



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Volunteer Christian Ministry

November 2007

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."

E-mail Subject: Christmas volunteering

From: -----@aol.com

Date: Monday, 22 Oct 2007

To: <info@mybrotherskeeper.org>

Hello, I'd like to know when the Christmas Giving program starts. My 13-year-old daughter has talked about it all year and we want to help again! Thanks, Maureen



The e-mail reprinted above is simple but beautiful. Imagine the delight of this parent. Her 13-year-old daughter truly experienced 'the joy of service'—she talked all year about serving others at *My Brother's Keeper!*

As special as this is, it's something we regularly hear from parents in the months leading up to Christmas and it's one of the many miracles of our Christmas program.

My Brother's Keeper was founded with the intention of helping families in need in **Christ's** name. But who, other than **God**, could have known how much our volunteers would grow through their service?

It is a fact that families in our very own communities continue to struggle, particularly with the current price of heating oil. **God** once again generously affords us the privilege of serving these families in **Christ's** name.

He also gives us a unique, effective 'teachable moment.' We—who are parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles—can use the Christmas program to convey our **Christian** values of love and compassion to our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Last year, with your help, *My Brother's Keeper* served a record **1,725 families—4,698 children and 2,308 adults!**—living in more than **60** towns and communities between **Boston, Fall River** and the **Cape**.

We invite you and your family to be a part of this year's Christmas effort by returning the enclosed cards for our **Adopt-A-Family Gift Program** and our **Loaves and Fishes Food Program**.

A special reminder... the Christmas effort starts each year, in prayer, with our **Annual Gratitude Mass** always celebrated the Friday night after Thanksgiving at 7:00 PM (*see right*). Many have made this Mass a wonderful family tradition. Last year we had a record 425 people present! We hope you can join us.



This altar used during last year's Gratitude Mass was constructed of a boxspring, a dresser, and food—all of which was given out to families we serve. More than 425 supporters were in attendance, our biggest crowd ever!



My Brother's Keeper
Annual Gratitude Mass

"We come together in family and community to thank God and ask His blessing on this year's Christmas effort."

Start a Family Tradition! Kids all ages welcome!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

7:00 P.M.

at MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Principal Celebrant

Rev. James M. Mahoney

Pastor, St. Bridget Parish, Abington

Music by Dan Burns, Holy Family Parish, Duxbury

Reception following Mass

Priests and deacons, please bring alb & stole

Looking for a Creative Christmas Gift? Know Someone 'Who Doesn't Need a Thing'?

How About a 'Living Tribute'?

Families who've lost loved ones often ask that memorial donations be made to charity in lieu of flowers. Along the same lines, you can give the creative gift of 'A Living Tribute' to friends or family 'who don't need a thing.'

It's a WIN-WIN-WIN situation. Your loved one will appreciate the thought, struggling families will receive much-needed help, and you'll be able to spread the word about work you believe in.

Simply provide *My Brother's Keeper* with your name, the recipient's name and address, and a donation in the amount of your choice. No donation is too small or too large! We will send your loved one our 'Living Tribute' card as shown to the right.

For your convenience, donations can be made by cash, check, or credit card. Please contact **Terry Orcutt** by mail, phone, or e-mail at:

My Brother's Keeper, P.O. Box 338, Easton, MA 02356
(508) 238-7512 • terryorcutt@mybrotherskeeper.org



Peace

As a Living Tribute to

a donation has been made to

My Brother's Keeper

to help provide food and beds to the many families who cry out to God for help.

This has been made possible through the request of



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER
P.O. Box 338, Easton, MA 02356-0338
www.mybrotherskeeper.org
508-238-7512

LIVING TRIBUTE CARD

"I Want to Always Remember Your Faces"

By Ryan Thorley



We pulled our truck up to **Maria's** apartment in **Taunton** to see her on the front porch waiting for us. She was with her friend **Anna** who first told her about *My Brother's Keeper*. I was joined by **Dan Finn (Bridgewater State)**, **Ron Paglierani (Scituate)**, and fellow *My Brother's Keeper* staff member, **Josh Smith**. **Maria** showed us the empty apartment where she and her six children lived. Before we'd brought a single item into her home, she broke down into tears thanking us for simply being there.

Maria told us her story of having to start over not once, but twice, in the past three years. "I lost everything I owned in a fire in 2004. I spent the next two years working so hard to get the basics for my children. Then I had to get rid of everything again because of bed bugs from a neighbor's apartment."

We assured **Maria** she'd have a wonderful surprise for her children when they came home from school that day. We carried in seven beds and dressers for her family but she was most touched by the many bags of linens which had been carefully prepared by our volunteers. **Maria** again broke down in tears when she opened the first bag. "This is such a blessing, I can't thank you enough! You really don't know how much this means to me."

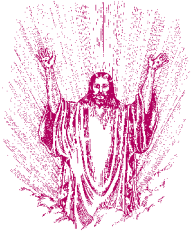
As a gesture of thanks, **Maria's** friend **Anna** and her daughter **Laura** prepared ham and cheese sandwiches for us to share when we finished our work. It was the first time anyone's ever given me lunch out on a delivery! We gladly accepted their generous offer and had the privilege of using the dishes and glasses we'd delivered just a few minutes before.

I presented **Maria** with the crucifix saying, "This is the man who sent you the furniture, we're just the delivery people." **Maria** was once again emotional, staring at the crucifix. "This is so beautiful; it's just what I needed."

Before we left, **Maria** asked her friend to take a group picture with her disposable camera. "I want to always remember the faces of those who brought hope back to my life."

“A Gift from God...To Us”

by Josh Smith



Before we even parked the truck, I knew our delivery in **Brockton** would be a special one. And it truly was...but not for any of the reasons I'd expected!

Joe Kennedy (W. Bridgewater), Doug Mullen (Easton), Erich Miller, and I were there to make a delivery to **Denise**, whom I'd met the previous week when we'd brought furniture to her neighbors across the hall. **Denise** had come over to help, anxious to hear when we'd be able to deliver her own furniture. Today it was her turn so I was surprised to be greeted not by **Denise**, but by workers from the phone and gas company who couldn't gain entry to the apartment.

We, of course, wouldn't take "no" for an answer quite so easily. We found a back entrance to the apartment and knocked loudly a few times before we heard a feeble "Come in" from the other side. We entered to find a bedridden, nearly unresponsive, elderly man inside. After a series of questions we pieced together that this was **Denise's Uncle Sherman**, whom she'd left behind to meet us and the utility men while she was at court for her brother.

Obviously **Sherman** was struggling with even this simple task—he was shaking, barely coherent, and seemed to have trouble seeing. It turned out that he'd just been released from the hospital after spending most of the past seven months there with serious stomach problems. **Denise** had generously agreed to let him live with her until he started to feel better.

Not surprisingly, **Sherman** wasn't too helpful in terms of what furniture would go where, but it was a small enough apartment that there weren't many options to begin with. So we started to bring up the furniture—a full-size bed with headboard, dressers, kitchen table and chairs, a leather loveseat, ottoman, and on and on.

As we continued to work, a funny thing happened: **Sherman** came back to life. With each piece of furniture that came up those stairs he seemed to brighten a little, like a fog was being lifted. He couldn't get over the quality of the things we were bringing him. "This is nice!" he would exclaim each time. Upon seeing the loveseat he cried out, "I'll be watching the Red Sox game there tonight!"

By the end of our delivery **Sherman** bore little resemblance to the sickly looking man who was hiding from the doorbell in a dark room. Instead he was lucid, exuberant, and profoundly grateful, recognizing the furniture for what it was even before we gave him the crucifix. "Gift from **God**," he said, pointing up.

It wouldn't be a stretch to call **Sherman's** revival a miracle. But to me, this was just *My Brother's Keeper* at its best, successfully accomplishing our mission 'To bring the love and hope of **Christ** to those we serve.' Indeed, we actually saw **Sherman** become filled with **God's** love and hope with each piece of furniture that we brought into the apartment. And just as the furniture was a gift from **God** for **Sherman** and **Denise**, witnessing **Sherman's** transformation was a gift from **God** to us.

“Duxbury Kids for Others”



'**Duxbury Kids for Others**' is a group of teens committed to making a difference in the lives of others. On their own initiative and with the support of their parents, these wonderful young men performed a **Lawn Mowing Drive** to raise money for charity.

The young men selected *My Brother's Keeper* to receive the proceeds of their hard work: more than \$800! They recently came to our facility for a tour and a check presentation. They were so impressed they've decided to permanently adopt *My Brother's Keeper* as their "charity of choice."

We're grateful to these young men who are so generous and such an inspiration to us all!



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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

www.mybrotherskeeper.org

Officers

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

Operations Manager

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
Rev. Richard H. Sullivan, C.S.C.



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

Development Board

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

Lori A. Grant
My Brother's Keeper Volunteer

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

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

Rev. William R. McCarthy
Father Bill's Place

Leo J. Morrissey, ChFC
Retirement Asset Planning Systems

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

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

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.
