



**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

*A Volunteer Christian Ministry*

August 2011

**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 NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS...

**Left to right: Joyce Donadio, Jim Orcutt, Erich Miller, Terry Orcutt, Brian Concannon and Deacon Dan Sullivan**

In September 2011, the next generation of leaders will be appointed by the Board of Directors to carry on Christ's work at *My Brother's Keeper*.

Acting on a motion put forth by co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt and board chair Deacon Dan Sullivan, the following changes will take place, effective September 15th:

- ❖ Erich Miller will become President of *My Brother's Keeper*.
- ❖ Brian Concannon will become Chair of the Board of Directors. He is currently Chair of the Development Board and will move from that position.
- ❖ Joyce Donadio will become Chair of the Development Board.
- ❖ Jim Orcutt, Terry Orcutt, and Deacon Dan Sullivan will remain voting members of the Board of Directors. Jim will hold the title President Emeritus.

*"Jim and I were blessed 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, *"This is a continuation of the transition plan we started in 2008 when we named Erich the ministry's first executive director. Terry, Dan, and I are grateful God has given us a talented, mission-focused team like Erich, Brian, and Joyce to lead My Brother's Keeper to even greater things in the future."*

Erich Miller, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, was the ministry's first Executive Director in 2008, the first paid employee in 1998, and the ministry's first Holy Cross Associate in 1993.

Brian Concannon is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and is President and CEO of Haemonetics Corporation in Braintree. Brian, his wife Grace, and their daughters Jennifer and Marisa began volunteering at *My Brother's Keeper* in 1999. He has served as Chair of the Development Board since 2005.

Joyce Donadio is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and is a Senior Vice-President at Putnam Investments. She began volunteering at *My Brother's Keeper* with her family in 1992. Very appropriately, she follows in her father's footsteps: her dad, Peter Donadio, was the founding Chair of the Development Board.



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## “THE CRUCIFIX THAT’S MEANT SO MUCH TO ME”

By Nicole Santarsiero, Stonehill College Summer Intern



Summer intern Nicole Santarsiero, a recent graduate of Stonehill College who will volunteer for one year in Costa Rica starting in August.

It was a hot July morning when Judy Fargo (Braintree), Jimmy Portanova (B.C. High, Medfield), Ryan Thorley (Staff), and I arrived at Angela’s place. She’d been talking on the phone when she came to the door. As she ended her phone call, I heard her say “*Oh, it’s just My Brother’s Keeper... I’m safe.*” She apologized, explaining that she was a victim of domestic violence and wanted to make sure we weren’t going to harm her.

After we introduced ourselves, Angela repeatedly thanked us for the furniture she hadn’t even seen yet. She was so excited to have “*real furniture*” and not the patio chairs she’d been using for her living room. Angela had been laid off recently in addition to being abused. Though times were clearly tough for her, she never ceased having a positive outlook. “*I’m so grateful for my family and home,*” she said. “*I just wish more people could understand how easy it can be to find yourself in a tough situation like mine.*”

Before moving into this apartment, Angela had been living temporarily with her three children in a hotel. Though her family lived in just one room with no kitchen, she shrugged it off and said, “*I’m happy my children never had to experience a shelter.*” She never thought she’d find herself in such a bad place financially and it made her appreciate the little things in life so much more. She expressed her joy in having a kitchen now to cook meals for her kids and when we brought the couch in she exclaimed, “*Now I can have company over!*” Angela’s selflessness and optimism in the face of her many challenges was inspiring. She even said, “*I like to hear the children running around and rough-housing because that’s what a normal family sounds like.*”

After the furniture was moved in and we said our goodbyes, Judy said, “*Before we go, Angela, we have one more gift for you and your home. We’re just the delivery people... this is the man who sent you the furniture*” and she handed her the crucifix. Angela teared up and told us about a very special cross her grandmother had given her when she was young. “*It’s hanging up in the bedroom at my ex-husband’s house but I can’t safely get it. I’m so happy to finally have a replacement for the crucifix that’s meant so much to me.*”

We ended by giving Angela a hug. As we were walking out the door her three-year-old daughter, Kristen, who had spoken very few words to us during our visit, said softly, “*Wait, wait!*” and stood in front of the door. She spread out her arms expecting her hug too. Ryan gave her a hug and started to walk away, but she refused to leave until we each gave her a hug. At that precious moment I realized that just as we brought the love and hope of Christ to this family, Kristen and Angela also brought the love and hope of Christ to us.

## MNN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EXCELLENCE AWARD

On June 13th at the State House, *My Brother’s Keeper* staff members Ryan Thorley and Josh Smith were recognized as finalists for the Young Professionals Excellence Award given annually by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, a statewide organization dedicated to strengthening the nonprofit sector in the Commonwealth.

Josh and Ryan were thoughtfully nominated for the recognition by their co-worker, Beth Sheehan, who cited the many organizational accomplishments they have helped bring about: since 2008, *My Brother’s Keeper* has achieved a 127% increase in furniture deliveries, 50% increase in food deliveries, 32% increase in Christmas deliveries, 33% increase in furniture pickups and 300% increase in student volunteering during the summer.

Thanks Ryan, Josh, Beth and the whole staff for your outstanding work, tremendous dedication to our mission and concern for each other!



Josh Smith and Ryan Thorley (left and right) recognized at the State House as finalists for the MNN Young Professionals Excellence Award, nominated by Beth Sheehan (center).

## DEACON PLUNGE

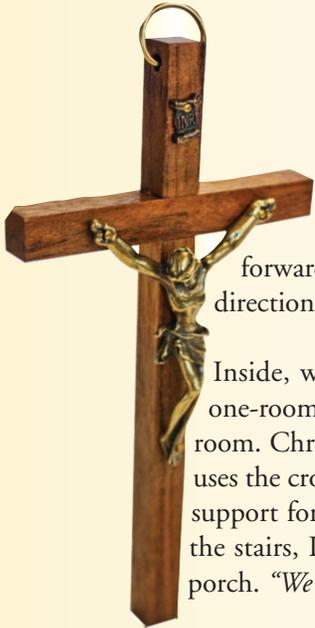


In May, My Brother's Keeper conducted a 3 1/2-day service retreat for 12 men in the Archdiocese of Boston's Diaconate Formation Program which is directed by Deacon Dan Burns. The retreat ran Thursday night through Sunday morning. Each day included direct service, Mass, prayer, discussion, and reflection. The following reflection was written by John Barry, one of the men in formation (back row, 4th from right).



## THE POINT OF THE CROSS

By John Barry, Medway



We had finished our morning furniture deliveries and were distributing groceries in the afternoon. Beth Sheehan drove us to a four-story rooming house where a group of men and women were sitting on the front steps. As we began to mount the stairs one of the men, a rugged looking guy, stepped forward and singled me out: "I want to speak to you when you're finished in there," he said, pointing in my direction. I began to wonder what his intentions were and why he sought me, a volunteer, to address his needs.

Inside, we found Christina, a middle-aged woman with a big smile who was awaiting our delivery in her one-room studio apartment. Above her bed was a cross and Beth commented on how its presence graced the room. Christina talked about how grateful she was for the many blessings Our Lord has given her and how she uses the cross as a conversation piece when reading bible passages to her niece. We expressed our admiration and support for her witness to the cross and, after a brief visit, said our goodbyes. As we made our way back down the stairs, I leaned toward Jim Orcutt and filled him in about the man's request to speak to me on the front porch. "We'll have Beth talk to him," Jim said. "Our policy is for the driver to handle these situations."

When we stepped outside the gentleman was still there, leaning over the post, his head resting on folded hands. When Beth introduced herself he looked up and said "Hi, I'm Steve. My friend Lisa really loved you guys. She couldn't say enough about you. You helped her with furniture a few times and she kept talking about how much it meant to her. You delivered a bed to her just a couple of weeks ago and she told me she had her best night's sleep in a long time... That was the last time I saw her. She died in that fire on Melrose Street."

Jim immediately responded, "Wait... is that the Lisa who died in the cellar fire?" Steve nodded yes and tears began to fall from his eyes. Jim responded, "I'm sorry for your loss. She was a good friend and we knew her well." Steve cleared his throat, "I just wanted to say thank you from her and I wanted to thank you myself. You guys meant the world to Lisa."

We had come to deliver food and the joy of Christ and found ourselves outside on the receiving end of a heartfelt thank you. Each of us gave Steve a hug before saying our goodbyes. I fought back tears as Jim told us the details of the devastating fire that had trapped Lisa in the basement with no way out. It was a tragic death that should have been avoidable but for those who are forced to the margins like Lisa and Steve, there usually aren't many credible exit strategies.

As the four of us climbed into the van, the skies opened and the rain began to fall. From the heavens it was obvious that God had entered into the moment, sharing the burden of Steve's loss.

It was apparent too, the remarkable impact that *My Brother's Keeper* had made on the lives of Christina, Lisa and Steve.

I still don't know why Steve singled me out of the group, but I am certain that Our Lord wanted to point out an important truth to all of us about the privilege of service. In completing His mission to serve others, it's clear that we cannot succeed in ending the burden of suffering, but in delivering the love and hope of Jesus Christ, perhaps we can succeed in helping to make those crosses bearable.

# STUDENT VOLUNTEERING

## SUMMER VOLUNTEERING JUNE 1– AUGUST 15, 2011

98 high school & elementary student volunteers

... contributed 2,600 hours of service

... representing 34 schools

... completed 1,025 deliveries serving 4,100 people!

Abington High	Deerfield Academy	Pembroke High
Annie Sullivan Middle School (Franklin)	(Deerfield)	Silver Lake High
B.C. High	Duxbury High	Southeastern Regional
Bishop Stang	Easton Middle School	St. Catherine of Sienna
Bridgewater/Raynham	Fontbonne Academy	St. Thomas Aquinas (Exeter, NH)
Brockton High	Xaverian Brothers	Stoughton High
Cardinal Spellman	Hanover High	Taunton High
Catholic Memorial	Stoughton Middle	Trivium High
Cornerstone Christian (Franklin)	Needham High	(Lancaster)
Coyle Cassidy	Milton High	Ursuline Academy
Davis Elementary (Brockton)	Montrose School	Weymouth High
	Newton Country Day	
	Notre Dame Academy	
	Oliver Ames	



One of our talented student volunteers, Rachel Smith, a Fine Arts major at Stonehill College, drew this picture of the Divine Servant sculpture which graces the front of the *My Brother's Keeper* facility. Its message to students: "To Lead is to Serve."

## STONEHILL STUDENT SURVEY

90 Stonehill students who volunteered at *My Brother's Keeper* during the 2010-2011 academic year were e-mailed a link to an online survey. 50 participated and their collective responses appear below. Not surprisingly for young adults, questions concerning faith and community prayer demonstrated the widest range of feelings, but a remarkable 80.9% of responders agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "My faith in God was strengthened by my time at *My Brother's Keeper*." Equally impressive, when asked about future volunteerism, 89.6% of responders indicated their experience at *My Brother's Keeper* made them more likely to volunteer again in the future.



Please check the box that best describes your feelings about the following statement:

Question:	Response			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My orientation, tour, and introduction made me feel welcome	70.8%	29.2%	0.0%	0.0%
I feel like I made a difference while volunteering at My Brother's Keeper	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
My time at My Brother's Keeper was well-utilized	81.3%	16.7%	2.1%	0.0%
I feel my work was recognized and appreciated	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
My Brother's Keeper is an excellent place to volunteer	91.7%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%
I felt more comfortable over time with community prayer	58.3%	37.5%	4.2%	0.0%
I am more aware of the poverty that exists in our South Shore community	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
I felt safe making deliveries with My Brother's Keeper	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
My faith in God was strengthened by my time at My Brother's Keeper	38.3%	42.6%	14.9%	4.3%
I am more aware of the complex issues facing the poor	74.5%	25.5%	0.0%	0.0%
I would recommend volunteering at My Brother's Keeper to a friend	89.6%	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Overall, this was a positive experience for me	89.6%	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%

Did your experience at My Brother's Keeper increase the likelihood that you would volunteer at My Brother's Keeper or another charity again in the future?

Yes, I am now more likely to volunteer again in the future	89.6%
No, I am now less likely to volunteer again in the future	0.0%
No Difference	10.4%



On Saturday, June 18th, 750 participants turned out for the 2nd Annual My Brother's Keeper Family Walk to celebrate faith, friends, and family fun—a tremendous crowd considering the Bruins championship parade was held the same day!

One walker beautifully summed up what we all felt: *“Thank you for an absolutely perfect day. My husband, daughter and I enjoyed every aspect of the Family Walk. All the volunteers we met were lovely, kind and giving... it was a joy to be there and we hated to leave! We are blessed to have shared in the majesty of the day.”*



In addition to building community, the Family Walk was an incredible financial success as well, thanks to our talented Development Board who coordinated the event, our generous walkers who collected \$16,000 in pledges and the 90 sponsors who donated \$120,000 before the first walker even took a step!

Visit [www.MyBrothersKeeper.org](http://www.MyBrothersKeeper.org) to view the complete photo gallery and download pictures. To see the list of sponsors and corporate supporters of the Family Walk as well as our 5th Annual Golf Outing, please see the back cover.



## 5TH ANNUAL MY BROTHER'S KEEPER GOLF OUTING

136 golfers, primarily from the plumbing and construction industries, came together at Foxborough Country Club on July 18th to have fun and raise \$50,000 to serve local families in need.

The event was planned by a dedicated volunteer committee which included Donna Camiolo, Gary Cedrone, Leo and Joyce Cooney, Billie Klegrafe, Frank Monroe, Glen Schlager, Rick Shaw, and Bill and Julie Lane, the event chairs.

*“We’re deeply grateful to the Lane Family and the entire golf committee for their efforts to involve their business associates, friends, and family in the work of My Brother’s Keeper,”* said Erich Miller, Executive Director. *“Without their generosity and leadership, we simply could not continue making 7,000 deliveries a year to struggling families in our community.”*



*Left to right, Terry Orcutt, Tom Lanagan, Connie Sullivan, Erich Miller, Bill Lane, Mike Corcoran, Joe Swan, and Jim Orcutt shares some laughs at the 5th Annual My Brother's Keeper Golf Outing at Foxborough Country Club.*

To see the list of sponsors and corporate supporters of the Golf Outing as well as the My Brother's Keeper Family Walk, please see the back cover.



Co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt, along with long-time supporter Jack Shaughnessy, Sr. were invited on the Archdiocese of Boston's Good Catholic Life radio show on August 3rd to talk about the work of My Brother's Keeper. Host Scot Landry called it "one of the most moving broadcasts and testimonies to our Catholic faith in action of the first 100 episodes of The Good Catholic Life." To download or listen to the program, visit [www.TheGoodCatholicLife.com/MyBrothersKeeper](http://www.TheGoodCatholicLife.com/MyBrothersKeeper)



**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

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