



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."

Celebrating Students

Jim and Terry Orcutt founded My Brother's Keeper in 1988 to "bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve." Twenty-one years ago, no one could have envisioned that thousands of volunteers would join them in this mission. Now, looking back, we marvel at how profoundly our volunteers have been touched by their service—especially student volunteers. This blessing is truly God's work, not ours. As the academic year closes, this newsletter celebrates our student volunteers: the gifts, talents, and hard work they offer through Christian service and the lessons they learn in the process.

"A Privileged Life"

By Colleen Sessler, Oliver Ames High School, Easton

I live in a suburban upper middle class town with my mom and dad, still happily married. I live comfortably with the luxuries of a happy home, a car to drive, and a place to sleep. I live a safe and sheltered life, and until my time at My Brother's Keeper, I believed everyone around me did as well.

I halfheartedly showed up for my first volunteer day with my designer flip-flops and over-priced purse. I prepared myself for the job that lay ahead of me: delivering donated furniture to those who could not afford to buy their own. I thought I would be travelling into the inner city, far from the comfortable town I call home. I thought wrong.

Just ten minutes up the road, we made our first stop. I walked up the front steps with three other volunteers and thought to myself, "This place isn't that bad." Then the door opened. Boy, was I wrong, I looked down to see five little children, all under the age of eight.

Their faces said it all. Their excitement nearly exploded as they led us up the narrow, broken staircase. I expected a small apartment with shabby furniture at the top of the stairs, but once again, I was wrong. Except for the dust pile and broom in the corner, the three-room apartment was empty.

The single mother led me into the room where she wanted the beds to be set up. I peered around the corner to see a little boy, no older than two, sound asleep in a tiny sleeping bag.

I walked back to the truck, ready to start bringing in the beds. I reached up to pull out a mattress when I saw a tiny hand beside mine. I turned around to see all of the little kids, beaming grins upon their faces, eager to help move in their new beds. And that's when it hit me.

(Continued, Page 2)



Restoring Hope 2009 Mission Appeal New Program Launched this June

Please join us by responding to our 2009 Mission Appeal, "Restoring Hope." In so doing, you will help:

- Support our unique mission "to bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve"
• Serve more local families with furniture and food with the highest quality of care and dignity
• Educate student volunteers—"tomorrow's leaders"—to be concerned and compassionate

Your direct involvement and active participation in our ministry is important. Thank you for your support and encouragement!



SWING INTO SUMMER

Join us for a day of fun!



3rd Annual Golf Outing to benefit My Brother's Keeper at Foxborough Country Club Monday, July 13, 2009

- ▶ \$150 player entry includes breakfast, carts, golf, prime-rib dinner, and prizes
▶ Incredible Live Auction including Green Monster and Field Box seats, Patriots tickets, autographed memorabilia, golf getaways and MORE!

Visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org for an application or call Vin Shea at 508-238-7512

## *“A Privileged Life” . . . continued from Page 1*

To me, I was delivering a bed; something I use everyday without ever thinking twice. But to these children, I was delivering a comfortable place to sleep. I was bringing them something to get them up off the floor, something to bring them **Hope**, something to give their family a boost in the right direction.



Thanks to my time at *My Brother's Keeper*, I am no longer absorbed in my own happy life, naïve to the world around me. My eyes are wide open, aware that not everyone lives a privileged life.

I now realize I live a privileged life. Not because I am comfortable, but because now, at seventeen, I know the feeling of helping someone off the floor, and back onto their feet.



## *A Snapshot of Student Volunteering*

*“What happens while we are there delivering the furniture doesn't matter as much as what happens when we close the door and leave. In most cases, we will never know for sure, but we hope our presence has changed the person's life in some way.”*

**Paul, Xaverian Brothers High School**



*“I was unsure what to expect the first time I experienced the passing of the cross to the owner of the house. After witnessing this intimate experience, I can firmly say that the cross is what makes My Brother's Keeper different and what keeps volunteers coming back.”*

**Marisa, College of the Holy Cross**



*“After completing the deliveries, I could understand My Brother's Keeper's mission even more, for I could most certainly see that we were simply carrying food and furniture, and what we were truly delivering was hope.”*

**Erin, Stonehill College**



*“I saw many different responses to the presentation of the crucifix. I saw some people moved to tears. Some people said they would put it on the wall or with their most prized possessions. When it was my turn to present the crucifix, the power of such a selfless statement of God's love had as profound an effect on me as it did on any of the recipients I saw.”*

**Dan, University of Notre Dame**

### **“BY THE NUMBERS” STUDENT VOLUNTEERING ACADEMIC YEAR 2008-09**

*(\*Includes students who volunteered through their school's Campus Ministry, Honor Society, or Community-based learning classes. DOES NOT INCLUDE CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS!)*

**HIGH SCHOOL: 90 students  
TOTAL HOURS: 2,400 hours**

B.C. High, Canton High, Cardinal Spellman, Catholic Memorial, Duxbury High, Mansfield High, Milton Academy, Oliver Ames, St. Sebastian's, Ursuline Academy, West Bridgewater High, Westwood High, Xaverian Brothers High

**COLLEGE: 122 students  
TOTAL HOURS: 1,950 hours**

Bentley College, Bridgewater State College, College of the Holy Cross, Stonehill College, United States Military Academy, University of Notre Dame

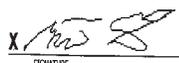


## A Cadet for Christ

During his spring break, a wonderful young man named **Gilbert** ('Gib') came to visit a friend at **Stonehill College** and spent the entire week volunteering at *My Brother's Keeper*.

On Friday afternoon, he told us he was going out 'to run an errand.' We found out later the errand was for *My Brother's Keeper* and those we serve in **Christ's** name. **Gib** went to **Jordan's Furniture**, bought 6 cribs and 6 crib mattresses at a personal cost of nearly **\$2,000**, and quietly left us the invoice so we could expect delivery.

**Gib** is a junior at **West Point!** It's wonderful to know there are wonderful young men like him who will be serving and leading our country in the coming years.

<b>Jordan's FURNITURE</b> 166 ALDORDS (866-459-7229)		CART NAME: GILBERT ADDRESS: 534 WASHINGTON ST CITY/STATE: SOUTH EASTON, MA 02275 HOME/PHONE: 617-526-2287/7512 CROSS ST BELMONT ST		Sales Order Number 0320905 Date: 03/20/2009			
SALES CONSULTANT Hedra, Trish		EST APPROVAL 5 TO 9 WEEKS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MANUFACTURER DELAY		TAX ID			
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6	MILT	M534C	ANTIQUE WHITE CRIB MATTRESS MINI	38" L x 22.25" W x 43.5" H			\$90.00
	531534400	M534C	CRIB MATTRESS MINI	38" L x 24" W x 5.5" H			\$90.00
	MILT	CRECENT	APPROXIMATE HEIGHT				\$940.00
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## Stonehill Grad Writes of Service at My Brother's Keeper "I discovered within myself a desire and willingness to do more."

By Nicole Landry, 2009 graduate of Stonehill College  
Recipient of the Joseph W. Martin Outstanding Senior Award

To all my friends at *My Brother's Keeper*,

I cannot thank each of you enough for blessing me with such an incredible experience these past four years. I have been fortunate to have been involved in numerous activities and programs while at **Stonehill**, but I can honestly say that my time at *My Brother's Keeper* is what I have cherished the most.

Being able to volunteer every week and serve as an intern this semester has allowed me to witness how much joy can come from doing service. Fulfilling the mission—bringing the love and hope of **Jesus Christ** to those we serve—has affected my life beyond measure, learning the countless lessons that helped to inform my decision to pursue a career in Counseling.

Through service and reflection, I discovered within myself a desire and a willingness to do more. By volunteering at *My Brother's Keeper* every week, I was able to witness the challenges faced by the poor and participate proactively to create change in their lives. By entering into the homes of the people we serve, I stepped into their lives for a moment and witnessed their suffering. I have learned that **God** is fully present where there is suffering and I have discovered deep hope and faith within the people we have served.

Thanks to *My Brother's Keeper*, when people talk about "the poor," I no longer think stereotypically. I think of the thousands of wonderful people I have delivered to over the past four years. The people, stories, deliveries, and experiences of those I have served and those I have served with are ones that will remain with me and I will cherish for the rest of my life. I truly intend to be a part of the *My Brother's Keeper* family forever.

## Missouri High School Student Serves at My Brother's Keeper

"It was definitely the highlight of my trip..."

**Brittany**, a high school senior from **Missouri**, visited **Stonehill College** this spring, one of the many fine schools throughout the country she is considering.

Because service is important to **Brittany**, **Stonehill** suggested she accompany **Nicole Landry** (above) to volunteer at *My Brother's Keeper* as part of her visit. **Nicole** later received this beautiful note from **Brittany** highlighting the impact of our service on students.



Hey Nicole  
Wow! I really want to thank you for an absolutely wonderful experience at My Brother's Keeper. It was definitely the highlight of my trip and probably the thing I will remember the most and think about when making my decision. I hope everything for grad school works out for you and wish you all the best!  
Sincerely,  
Brittany

# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>JULY</b>	<b>Monday, July 13 – 8:30 a.m.</b> 3rd Annual My Brother's Keeper Golf Tournament – Foxborough Country Club <a href="http://www.mybrotherskeeper.org">www.mybrotherskeeper.org</a>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Monday, August 31</b> Stonehill College Into the Streets Freshman Volunteer Day
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Friday–Sunday, September 11–13 – 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b> Million Dollar Hole-in-One Shootout – Golf Country, South Easton
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Thursday, October 8</b> Development Board Volunteer Day
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Friday, November 27 – 7:00 p.m.</b> 20th Annual Gratitude Mass – My Brother's Keeper

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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.