

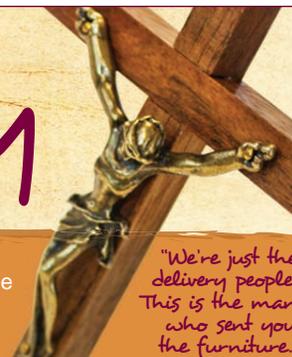


MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Along The Way

May 2012



"We're just the delivery people. This is the man who sent you the furniture."

Our Mission To Bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.

We deliver furniture, food, and Christmas assistance free of charge to local families in need. We have no prerequisites for service.

SHINING OUR LIGHT BRIGHTER & IN NEW PLACES: FALL RIVER

Over the past five years, My Brother's Keeper has significantly increased the number of families served in Christ's name. In 2011, we made a record 7,300 deliveries to 29,000 children and parents—a 57% increase in total deliveries, including 125% growth in our Furniture Assistance Program since 2007.

Today, we are continuing to broaden our outreach—this time geographically. My Brother's Keeper has always provided Christmas assistance to Fall River families and earlier this spring, we began delivering furniture there as well.

Why Fall River? The city annually ranks as one of the ten poorest communities in Massachusetts. According to the US Census Bureau, 20.2% of its residents are below the poverty level, nearly twice the state average. Median household income in Fall River is shockingly low at just \$34,236—31% less than Brockton.

In terms of available resources, most furniture banks in Massachusetts are located on the North Shore or in Metro West. As poor as Fall River is, no charity delivers furniture free of charge there as a core program. Residents of the city have few places to turn.

Given Fall River's tremendous need, we recognize My Brother's Keeper could be overwhelmed with requests if we do not proceed carefully. At this early stage, we are accepting referrals on a limited basis from Fall River caseworkers as opposed to unlimited calls from the general public.

If all goes well and we can obtain the necessary funding—God willing!—our goal at some point in the future is to have a My Brother's Keeper facility in the Fall River area.

A physical presence there would allow us to bring our full model of service to the South Coast. In addition to serving people in need in Christ's name, we would provide transformative volunteer opportunities for families, churches, schools and businesses in the area... enriching their lives in the process.

Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew, "Let your light shine that others may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

We all know My Brother's Keeper is a special, unique ministry. We believe God is now calling us to shine our light brighter and in new places.

Please keep us in your prayers as we begin this new effort. And if you have personal or professional contacts in the Fall River area, please let us know so we can invite them to be part of the My Brother's Keeper family.

Yours in Christ,

Erich Miller

Jim & Terry Orcutt



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER
FAMILY WALK
Building Community One step at a time.

Save the date!
Saturday
June 16, 2012

Celebrate
Faith, Friends,
and Family Fun!

Register at the **ALL NEW**
Family Walk Website!

MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org

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THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Three expressions of gratitude from different people and groups touched by My Brother's Keeper

From a Family in Need

God bless your organization and all your people. I didn't expect all the things I got. The people I spoke with and the people that brought what I needed did not make me feel like a worthless person. It was not embarrassing to ask for and get help from My Brother's Keeper.

My grandson and I cannot thank you enough. We had a wonderful Easter thanks to all of you. God bless and thank you again!

Diane, Fall River

From a Referral Partner

Thank you for the furniture delivery to my client's family who was in great need. Their humbleness is remarkable and it was heartwarming to witness their joy at receiving bedrooms sets and accessories. The volunteers from My Brothers Keeper were exemplary, and in no way made this family feel like they were receiving "a hand out." They were moved to tears by your generosity. What a wonderful gift! Thank you.

Judi Scarpelli, LICSW
Rockland Public Schools

From an Educational Partner

My Brother's Keeper has been a beautiful gift to the students of Cardinal Spellman High School. They will never forget their experiences donating food and delivering furniture. One thoughtful student told me, "I learned so much today. I'll never forget what I saw." Thank you for bringing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those you serve and those who serve alongside you.

Yours in Christ,

Moira Dowd, Campus Minister
Cardinal Spellman High School

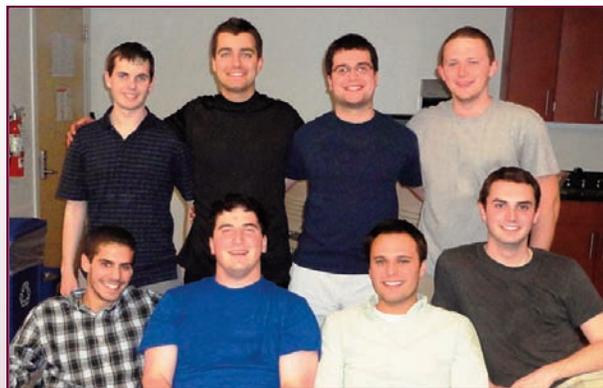
MEN FOR OTHERS

By Alex Ogozaly, Stonehill College Class of 2012

1st student member, My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors

This past academic year, I was proud to be part of the My Brother's Keeper Special Interest House, a program offered through Stonehill's Office of Residence Life which allows students to live and work together around a common purpose.

Our group consisted of eight seniors with unique personalities. Our majors ranged from accounting and finance to communications and international studies. Despite our differences, we were united around our passion for service. Our motivation was simple: we wanted to immerse ourselves in the mission of My Brother's Keeper and give back to the community in our final year at Stonehill.



My Brother's Keeper Special Interest House at Stonehill College: (standing, left to right) Will Mullin, Alex Coppola, Kevin McSweeney, Eugene Fleming; (sitting): Frank Groccia, John Santoro, Alex Ogozaly, Mike Lydon.

As a group, we accomplished more together to help My Brother's Keeper than we ever could as individuals:

- ❖ we volunteered more than 700 hours
- ❖ we participated in mission-centered reflection nights
- ❖ we organized a food drive in the local Easton community
- ❖ we worked with Stonehill's dining service to collect empty cardboard boxes for use on food deliveries
- ❖ and we conducted a fundraising dance in our residence hall

While we're certainly proud of these tangible accomplishments, we are most proud of the fact that each member of our house uniquely embraced the mission of My Brother's Keeper. We each offered our special gifts and talents to serve families in need and "bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve."

St. Francis said, "It is in giving that we receive." Our senior year was certainly richer because of our volunteer experiences. Our conversations over dinner were not only about sports and business news, but also about what a privilege it is to serve others and how much more difficult it can be to receive than to give.

Senior year of college has been a whirlwind of activity: rigorous academic work and countless hours of job-searching mixed in with videogames and late-night food runs! My greatest memory, though, is that I was part of an enthusiastic group of young men who made a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

One of our roommates, Will Mullin, summed it up best: "Having the chance to volunteer with such a dedicated group of guys has been one of the most enjoyable, rewarding experiences of my Stonehill career. Every delivery we made was unique—each person we served had their own story. I am so thankful to have volunteered at My Brother's Keeper."

MINISTRIES WITHIN THE MINISTRY: COMMUNICATIONS

“MINISTRIES WITHIN THE MINISTRY”

2,500 volunteers serve at My Brother's Keeper annually, each offering their special gifts and talents serving others in Christ's name.

Over the years, this has led to many 'Ministries within the Ministry': small groups of dedicated volunteers who joyfully work together in community on special tasks.

This is an ongoing series sharing the beauty and impact of our volunteers' work.

After receiving our most recent Mission Appeal, a long-time supporter commented, *“I've noticed a huge improvement in your literature over the last few years. Has My Brother's Keeper hired an outside fundraising consultant?”*

The answer is an emphatic 'NO'. . . good stewardship is far too important to us. . . but what a tremendous compliment!

To help us with our printed and digital communications, My Brother's Keeper relies on talented, generous community members who help us tell our story better than ever before.



Steve White and Denis Concannon of ICON Advertising & Design donate graphic design services, most recently, redesigning the masthead on the front page of the newsletter.

Since 2008 Denis Concannon, owner of ICON Advertising & Design in Hingham, has worked with our staff to tackle many key projects. Most notably, he's redesigned our website, launched our Facebook page, created our Family Walk logo and graphics, and designed all our special appeals such as the annual Mission Appeal and our Planned Giving brochure.

High-quality photographs are the foundation of good graphic design. Since 2009, J. Kiely from Lightchaser Photography in Dedham has attended all My Brother's Keeper events to create a library of images. And for the last decade, Maureen Richards of Prospect Hill Company in Brockton has designed this newsletter which receives so much praise from our readers. Prospect Hill, owned by former Development Board member Tim McMullen, handles final printing of all our projects.



Very importantly, each of these businesses deeply discounts their work—charging My Brother's Keeper as close to cost as possible—so the greatest number of families in need can be served.

“My Brother's Keeper touches so many lives in such a unique way,” said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper. *“We are blessed to have a team of generous, outstanding professionals who help us convey the vibrancy of our ministry and inspire others to be a part of our work.”*

THE BEST LOVELY LADIES NIGHT YET!

In March, a dedicated group of women hosted the 6th Annual Lovely Ladies event at Thorny Lea Golf Club in Brockton. In the words of many attendees, *“It was the best Lovely Ladies night yet!”*

The highlight of the evening was guest speaker Tiziana Dearing, former President of Catholic Charities, Boston. Dearing is currently Chief Executive Officer of Boston Rising, an anti-poverty foundation which seeks to end the cycle of poverty in Boston through education and access to jobs and social networks.

The Lovely Ladies event is 100% organized by volunteers and raised more than \$30,000 this year. It is a friend-raising event as well as a fundraiser: since 2007, more than 600 women have attended and many have become active volunteers and supporters as a result.



Left to right, a Lovely Ladies guest congratulates keynote speaker Tiziana Dearing along with co-founder Terry Orcutt and Development Board member Lori Grant.

Special thanks to the 2012 Lovely Ladies committee—Patti Boucher, Stephanie Coose, Lori Grant, Kathy Jones, Miriam Keen, Donna Lane, Deb Murray and Sue Vatalaro—as well as Steve and Mary Wessling of Wessling Architects in Quincy who generously stepped forward as this year's major sponsor, covering all costs for the dinner.

PRIVILEGE TO SERVE

By Marty Raffol, Natick

Volunteers Jack Cahill, Sheryl Gray and I recently delivered furniture to a man named John who lived in a Brockton Housing Authority apartment.

Jack drove the truck while Cheryl navigated. When we arrived, we entered a very small one bedroom apartment without basic furniture to sit on. The kitchen was also sparsely equipped, lacking many common necessities.

John was sitting in a wheelchair next to a very personable lady who introduced herself as Karen, John's fiancé. They both were very excited to meet us. When John talked, he spoke quickly and sometimes was difficult to understand. When that happened, Karen would explain what he said and she always referred to John as 'Sergeant.'

While we were unloading the truck, Jack, Cheryl and I agreed there was something unique about John. Despite his physical disability, he was a very positive and happy person. He had an engaging personality and was eager to help move in his new things. In fact, John had Jack give him a big box of dishes which he held in his lap as he powered his wheelchair down the hallway. He raised the heavy box in the air and said, *"I'm strong and I can help!"*

Karen cautioned him to be careful, but again, there was something about the Sergeant... some special quality about him. He was full of life. When Jack, Cheryl and I were finishing up, we agreed there was a story to be told about John. He was different. He was electric. You wanted to learn more about him. He was special!

While saying our goodbyes, John and Karen were very gracious and grateful. They couldn't thank us enough. But we had to ask. *"John, why does Karen call you Sergeant?"*

John finally told us his story: *"I served as a medic in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, 1960 through 1973."*

We were amazed. *"That's more than a decade! Were you in active duty all that time?"*

"No," said John. *"I was in a Prisoner of War camp for 13 years... we para-trooped into a hot zone and I was captured along with 62 others in my platoon. During the firefight, I was shot 38 times by AK47's and dragged into the prison camp known as The Hanoi Hilton. I was a POW with John McCain."*

"How did you survive so many gunshot wounds?" we asked.

John explained, *"I almost didn't. I almost bled out... the U.S. Army medics in the camp saved my life. Thirteen years later, though, I walked out of there. After I returned to the States, I had many operations to remove bullets near my spine. That's what left me partially paralyzed. I still have over a pound of lead in me."*

John showed us a bullet wound on his leg. Karen interrupted and said, *"He's a real American Hero... Tell them of the torture you endured, John."*

He explained, *"It was terrible. They would put bamboo shoots under my finger nails and then snap them off. They would put me in a locked steel box for a week or longer... all dark, no food and no water... and on other occasions they would beat me relentlessly. Out of the original 63, only 15 of us made it out alive."*

We were in awe of this man and all that he had endured! It was clear to us that it was his faith which carried him through such a difficult time... and God was still watching over him today.

When Cheryl handed John the My Brother's Keeper crucifix, she explained, *"We are only the messengers of God, the delivery people—this is the man who sent you the furniture."*

Karen and John both looked at each other with tears in their eyes. We thanked John for his sacrifice and service to our country and told him, *"It has been our honor and privilege to serve you."*



Marty Raffol, Sheryl Gray, and Jack Cahill volunteer on Thursdays, our 'Community Day,' which regularly hosts 50-60 volunteers each week.

THE 1ST FALL RIVER DELIVERY...

"the poor know God very well as they rely on Him constantly"

By Jim Orcutt, Co-Founder & President Emeritus

In 1988 when God began My Brothers Keeper in the basement of our Taunton home, I would head north to Brockton each morning in the "Green Monster," a beat-up farm truck which broke down as often as it ran. (*right*)

Now, twenty-four years later I was driving through Taunton again. This time I was in Saint Peter, a reliable, closed-bodied delivery truck, one of six vehicles in the My Brothers Keeper fleet. How good God has been!

In the early days, Terry and I did most of the deliveries together. This day, my crew was my son, Jim Jr. and grandsons Eben (age 14) and Nathan (age 9), just three of the more than 2,500 volunteers God sends our way each year.

It was a very special day. After careful consideration, the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors recently decided to extend our mission "to bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ" to Fall River, one of the most poverty-stricken cities in Massachusetts. Our crew was making the very first delivery of this new effort.

As we approached the city, we saw hills and church steeples. Jesus had arrived well ahead of us. The steeples were a tender reminder that the poor know God very well because they rely on Him constantly. We, in turn, are granted the privilege of being God's answer to their prayers.

Nathan announced, "There it is Grandpa, number 784." He had spotted the address on an enormous, dilapidated building that nearly took up the entire block. At first glance we thought it was abandoned, as much of it was boarded up. At the top of the stairs, though, we knocked on the door of apartment 6.

A woman's voice timidly asked, "Who is it?" When we answered "My Brothers Keeper," the lock unlatched and the door opened cautiously revealing a young woman with a little girl peeking shyly from behind her.

"We have a furniture and food delivery for Mary," I said.

The woman replied, "She's at the hospital with her husband. I'm Sara, her son's girlfriend. This is my daughter, Melody. We've been waiting for you."

I explained to Sara what we were delivering: a kitchen table and chairs, a full bed, dresser, lamps, new pots and pans and a food order. She led us through a maze of dimly lit rooms to the kitchen where a young man was frying ground beef in a battered pot. Sara told us, "This is Marc, Mary's son." Marc, head down, obviously embarrassed, kept his eyes on his cooking and gave us a quiet hello.



The first My Brother's Keeper truck, "The Green Monster," with the Hepworth family aboard: from left to right, Ann, Andrea, Sandra, and Leonard.

As we brought the furniture into the apartment, Sara began to light up. She was amazed at the quality of the items. "This bed is brand new," she said. "It's still in the plastic." I explained that our women volunteers had actually made the box-spring. Sara was incredulous. "No way!" she responded.

While unloading the furniture from Saint Peter, a young man approached us—Mary's second son, Liam. He had just come from the hospital visiting his dad. The doctors had given his parents bad news that his father had stage four cancer. We told Liam about the My Brothers Keeper prayer room and promised to pray for his family.

With all the furniture in place, Sara, Melody, Marc and Liam stood admiring the beautiful, new kitchen table. As they thanked us, we handed them the crucifix with the same message we've been conveying for twenty-four years: "You're very welcome, but the furniture isn't from us. We're just the delivery people. This is a gift for your home. This is the man who sent you the furniture."

Hugs followed the tears as they walked us to the door. We had arrived as strangers. We left as friends.

After I dropped Jim Jr. and my grandsons at their home in Taunton, I continued north by myself to My Brothers Keeper. In awe and humility I thanked God for the privilege of serving Him and others, along with my family. I thanked Him for the thousands of people who choose the joy of service at My Brothers Keeper. I thanked Him for our young, vibrant leadership and staff who carry our mission forward. I thanked Him for our many supporters who value the integrity of our mission and the dignity we afford to those Christ entrusts to our care.

And I said: "Now Lord, your servant can rest in peace."

Well, maybe not yet...because many more people in Fall River and beyond still yearn for the love and hope of Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE	<p>Saturday, June 2 — 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Holy Cross Family Ministries 'Family Rosary Retreat 2012' Cardinal Spellman High School www.FamilyRosary.org/Retreat</p>
JUNE	<p>Thursday, June 7 Holy Cross Retreat House 'De Colores' Golf Tournament - Easton Country Club www.RetreatHouse.org</p>
JUNE	<p>Saturday, June 16 3rd Annual My Brother's Keeper Family Walk www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org</p>
JULY	<p>Monday, July 16th My Brother's Keeper Golf Tournament – Foxborough Country Club Call Vince Shea at (508) 238-7512 for more information</p>



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

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My Brother's Keeper Prayer

Lord . . .

When I have food, Help me remember the hungry.
 When I lie in my bed, Help me remember those who sleep on the floor.
 When I have a warm home, Help me remember the homeless.
 When I have work, Help me remember those without jobs.
 When I experience the joy of giving to my children,
 Help me remember the agony of those who must watch their children go without.
 By remembering, Help me 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.