



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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.

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

"Another First for My Brother's Keeper"

Erich Miller Becomes First Executive Director

Acting on a motion put forth by co-founders **Jim** and **Terry Orcutt**, the **Board of Directors** of *My Brother's Keeper* has unanimously approved the promotion of **Erich Miller** to the position of **Executive Director**, effective January 1, 2008.

Erich, a graduate of the **University of Notre Dame**, will be the ministry's first **Executive Director**, just as he was the ministry's first **Holy Cross Associate** in 1993 and the ministry's first paid staff person in 1998.

"I've been blessed to be a part of My Brother's Keeper since its early stages," said **Erich**. *"I remember when Terry, Jim, and I used to share one small office on Plain Street in Brockton! Fourteen years later, I am sincerely humbled by the great trust our founders and our board are placing in me."*

As **Executive Director**, **Erich** will be responsible for overseeing all programs, managing the ministry's staff, maintaining sound financial practices, and representing *My Brother's Keeper* to the public in a strong, positive way. He will be in charge of the daily accomplishment of the ministry's mission as well as the implementation of its long-term strategic plans.

"Jim and I were blessed by God long ago to recognize that My Brother's Keeper is not about us, as founders," said **Terry Orcutt**. *"It's about our mission 'To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.'"*

Jim added, *"We want this ministry to remain strong long after we're gone. Erich's promotion to Executive Director is a very important part of our planning for the future. We're so grateful God has brought us people like him who will provide sound, mission-focused leadership now and in the future."*

Though control of the day-to-day operations will be passed along to **Erich**, co-founders **Jim** and **Terry** will continue to remain actively involved at *My Brother's Keeper*. Both will maintain their positions on the board, **Jim** as **President** and **Terry** as **Secretary**.

Terry will continue her daily work taking calls for help and processing all donations, deposits, and thank you letters. **Jim** will continue to help with networking & development and looks forward to spending more time on the trucks with our student-volunteers directly serving families in need.



Co-Founders Jim and Terry Orcutt congratulate Erich Miller on his promotion to Executive Director effective Jan. 1, 2008.

Next year marks the 20th Anniversary of My Brother's Keeper!!!



1988



TODAY

Instead of a Dinner Dance this fall, we will host a special anniversary celebration in 2008. Look for more information in future newsletters!

“We may not always see the poor around us—He does.”

By Brian Galvin, Summer Service Intern, B.C. High School



When we think about ‘the poor’, the image of a homeless man pushing a shopping cart often comes to mind. Through *My Brother’s Keeper*, I’ve learned a more accurate picture of poverty is much bigger but at the same time less visible. People in need are often part of our everyday lives much more than we realize.

Recently, I went out on a delivery with **Ryan Thorley, Ron Pagliarani (Scituate), Staci McMenimon (Univ. of St. Thomas), Kara Shipkin (Oliver Ames High), and Dan Carvalho (Cardinal Spellman)**.

We were helping **David** and **Pauline** in **Mansfield**, a town we don’t normally associate with poverty and need. As we turned onto to **David** and **Pauline’s** street, all we saw were large houses until we got to their address—a small two-family house located on a little farm. I was amazed to see a family in need mixed right in with the upper-middle class.

David was working that day—he works in the stockroom of a local company—so **Pauline** was home to meet us. Their house was totally empty besides a TV, the blankets they were sleeping on, a folding table borrowed from friends, and an ice chest. We brought them a queen-sized bed, a dresser, a matching couch and chair, and a TV stand which was a perfect fit for their TV.

Pauline was most excited when we brought in a refrigerator. *“I’ve finally got someplace to put some food. Now I can go shopping for more than one day at a time!”*

When the time came to offer the crucifix, I told **Pauline**, *“The furniture’s not from us. We’re just the delivery people.”* Understanding that **Jesus** had sent her the furniture, her eyes watered up and she gave us all big hugs!

Though we may not always see the poor around us, I’ve learned **He** does.



“A true blessing!”

*By Ryan Thorley
Logistics Manager*



We recently delivered to **Michelle**, a single mother of two who lives in **Brockton**. She and her kids had nothing except an air mattress on the floor, a small television, and a kitchen table she’d bought at a yard sale for \$10.

We brought beds for her and her children, a living room set, dressers, and a refrigerator. **Michelle** was especially impressed with the quality and beauty of the two dressers and mirror. She gasped when she saw them, *“Oh, they’re beautiful! Look at them! They’re perfect!”*

We brought the taller of the two dressers to her 7-year-old daughter **Shayna**. **Shayna** couldn’t hide her excitement, *“I get to have this dresser in my room?!? YES!!!”*

We were thrilled to brighten their day with the furniture, but the best part for us was the delivery of the crucifix. One of our volunteers, **Brian Mackenzie**, a sophomore at **Boston College**, did the honors.

Brian said, *“Michelle, we want you to know the furniture’s not from us; this is the man who sent it to you.”* And with that, he handed her the crucifix.

Michelle was quiet for a moment as she was quite taken by the situation. She thanked us as she struggled to not break down. *“I have just the place for this,”* she said. **Michelle** then hung the crucifix on her living room wall for all to see.

“I can’t thank you enough; this is a true blessing!”

Two Former Student-Volunteers Join Full-time Staff



My Brother’s Keeper is delighted to announce the hiring of **Beth Sheehan** and **Josh Smith**, two outstanding former student-volunteers who possess tremendous dedication to our mission along with years of first-hand experience.

Beth is a **2006** graduate of **Assumption College** from **Mansfield, MA**. She began volunteering with us as a senior at **Ursuline Academy** and quickly became one of our most regular volunteers, working as a summer intern the last three years.

Josh is a **2004** graduate of **Stonehill College** from **Mt. Vernon, Maine**. He was a student co-director of **Stonehill’s ‘Into the Streets’** volunteer program and a regular volunteer at *My Brother’s Keeper* throughout his four years on campus.

Both completed one-year volunteer programs after college—**Josh** served through the **Holy Cross Associate** program in **Portland, Oregon** while **Beth** served in **Bognor Regis, England** through the **Associate Missionaries of the Assumption**.

During the interview process, **Josh** and **Beth** each expressed their eagerness to share the joy of **Christian** service with the next generation of student-volunteers who will ‘follow in their footsteps’ at *My Brother’s Keeper*. We are truly blessed to have these talented, committed, new staff members!



Stonehill Partnership Grows

45 New Students Sign Up

The Darling / My Brother's Keeper Scholarship Fund Created

In 2002, *My Brother's Keeper* built our facility within walking distance of Stonehill College so students could more easily join our work 'bringing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.' Each year, more than 100 Stonehill students volunteer with us, leaving the comforts of campus life to go right into the homes of struggling families in our area.

Our partnership with Stonehill this academic year promises to be even greater as word about *My Brother's Keeper* continues to spread on campus. 45 new students signed up at a recent volunteer service fair! These new volunteers, of course, will be in addition to all our returning volunteers.

In appreciation of our partnership with Stonehill College, supporters Mary Margaret and Ralph Darling—both Stonehill alum—have generously created The Darling / My Brother's Keeper Scholarship Fund which will be awarded annually to a student with demonstrated financial need who volunteers at *My Brother's Keeper*.

We sincerely appreciate the Darling's generosity which will recognize the commitment and compassion of one of our special student-volunteers in such a meaningful way.

"Great Accomplishments Result from the Generosity of Many"

By *Stephanie Gharakhanian, Summer Service Intern, Univ. of Notre Dame*



I learned a lot at *My Brother's Keeper* this past summer—far more than I could ever do justice to here—but one important lesson was my realization that great accomplishments result from the cooperation and generosity of many.

In the midst of my frustrations with the world and my desire for social change, I often feel we (and I) are not doing enough, not sacrificing enough. I expect leaps and bounds of myself and others. My summer at *My Brother's Keeper* served as a great lesson in the power of cumulative 'baby steps.' We move forward most effectively by working together in community, one step at a time.

This summer, I had the privilege of serving on the 'front lines' of *My Brother's Keeper*. My cohorts and I were the 'deal sealers,' the ones who rode in the big white truck, made the deliveries, offered families a crucifix and tried to remind them **God** is indeed listening to their prayers.

I enjoyed these responsibilities immensely but it was not always easy for me to be mindful of the many people who work behind the scenes, whose labors I depended on to make the mission of *My Brother's Keeper* possible. Though their work is not as visible as my own, I quickly learned that their efforts are just as significant.

This summer I learned about...

☺ the loads of people who donate furniture to us, their friends who told them about *My Brother's Keeper* and assured them their donations would be put to good use

- ☺ the men who donated the trucks I so enjoyed riding in
- ☺ the woman who donates gas every week to help keep the trucks running
- ☺ our trusted mattress and box spring suppliers in **Brockton** and **Fall River**
- ☺ our produce donors in **Chelsea**
- ☺ an **Irish** punk band that throws a benefit concert for us once in a while
- ☺ the development board who helps keep the financial donations keep coming in
- ☺ and the volunteers—the countless volunteers!—who offer their time to do their part... mend some couch cushions, repair a sticky drawer, wash and fold the linens, prepare the food boxes, check the electronics, cover the box spring frames, and feed all the volunteers, just to name a few!

None of these tasks alone accomplishes the mission but that does not diminish their significance. Indeed, it is precisely the sum of these gifts that permits *My Brother's Keeper* to tick. Over the course of the summer, I began to realize **God's** hand seemed so present in all of it. After all, who else could be responsible for coordinating all the random acts of kindness that make a single delivery possible?

So ultimately, what was my summer at *My Brother's Keeper* all about? "It's not about the furniture," **Jim Orcutt** would remind me again and again.

It's about the humble effort of a nurturing **Christian** community to experience and embody the love and hope of **Jesus Christ**—to families in need and to one another.



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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

www.mybrotherskeeper.org

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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

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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.
