

## A Volunteer Christian Ministry

### Our Mission

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



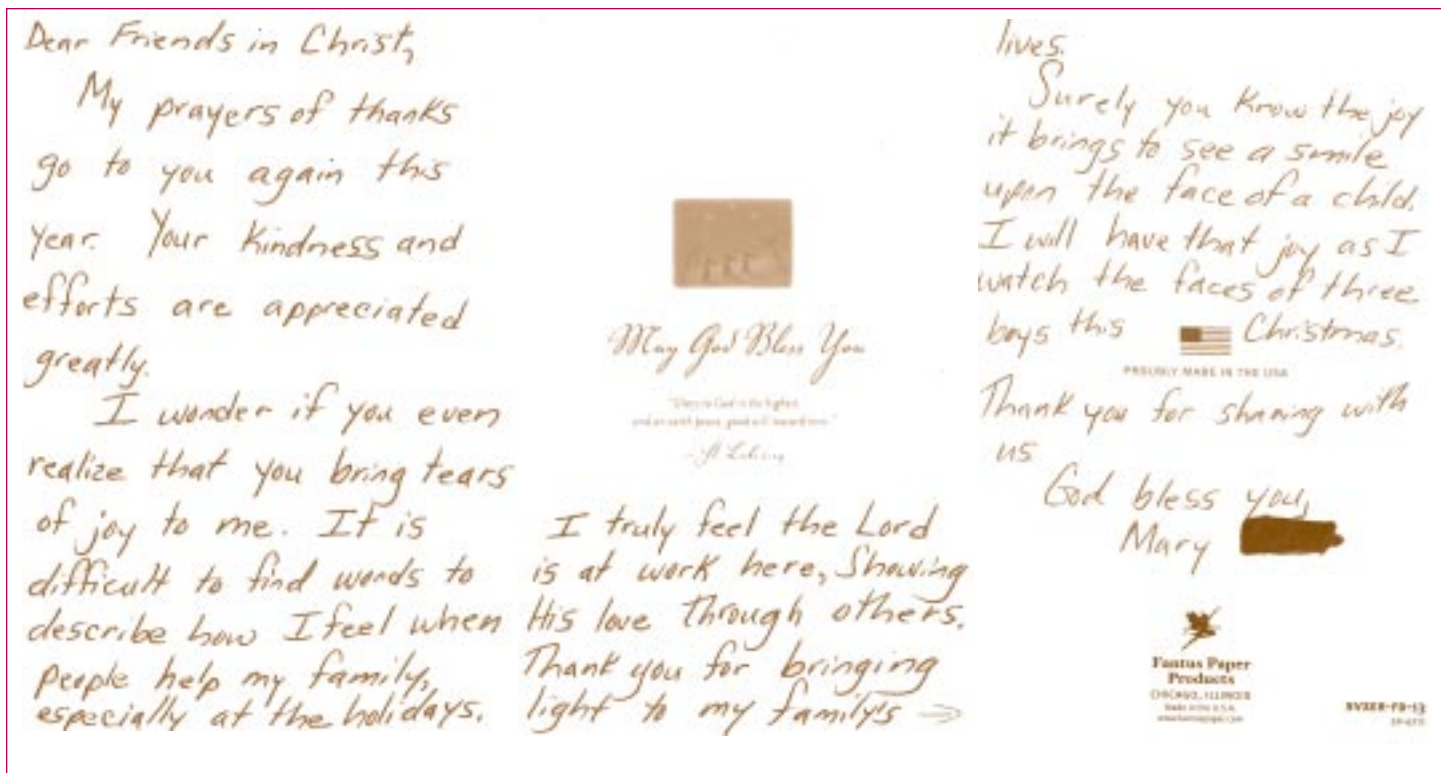
We deliver furniture, household items and food free of charge to those who seek assistance. There are no prerequisites for service.



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

*"We're just the delivery people, this is the person who sent you the furniture."*

## A Thank You Card



***"I truly feel the Lord is at work here, showing His love through others."***

*My Brother's Keeper* conducted, without question, our most successful Christmas program ever. More people and more families were served than ever before—**1,720** families consisting of **4,698** children and **2,308** adults in **60** towns and communities.

More important than the record numbers, though, is our mission 'To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.' And we can truly say—again without question—that we did our best job ever bringing the light of **Christ** to the families who reached out to us for help.

We can make these statements with confidence because those we serve tell us it's true. The words of our mission statement come to life in the original thank you letter reproduced above. As **Mary** says, "I truly feel the **Lord** is at work here, showing **His** love through others."

As followers of **Christ**, we believe we are **His** heart and hands on this earth. As a community, we brought tears of joy to **Mary**, put smiles upon the faces of her children, and did the same for thousands more. What better gift could we have given **Jesus** to celebrate **His** birth?

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# Christmas 2006



*Photo Credit:  
The Enterprise*

*Cardinal Spellman High School juniors Brittany Cooney of Abington and Mary Fay of Stoughton wrap gifts on their day off.*



*Photo Credit:  
The Enterprise*

*Boston College High School junior Mike Flanagan ties together bags of wrapped gifts before making deliveries.*



*14 seniors from Oliver Ames High School in Easton donated time and money to make gift baskets for the teens we serve.*

*Photo Credit: The Easton Journal*



*The foundation of My Brother's Keeper is prayer. All the work stops to say Grace together before lunch. (See related story, page 5)*



*Jim Orcutt, Jr. from Taunton gets a bike ready for delivery to a family in need.*



*Connie Sullivan from Dorchester prepares a wonderful meal for 'Santa's helpers'.*

# Expressions of Gratitude from Those We Serve for Christ

My Brother's Keeper,

Thank you—your kindness is appreciated so much. With everything so expensive and with mounting bills, it's hard to keep food on the table. Thank the **Lord** for people like you.

Christmas time can be very stressful...you help to ease that stress. Being a single parent is not easy and I have not been well, but I pray that things will get better. I have **Faith**.

I wanted to say that my son **Mark** is 15 and a spiritual boy. In this day and age, I pray that more parents teach their children the real reason for Christmas and how to pray for peace.

Sincerely,  
**Patricia / Rockland**



My Brother's Keeper,

Heartfelt words that bubble & flow upward cannot express the joy & happiness that you bring. Yet and still we are left with just a mere humble... **"THANK YOU!"**

May the peace of our **God** bless you & yours forevermore! To **God** be the glory. Great things **He** has done!

**The T. Family / Boston**



Dear My Brother's Keeper,

All of our hearts speak the same language, praying and looking for one thing: **"Peace."** May **God** bless your life with peace and happiness. Thank you for everything. **God** bless you.

**Ebrahim A. / Quincy**



Dear Brother's Keeper,

Thank you very much for making our Christmas a joyous one. Without your help, I don't think we would have anything under the tree! **God** bless you all and have a wonderful New Year.

**The R. Family / Milton**

Dear Brother's Keeper,

I am **Amy** from **Brockton**. I am **11** years old and I just wanted to say thank you very much for those presents and for making my Christmas full of joy.

**God** bless you guys for what you do because you make a lot of kids and families very happy. So once again, **God** bless you!

Sincerely,  
**Amy / Brockton**



Dear My Brother's Keeper,

I just wanted to write a letter of appreciation for making my children's Christmas a good one. It was truly a blessing from up above. My family has just gone through a major financial change losing an income and a separation, but I know through it all that my **Lord** and **Savior Jesus Christ** is still faithful and a provider.

Please keep my family lifted up in prayer for our finances and a job with mother's hours for myself and please pray by calling us all out one by one. Once again, thank you for your support during this trying time.

Yours in **Christ**,  
**The R. Family / Dorchester**



To Everyone at Brother's Keeper,

I would like to take a moment to extend my thanks to each one of you who have truly made a difference. I appreciate the help you have given this holiday. When I watch my daughter open her gifts, I'll be thinking of all of you and how you made this possible.

Sincerely,  
**Vivian / Taunton**



Thank you isn't even enough for all your generosity that you give to all the families in need. Every year your organization helps my family. Every year my children have smiles on their faces because of the good you do and the spirit of Christmas. So thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**The N. Family / Fall River**



## “Today I Know My Prayers Are Answered”

By Brian Concannon, Norwell

Chairman, My Brother's Keeper Development Board



It is Christmas morning and I cannot help but reflect on how fortunate I am. I have just finished opening presents with my family and I think about how many others do not get the chance to share this joy. And these thoughts bring me back to Christmas Eve—a special day I spent at *My Brother's Keeper*.

You see, this year was a bit different for me. The pressures of work and the hustle and bustle of daily life had kept me from spending any time at *'The Keeper'* this Christmas season. So in my mind, this day of service was as much for me as it was for those we have the privilege to serve.

I arrived with my brothers-in-law, **Bob** and **Ed Barry**, around 9:30 AM. We were greeted by **Erich Miller** who asked if we would be willing to help with an emergency furniture delivery—**Mary** and her three children had just moved into **Brockton** and had no furniture. They would be forced to sleep on the floor on Christmas Eve without the help *My Brother's Keeper* provides.

Sadly, I was not thinking about that. I was excited. In the few years I have volunteered at *My Brother's Keeper*, I had not had the opportunity to make a furniture delivery. Remember, this was about me. This was my chance to feel good about myself this Christmas season. I was about to learn yet another of life's valuable lessons.

**Erich** immediately put us to work wrapping gifts for **Mary** and her family while others did the shopping. Numerous gifts were chosen, but it was the day before Christmas and the selection of some gifts was sparse. So volunteers immediately gathered a few dollars and left to the stores in search of items the family had requested. Witness yet again the miracle of **Christ** working through others.

We were joined by **Ted Flynn** from **Duxbury**. Together we loaded up the truck with a couch and coffee table, a kitchen table and four chairs, bed frames, box springs, and mattresses for all. And of course, we could not forget that we were bearing gifts so a Christmas tree was also in order.

We arrived at the apartment and met **Mary** and her three children. The younger kids were sitting on beach chairs in the living room watching TV. Along with a friend of the family, we unloaded the truck and were greeted with wide eyes and smiles as we brought in piece after piece of furniture. Slowly the bare apartment transformed into a new home for this family that would spend Christmas Eve in beds and not on the floor. Joy filled their hearts!

Though all the furniture had been carried in, our work was not done. We all gathered in the kitchen, where **Erich** explained to **Mary** and her family that we had one more gift for them. He reached into his back pocket and handed **Mary** the **Crucifix** that accompanies every delivery saying, *“This is the man who sent you the furniture. We're just the delivery people.”*

Without missing a beat, **Mary** responded, *“I know **God** has always been here for me and my family. Things have been so hard lately and I've been so tired with my work, but **God** gives me the strength to go on. I pray everyday. Today I know my prayers are answered.”*

I was struck by this woman's deep faith—that with all of life's challenges, she could remain positive and hopeful through prayer and her belief that her prayers would be answered. It was at this moment that I realized today wasn't about me or about my feeling good this Christmas Season. I was witnessing a small miracle that is repeated everyday at *My Brother's Keeper* through the kindness and generosity of so many who serve with no expectation beyond the knowledge that another family will not sleep on the floor tonight.

We quickly said our good-byes and bid **Mary** and her family a Merry Christmas. As we shuffled out the front door, my eyes were moist with yet another lesson in the true meaning of Christmas and the privilege of serving those in need through *My Brother's Keeper*. And I realized that the feeling was shared by those with me as each of us wiped our eyes on the way back to the truck. We chuckled, wondering why we all shared the same “allergic reaction.”

## *All Good Works Begin with Prayer... More Attend Our Gratitude Mass Than Ever Before!*

Throughout **His** active life of ministry, **Jesus** made time to pray to **His Father**, teaching us that all good works begin with prayer. Following **Christ's** example, we kick off our Christmas program each year with an **Annual Gratitude Mass**, always at 7 PM the **Friday** night after **Thanksgiving**.

Yes, we served more families this Christmas than ever before... and it's no coincidence that we also had our biggest crowd ever for the **Annual Gratitude Mass**—more than **425** attended. Anyone here that night can tell you every last chair in the building was used and it still wasn't enough!

Our special thanks go out to:

- ✪ the principal celebrant **Fr. Jim Mahoney**, pastor of **St. Bridget Parish** in **Abington**
- ✪ **Holy Cross Family Ministries**, our neighbor who lent us the use of their parking lot for the night
- ✪ **Sean** and **Karen O'Sullivan**, who donated staff and vehicles to transport guests to and from overflow parking
- ✪ **Deacon Dan Burns** and **Mary Keefe** from **Holy Family Parish (Duxbury)** who provided the music



*This altar, used during our Annual Gratitude Mass, is constructed of a boxspring, a dresser, and food which will be given to families we serve. More than 425 supporters attended this year...our biggest crowd ever!*

- ✪ **Connie Sullivan**, **Lori Grant**, and all the volunteers who prepared the wonderful food we enjoy after **Mass**
- ✪ Most importantly, all of you who make our **Annual Gratitude Mass** an important part of your family tradition.

### *"I just kept praying and praying and God has answered my prayers."*

*By Rachael Jones, Easton / Senior at Oliver Ames High School*



I've been privileged to go on many deliveries at *My Brother's Keeper*. Some especially stand out because I felt a deep connection with people who welcomed me into their home. Though our time together was brief, I know the love and hope of **Jesus Christ** we brought will be long-lasting for them, just as their beaming smiles and tears of joy will forever be imprinted in my mind.

The week before Christmas, my friend **Monica Kincaid (Easton)** and I went with **Ryan Thorley (Lakeville)** and **Paul Brodeur (Quincy)** on one of those special deliveries. As we pulled up to a house in **Brockton**, **Ryan** called **Kathleen** to let her know we'd been able to bring a pink bike for her 9 year-old daughter. I was in the back seat but I could hear **Kathleen** scream in excitement.

Before we knew it, she came running outside with her husband **John** to usher us through the back door so their daughter wouldn't see the bike before Christmas. **Ryan** and **Paul** followed **Kathleen** down to the basement and **Monica** and I stood in the hallway with **John**. He could barely speak he was so filled with emotion. He just kept saying "Thank you" over and over and told us, "The work you do is amazing." At times I could sense his discomfort. His eyes started to well up and he had to look away. "We've always tried to help and give to others. Now it's so hard to be the one taking."

**Kathleen** approached the top of the stairs with **Ryan** and **Paul** close behind. She had tears in her eyes and said, "It's been such a tough year for us, I don't know what we would have done if I hadn't gotten through to you guys. We didn't have a single gift for any of our children." She clutched the cross around her neck and said, "I just kept praying and praying and **God** has answered my prayers."

We each gave **Kathleen** a warm embrace and wished her a Merry Christmas. I noticed **John** standing quietly off to the side so I reached out my arms to give him a hug also. As we made our way to the door, it seemed like they wanted us to stay and talk. **Kathleen** told us how they'd taken in a family of five for over a year because the family had lost their home and were waiting on subsidized housing.

This special delivery and these special people, **John** and **Kathleen**, helped me realize so many of us are 'our brother's keeper' in our own special way. As we got back in the van, I noticed there was not one dry eye among us.



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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

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

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## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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

Furniture Assistance ... 508-238-4416

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

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

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## 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.

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