a nice and ‘quiet’ neighborhood... especially after we filled it up with furniture! We delivered absolutely everything they needed to furnish the apartment, from a large kitchen table to lamps for the living room.

The queen bed we had for *John* and *Jenny* was brand new, with a beautiful hand-painted headboard that matched their dresser and nightstand. “Look at the headboard!” *Jenny* called out to her husband. “Isn't it beautiful?”

An equally beautiful moment came at the end of the delivery when we told the family who had really sent the furniture to them. *John* was silent as we handed the crucifix to him, struggling to choke back the tears. It had been a difficult few of months, but they had finally made it home.

## 65 Brand-New Refrigerators Donated to My Brother's Keeper!



In Massachusetts, landlords aren't required to provide refrigerators. As a result, *My Brother's Keeper* gets an overwhelming number of calls from mothers without refrigerators who must buy perishables every day at expensive convenience stores.

Three very generous corporate donors—**Plumb House Inc.**, **Superior Plumbing**, and **Whirlpool**—joined together to help *My Brother's Keeper* tackle this tremendous need. Through their partnership, *My Brother's Keeper* received 65 brand-new **Whirlpool** refrigerators with a retail value of more than **\$20,000**, one of the most generous in-kind donations we've ever received.

In addition to these new units, **Plumb House** and **Superior Plumbing** are also using their business connections to network donations of quality used refrigerators when they know of local commercial properties being rehabbed.

*1 Corinthians 12* tells us the body of **Christ** “is not made up of one part but of many” and this is certainly true at *My Brother's Keeper*. **Plumb House** and **Superior** provided the financial resources, **Whirlpool** offered a tremendous discount, and many hands will be involved in delivering the refrigerators, including students from **Stonehill College**.

On **Holy Thursday**, six members of the **Stonehill Knights of Columbus** spent an extra day on campus for the sole purpose of volunteering at *My Brother's Keeper*—in addition to other furniture, they delivered six refrigerators to families in need on that one day alone!



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

P.O. Box 338, Easton, MA 02356-0338

[www.mybrotherskeeper.org](http://www.mybrotherskeeper.org)

---

### Officers

James H. Orcutt, Sr., **President**  
Theresa Orcutt, **Secretary**  
John C. Danehy, C.P.A., **Treasurer**

---

### Executive Director

Erich E. Miller

---

### Board of Directors

Deacon Daniel F. Sullivan,  
**Chairman**  
Rev. John F. Denning, C.S.C.  
Jacques B. Dunn  
Mary McDonough Lombardi  
Virginia E. Motta  
Luzann Noonan  
James H. Orcutt, Jr.  
Michael G. Sites  
Brendan M. Sullivan



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

P.O. Box 338, Easton, MA 02356-0338

Furniture Assistance ... 508-238-4416

Donations / Business 508-238-7512 – Fax 508-238-3613

(501 (c) (3) tax-exempt)

[www.mybrotherskeeper.org](http://www.mybrotherskeeper.org)

---

### Development Board

Brian P. Concannon, **Chairman**  
**President**, Patient Division  
Haemonetics

Robert B. Barry, **President**  
Bostonian Cleaning &  
Restoration, Inc.

Nancy J. Buckley, **Audit Supervisor**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Lori A. Grant  
My Brother's Keeper Volunteer

Donna B. Lane, CPA, **Director**  
McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Rev. William R. McCarthy  
Father Bill's Place

Thomas P. McDonald, **President**  
Thomas P. McDonald Insurance  
Agency, Inc.

Timothy J. McMullen, **President**  
Prospect Hill Company

Leo J. Morrissey, ChFC  
Retirement Asset Planning Systems

---

### CenturyPlus Club

Joyce M. Donadio, **Co-Chair**  
**Senior Vice President**  
Putnam Investments

Peter S. Donadio, **Co-Chair**  
**Chartered Financial Consultant**  
Business Planning Associates

---

## My Brother's Keeper Prayer

Lord ...

When I have food, Help me to remember the hungry.

When I lie in my bed, Help me to remember those who sleep on the floor.

When I have a warm home, Help me to remember the homeless.

When I have work, Help me to remember those without jobs.

When I experience the joy of giving to my children,

Help me to remember the agony of those who must watch their children go without.

By remembering, Help me to destroy my indifference and arouse my compassion.

Make me concerned enough to act in your name, to help those who cry out to you  
for that which I so often take for granted.

---