

## 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.

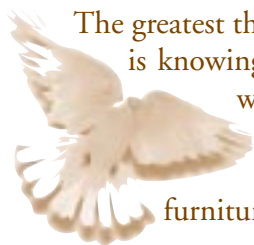


## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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

*"She couldn't stop smiling and neither could we."*

By Stonehill students Nicole Landry and Margaret Bouffard



The greatest thing about volunteering at *My Brother's Keeper* is knowing that each delivery is meaningful in its own way. One recent delivery was to **Lynne**, a mother of three children living in **Brockton** who received four beds, three dressers, living room furniture and a desk.

**Lynne** excitedly welcomed us when we arrived and was anxious to show us where the new furniture would be going. Her children were in school at the time of the delivery so **Lynne** said, "They're going to be so psyched when they get home!"

When we brought in the dressers and desk, **Lynne** immediately directed us to her children's rooms rather than her own, only taking a bed for herself. **Lynne** said, "I'm just so happy for the bed, I don't need anything else. I'm going to sleep for the first time in a long time knowing my kids are off the floor."

As soon as we arranged the living room furniture, **Lynne** sat down in the recliner and noticeably relaxed. All her stress and anxiety seemed to disappear.

Before leaving, **Lynne** offered us water, giving us a chance to talk and visit. She shared some things about her difficult life and said, "The past years we've been moving around so much. Thanks to *My Brother's Keeper*, I finally feel like we are settling in and starting fresh."

Sharing conversations like these really opens our eyes, as students, to some of the obstacles other people face and it allows us to appreciate all that we have and so often take for granted.

As always, the final gift we gave to **Lynne** was the crucifix. When we walked out the door, we turned to see her looking at the crucifix repeating the words, "Thank you, **God**."

She couldn't stop smiling and neither could we.



*Operations Manager Erich Miller, center, accepts the Eastern Bank 'Community Quarterback Award' on behalf of My Brother's Keeper from bank spokesman Doug Flutie and president Richard Holbrook.*

*Eastern Bank recently awarded My Brother's Keeper a \$10,000 grant in support of our driver's license program, 'Credentials for Credibility.'*

*Photo by: Brian Silverstein, Silver Shots*



## 1st Volunteer Meeting!!!

Sunday, May 20th

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

at My Brother's Keeper

*Anyone interested in helping at this year's event on June 22nd – 24th should attend.*

*Please RSVP to Erich Miller at 508-238-7512 or [emiller@mybrotherskeeper.org](mailto:emiller@mybrotherskeeper.org)*

## *Students & Service...*

### *'Tomorrow's Leaders' Learn Compassion*

*My Brother's Keeper* was founded to bring **Christ's** love and hope to people in need, but **God** in **His** infinite wisdom had even greater plans for our ministry. Over the years, we've come to realize how much *My Brother's Keeper* means not just to those who receive our help, but also to those who serve here—particularly students.

Over the last 15 years, our ministry has embraced our role as a 'co-educator' of **Christian** service, working in partnership with **Catholic** schools and churches to instill in young people a 'preferential option for the poor.'

*My Brother's Keeper* offers student-volunteers something unique: the chance to go right into the homes of those we serve and connect with them on a personal basis. Students learn to view our less fortunate brothers and sisters as individuals in need of a loving, helping hand rather than a much-stereotyped group.

The pictures below offer a sample of the student volunteers who have served at *My Brother's Keeper* this spring. (All names are listed 'left to right')



*Notre Dame grads Paul Kellner and Carrie Hilliker load a van for food deliveries with Stonehill junior Jason Healey. Paul was a summer intern in 2004 who recently visited from Green Bay, Wisconsin.*



*Stonehill students Margaret Bouffard, Lisa Robbins, Matt Voci, and Liz Ruginis are ready to head out on the trucks.*



*'Good Friday' volunteers Joe Hubbard (Weymouth High), Eric and Mark Anderson (Catholic Memorial), Jim McKinsey, Sean Hoganson, and Mike Flanagan (BC High) stand in the prayer room with Logistics Manager Ryan Thorley after the day's closing prayer.*



*Xaverian seniors Phil Grundy, Mike Thomas, Dave Patti, Dan Blake, and Peter Duffy 'break bread' with Jim Orcutt and the rest of the My Brother's Keeper 'Thursday volunteers.'*



### *"Urban Plunge"*

*Thirteen Notre Dame and Stonehill students spent three days and nights at My Brother's Keeper in mid-January for the annual Urban Plunge Retreat.*

*The students came to My Brother's Keeper from their homes on Christmas break, hailing from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, and even California!*

*Notre Dame freshman Alicia Quiros made the trip from California to follow in the footsteps of her uncle, Dave Quiros, who did a year of volunteer work at My Brother's Keeper as a Holy Cross Associate in 1995-96.*

# Good Friday is “God’s Day”

by Jim & Terry Orcutt



As children, many of us were told **Good Friday** meant ‘*God’s Friday*’. Perhaps that’s true; it certainly was *God’s Day*, this past **Good Friday** when **Terry** and I, along with **Ryan Thorley**, Logistics Manager for *My Brother’s Keeper*, **Ed** and **Dolly Kent** of **Brockton** and four high school students brought furniture to **Eva** and **Evan** and their six children. The family was moving into their new 2nd floor **Brockton** apartment without a stick of furniture after losing everything in a fire.

As our truck backed into the driveway, the father, **Evan**, was on the porch watching for us. His face lit up with a glorious smile as we approached to introduce ourselves.

Walking through the empty apartment we met the mother, **Eva**, and her three daughters who were home, **Melissa**, (13) **Brittany**, (10) and **Angel** (4).

Thirteen year-old **Melissa**, a typical teenager, was concerned whether she would be able to have her ‘own’ room but with six children and two adults, that clearly wasn’t going to be possible. **Melissa’s** face saddened, but as her dad helped us lug the heavy items, she and her sisters still made trip after trip to our truck, carrying bags, boxes, chairs and lamps.

Once her new bed was assembled, four year-old **Angel** flung herself onto it spread-eagled, with a happy yell. Looking back, I saw her two older sisters pick a child’s merry-go-round lamp from a box and set it on their little sister’s new nightstand. The faces of all three sisters, including **Melissa’s**, were shining as they giggled and shared this special moment putting their new home together.

After over an hour of lugging, by all of us, including **Joe Hubbard** (*Weymouth High*), **Sean Hoganson** (*BC High*) and **Eric** and **Mark Anderson** (*Catholic Memorial High*), the beds for all eight people in the family were assembled and the dressers, living room and kitchen furniture was in place. The food boxes had been emptied and the cupboard and refrigerator were full.

Now it was time to say our farewell and wish **Eva**, **Evan** and their family a **Happy Easter**. As we gathered around, the family gave us all hugs and expressed their thanks. As their children watched, I held out a crucifix to the mom and dad and said, “*You’re so welcome but the furniture isn’t from us. We just brought it up on the truck. This is a gift for your new home. This is the man who sent you all the furniture.*”

**Eva** and **Evan** and all the girls broke into big smiles. Then **Evan** had to step aside as tears welled up in his eyes.

Waving goodbye we piled down the stairs and into the truck for the trip back to the *My Brother’s Keeper*. Driving along, we all agreed when **Easter Sunday** came, each of us would be thinking of **Eva** and **Evan** and their six children sitting together as family, and that too would be ‘*God’s Day*’.

Dropkick Murphys

The Gregory Riley Foundation

*My Brother’s Keeper* would like to thank two closely connected groups for recent generous donations.

On Sunday March 18th, local band **Dropkick Murphy’s** held their 2<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Charity Breakfast & Acoustic Performance** to benefit *My Brother’s Keeper*. Over 1,500 fans were in attendance and the event raised several thousand dollars to support our work.

One of the band’s closest friends, **Greg ‘Chickenman’ Riley**, died tragically in 2004 in a motorcycle accident. His friends and family created **The Gregory Riley Foundation** as their way of carrying on his generous and joyful spirit. **Greg** loved to volunteer at *My Brother’s Keeper*, particularly at Christmas, so we are designated as one of the charities the foundation supports and recently received a \$5,000 contribution in his memory.

Our thanks to **Dropkick Murphy’s** and **Greg’s** friends and family who continue to pay tribute to him. Many families will be served in **Christ’s** name through their efforts and generosity.



## 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

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

(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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