



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Volunteer Christian Ministry

January 2010

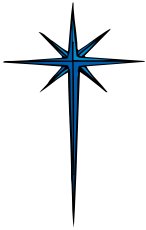
Our Mission

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."

The True Meaning of Christmas



As the community of *My Brother's Keeper* grows, each year continues to be 'our best year ever.' Our 2009 Christmas Program was no exception—more families volunteered so more families in need were served in **Christ's** name than ever before.

In the month of December, **1,800** volunteers came to *My Brother's Keeper* to wrap presents and deliver gifts and food to **2,262** families—**6,012** children and **3,163** adults—living in **59** communities ranging from **Peabody** to **Fall River** and **Cape Cod**. (see *Towns Served*, bottom right)

Two days in particular highlight the dedication of our volunteers. On Saturday, December 12th, we established a new record completing **225** deliveries in a single day! On Sunday, December 20th, we made **65** deliveries during a blizzard which dumped **18** inches of snow.

As impressive as these numbers are, numbers are not the accomplishment of our mission. We 'bring the Love and Hope of **Jesus Christ** to those we serve' when we bring people together as children of **God**, break down the barriers that separate us, and love one another unconditionally as **God** loves us.

A thank you from **Rosalinda** "gives flesh" to our mission:

"God Bless you all. You came to us and gave us Christmas. Not just presents. . .but yourselves. Your time, labor and sincerity is heartwarming. There are no words to adequately describe what you did for us. My son Johnny is 7 years old and the true meaning of Christmas was more believable to him after we enjoyed your kindness. It is just too hard to try and express. I can only say thank you so very much."

We join **Rosalinda** in saying thank you to you as well. We are grateful to each of you who gave so much of yourselves for **Christ** at *My Brother's Keeper* this Christmas.

Know that you and your families will be in our prayers for a happy, healthy, and blessed 2010. It'll be our best year ever at *My Brother's Keeper*!



All work at My Brother's Keeper begins in prayer. To kick off our Christmas Program, a record 700 supporters attended our 19th Annual Gratitude Mass the Friday night after Thanksgiving at our facility in Easton. Fr. Jim Mahoney, pastor of St. Bridget's in Abington, was the principal celebrant.

2009 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS...A YEAR IN REVIEW

CHRISTMAS:	2,262 Deliveries <i>9,175 children & adults served</i>
FOOD:	3,130 Deliveries <i>12,595 children & adults served</i>
FURNITURE:	1,022 Deliveries <i>4,112 children & adults served</i>

59 TOWNS SERVED – CHRISTMAS 2009

Abington	East Wareham	Norwood
Attleboro	Easton	Peabody
Avon	Everett	Plainville
Boston	Fall River	Quincy
Braintree	Hanover	Randolph
Bridgewater	Hanson	Raynham
Brighton	Holbrook	Rockland
Brockton	Hyde Park	Roslindale
Cambridge	Jamaica Plain	Roxbury
Canton	Kingston	Sharon
Charlestown	Lakeville	Somerset
Chelsea	Manomet	South Boston
Dedham	Mansfield	Stoughton
Dighton	Marshfield	Taunton
Dorchester	Mattapan	West Bridgewater
Duxbury	Medford	West Roxbury
East Boston	Middleboro	Weymouth
East Bridgewater	Milton	Whitman
East Falmouth	North Attleboro	Wrentham
East Freetown	Norton	



The Joy of Service

Words from Our Volunteers:

"I came to wrap presents 2 weeks ago and I fell in love with the place and the work you do. I felt so much peace."

~ Maria



"I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and let you know my daughter volunteered at My Brother's Keeper last night for the first time. I have never heard her talk about something so much. I think you may see her again and again! I believe it taught her a great lesson in the blessings she has and the ones she needs to share with others."

~ Kelli



"The reviews are in—volunteering at My Brother's Keeper was 'AWESOME' for my daughter. As a parent, the lessons you teach of faith and service to the poor is 'awesome' to me. Just a few days at My Brother's Keeper and you can transform people and many lives."

~ Joe





To
All The
Staff & Santas
Helpers at
Brother's Keeper

My family and I would like to thank you for making Christmas possible for us this year. You've help us in the past and now during our most difficult year you are still here to put a smile on my children's face on Christmas day. I appreciate all the time & effort you guys are giving to all of the families out there.

Best wishes for a special Christmas,

and a Happy New Year!

I Count my blessing every day, and I don't take anything for granted. I pray that God will continue to give each and everyone of you strength peace and love to be there for your families and others.

Love Jaylee's
family. With
Many Thanks

Remembering Kimberly

By Josh Smith, Staff



What makes *My Brother's Keeper* special is not so much what we do, but how we do it. Among other things, it's important to us to keep our focus on the people we serve in **Christ's** name, refusing to look at them as simply 'numbers.'

To process more than 2,000 Christmas requests, we start taking calls from families in need in early September. A lot of things can happen, though, over the course of the three months before December 25th. Families sometimes move or their phone is disconnected, complicating the delivery of their presents. At some point, we load up our trucks and try every 'disconnected' delivery—a number of times if necessary. It's not always easy to find these families but these deliveries are always my favorite because of the excitement we witness when we unexpectedly show up.

A Christmas delivery to **Kimberly** was a great example. One cold night a week before Christmas, **Craig "Moose" Carey** joined me for a 'disconnect' attempt. **Kimberly** lived in a housing complex on the eastside of **Brockton**. As we approached her apartment, I saw the outline of a small Christmas tree and the flicker of a TV through the window—a good sign.

Kimberly was startled by our knock on the door. Sure enough, after identifying ourselves for a second time as "*My Brother's Keeper*," we heard her cry of recognition through the door. "*Oh, my God!*" **Kimberly** exclaimed as she fumbled with the lock.

Inside we met **Kimberly** and her two young wide-eyed children, already in their pajamas for the night. Their apartment was sparsely furnished and there were no presents under her tree. Clearly, without *My Brother's Keeper*, there would be no Christmas.

Kimberly explained this was their first apartment. Like many of the families we helped this Christmas, **Kimberly** had recently been laid off and couldn't find another job. As a result, money was too tight for that large, one-time expense of Christmas presents.

Considering this, it was no surprise **Kimberly** was excited to see us. "*I didn't know what we were going to do,*" she exclaimed.

Of course, we would never forget **Kimberly** and families like hers. As a Christian ministry, we are called to make the extra effort to find those most in need, much like the shepherd in the Parable of the Lost Sheep or the woman in the Parable of the Lost Coin. We didn't look at **Kimberly's** family as just one of 2,262 we would serve this Christmas, but as individuals, fellow children of **God**.

Her Hands Were Shaking

By John DeAngelo, Staff



A year ago I felt blessed to be part of the *My Brother's Keeper* Christmas Program as a volunteer. This year I'm truly blessed to be part of the staff. I have the privilege every day to bring the love and hope of **Jesus Christ** to those we serve. Although each day holds a moment close to **Christ**, one delivery this Christmas was especially memorable.



*New staff member
John DeAngelo.*

Kevin Petitti of **Canton**, **Sean Lovett** of **Weymouth**, and **Patrick Murphy** of **Milton** accompanied me to the home of **Virginia** in **Milton, Virginia**. **Virginia** is a single mom who works at an office near home, struggling to support herself and her two school-age children. The instructions on her delivery card said to call her at work about ten minutes before we arrived at her home so she could leave to meet us. She was very excited when I called.

When there was no answer at her door, we knew we'd gotten there first. We decided to unload the gifts, which included two new beautiful bikes, and have them on the front porch when **Virginia** arrived. As we stood there waiting, a car came around the corner. Just as it came to a stop, a young woman threw open the passenger door and jumped out screaming "*Oh my God! Oh my God! Thank you! Thank you so much!!*"

Virginia had obviously seen the bikes. Her excitement and gratitude was truly touching and a special gift to us. We could almost feel her happiness.

Her hands were shaking as she tried unsuccessfully to unlock the front door several times. She asked us to wait a minute while she went around to the back. We introduced ourselves to **Dawyne**, a friend who drove **Virginia** home because she doesn't have a car. He asked about *My Brother's Keeper*, giving us the opportunity to talk about the many supporters and volunteers it takes to deliver gifts and food to the homes of more than 2,200 families. **Dawyne's** eyes began to well-up at the realization that everything, including these two bikes, was donated by generous strangers. Then the front door opened and **Virginia** let us in, still very excited. "*My kids are going to be so happy!*" she cried. "*Do you know how long they've been waiting for a bike?*"

Virginia wanted to make sure her children were completely surprised on Christmas morning so we brought the gifts into the basement where they wouldn't be seen. She thanked us over and over again for everything. We told her we were only the delivery people, that it was **Jesus** who sent the Christmas gifts. We exchanged hugs and **Virginia** and **Dwayne** were off to work, while **Kevin**, **Sean**, **Patrick**, and I were off to our next delivery—all of us richer for experiencing **Christ's** love through one another.

Good Stewardship = "Prior Proper Planning"



93% OFF

How can we make our Christmas Program even better in 2010? The three P's... "*Prior Proper Planning.*"

Each Christmas *My Brother's Keeper* must purchase many items which are always in short supply, especially gifts for teens and adults. Everyone knows post-Christmas clearance sales give the '*biggest bang for the buck*' so our volunteers have been on the lookout.



93% OFF

Here are some bargains we've taken advantage of over the last few weeks:

- *Men's Quilted Coats: originally \$69.50, on sale for \$4.99*
- *Women's Sweaters: originally \$29.50, on sale for \$1.99*
- *Old Navy Sweatshirts: originally \$19.50, on sale for \$3.15*
- *Gift Baskets: originally \$19.99, on sale for \$4.99*



84% OFF

We appreciate the generous donations you make to support our work for **Christ**. That's why we take our role as stewards so seriously. We work hard to make sure your contributions do the most good.



75% OFF

“Words of Gratitude from Those We Served for Christ”

I really want to thank you for all your assistance for the holidays. I have never seen these kids so excited. It was their best Christmas ever! And as we watched them open all their gifts, we all had tears in our eyes because we had no idea what we were going to do or say when Santa couldn't come to them. It was either trying to pay something to the mortgage to avoid foreclosure or having presents. There was no choice. So God bless you all. I know there is a God up above and there really is a Santa Claus because he came here! Thank you so much again. God Bless.

'Mary,' Easton



To My Brother's Keeper,

I would like to thank you for the help you have provided for me and my children for the second time. These few years have been hard for us. But people like you have given us hope. We appreciate your kind hearts. May God bless you all.

Angelina, Boston

P.S. We consider you all part of our family.



To Brother's Keeper,

We all thank you immensely from the bottom of our hearts. It is much appreciated. We truly needed this help as well as the food for our home! Happy holidays & healthy new year! God bless.

Stephanie & the kids, Quincy



We just want to say thank you for the help this Christmas season. We really appreciate all that you have done for our family and we will forever be grateful! Once again thank you. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

'The H. Family,' Brockton

Dear Brother's Keeper,

My name is Patricia. I am 21 years old with two young children, ages 3 and 16 months. Without your help, I don't think they would have had a Christmas. I just wanted to let you know that I'm also a Christian and God gave me a miracle this Christmas and it was you. Thanks again...may God bless you.

The 'R. Family,' Norwood

P.S. The guy who called to schedule the delivery is related to me and I had no idea. If you could please tell him my best wishes.



My Brother's Keeper,

For all that you do, for all that you are, I sincerely thank you. May God bless you and all your families for making a lot of dreams come true.

The 'C. Family,' Weymouth



My Brother's Keeper,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Thanks to you we will have a happier and more glorious Christmas.

My mom only has money for the food and bills so you've made our Christmas.

*May God be with you.
Jasmin (13),
Crystal (14^{1/2}),
Kassandra (16^{1/2}),
and our baby brother
Rafael (11 months)*

Fall River



The Work of Christmas

By Howard Thurman



When the star in the sky is gone;
 When the Kings and Princes are home;
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
 The work of Christmas begins.
 To find the lost; To heal the broken;
 To feed the hungry; To release the prisoner;
 To teach the nations; To bring Christ to all;
 to make music in the heart.

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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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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Thursday, March 11 – 6:00 p.m.
100 Lovely Ladies Annual Dinner – Thorny Lea Golf Club
 Call 508-238-7512 for information

APRIL

2nd Annual Mission Appeal Mailing

JUNE

Thursday, June 3rd – 9:00 a.m.
Retreat House DeColores Golf Tournament – Easton Country Club
www.retreathouse.org

JULY

Monday, July 19th
My Brother's Keeper Golf Tournament – Foxborough Country Club