

# Growing the My Brother's Keeper Family

## \$300,000 Raised by the Family Walk & Golf Tourney



**My Brother's Keeper hosted 2 major events this summer which involved more than 1,000 people, 150 corporate sponsors and raised \$300,000 to support our work serving families in need in Christ's name.**

**Family Walk.** The first event was the 4th Annual My Brother's Keeper Family Walk on June 15th. God blessed us with beautiful weather again this year- not a cloud in the sky! The day included a 3-mile walk, great food, live music and plenty of family fun.

As with everything at My Brother's Keeper, we began in prayer. Fr. John Denning, President of Stonehill College and a member of our Board of Directors, led us in a blessing. Co-Founders Jim and Terry Orcutt then shared what it means to them to celebrate the ministry's 25th Anniversary with so many fellow supporters:

*In Scripture, God tells us: "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."*

*God has kept His word. Twenty-five years ago, God began this ministry with magic marker fliers and an old car with borrowed roof-racks. We look at My Brother's Keeper today and we are astounded at what He has done. The old car with borrowed roof-racks has been transformed to a fleet of nine beautiful delivery vehicles. The cellar has been replaced by this beautiful building constructed from thousands of bricks.*

*But, the heart of My Brother's Keeper is not made of bricks. This ministry's heart is made of people. The soul of My Brother's Keeper is comprised of each of you and thousands of others, who love this ministry... this work of God. (excerpt)*

The Family Walk hosted a record crowd again this year but before the first step was even taken, it was a financial success: our Development Board led by Joyce Donadio raised a record \$184,000 in sponsorships!

**Golf Tournament.** Just 30 days later on July 15th, My Brother's Keeper hosted our 7th Annual Golf Tourney at Foxborough Country Club. Builders, plumbers, electricians and others put down their tools and picked up their clubs to help their neighbors in need. While the Family Walk generally brings together our traditional community of supporters, the golf event attracts a new group of supporters, primarily from the construction industry.

Bill Lane Sr. from Superior Plumbing, the chair of the event, said, "In honor of the 100,000th delivery My Brother's Keeper will make this December, we set a goal of raising \$100,000 and we were successful. I'm so proud of my friends and co-workers in the construction industry. They really know how to come together to help people in need."



# Upcoming Events



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

### Sept

#### Sunday, September 29th

Blessing & Open House  
Dartmouth Facility  
3-5 PM, Ceremony at 3:15  
999 Reed Road, N. Dartmouth

### Nov

#### Thursday, November 7th

Jenny Boston Night  
at My Brother's Keeper  
4-8PM  
Call Vin Shea at (508) 238-7512 for  
more information

#### Monday, November 25th

3rd Annual Hungry Men Event  
Call Vin Shea at (508) 238-7512 for  
more information

#### Friday, November 29th

23rd Annual Gratitude Mass  
7PM at My Brother's Keeper



### 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.

#### EASTON FACILITY

PO Box 338  
Easton, MA 02356-0338

508.238.4416 Furniture & Food Assistance  
508.238.7512 Donations & Business  
508.238.3613 Fax

#### DARTMOUTH FACILITY

PO Box 70273  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747-0273

774.305.4590 Furniture Assistance  
774.305.4577 Donations & Business  
774.305.4578 Fax

[www.MyBrothersKeeper.org](http://www.MyBrothersKeeper.org) • 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

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**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

# Along The Way

September 2013



*"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.

## Dartmouth is Up & Running!

Great news for My Brother's Keeper: our Dartmouth facility is officially up and running!

We spent the beginning part of the summer laying the ground work: obtaining permits, equipping the offices, setting up the warehouse, installing our phone system, and making renovations to support our unique model of service.

We've obtained in-kind donations of equipment and professional services valued at about \$75,000 so far. It's been a great affirmation to witness so many community members step up so generously in their own special way: just to name a few, Plumb House in Milford is donating general contracting services, Inspired Technology in West Bridgewater donated phone services and the law firm of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane in Quincy donated a server and computers for all the offices.

Since July 31st, our 3-person Dartmouth staff led by Josh Smith has been on-site daily with a group of dedicated volunteers making furniture pick-ups and deliveries. Once the building renovations are complete, the staff will broaden their focus to getting the word out about My Brother's Keeper on the South Coast. They will be



**My Brother's Keeper**  
A Christian ministry of loving service and education

### Blessing & Open House Dartmouth Facility

**Sunday, September 29th**  
**3:00 - 5:00 pm • Ceremony at 3:15**  
**999 Reed Road • N. Dartmouth, MA**  
*All are welcome!*

giving talks in the community, bringing groups in for tours and working hard to build a strong volunteer corps, especially as students return to school.

On Sunday September 29th, we will celebrate this wonderful, joyous milestone with a Blessing & Open House at our Dartmouth facility. Please join us as we make history! If attending, RSVP to [info@mybrotherskeeper.org](mailto:info@mybrotherskeeper.org) All are welcome.

### The First Delivery from Dartmouth By Jane Churchill, Volunteer, Brockton

On July 31, 2013, Jim Whalen (Lakeville), Eben Orcutt (Taunton), Steve and David Joanis (Franklin) and I had the privilege to make the very first delivery from the new Dartmouth facility. We helped a 50-year old woman named Cheryl in Fall River.

After driving from Easton once a week this past year to serve families on the South Coast, we couldn't believe how fast we got to her apartment: just 5 minutes from the new location!

Cheryl had been in her home for a month after leaving an area homeless shelter. She was so happy to see us! She had no bed

and needed knee surgery. Sleeping on a couch night after night had gotten old quickly— she was looking forward to a goodnight's sleep.

As we brought in her new bed and all the other furniture, we got to know Cheryl. She proudly told us about her son who had earned a full scholarship to UMass. He'll be starting in the fall. As the proud mother of two kids myself, I could relate to her motherly pride in a special way. Aren't we really all the same in the end?

When the furniture was all in, I gave Cheryl our final gift, the crucifix. I was a

little nervous because I'd only done it twice before but I delivered our message the best I could: "We're just the delivery people. This is the man who sent you the furniture."

Cheryl lowered her head and looked intently at the crucifix. After a long pause, she whispered, "Wow!" and gave us a big smile. "What's your address?" she asked. "When I'm back on my feet after surgery, I want to send you a donation."

As we drove away, I smiled too: it felt special to be a part of My Brother's Keeper history— the 1st delivery from Dartmouth.



**Special Raffle  
Insert**

Your choice of...

**7 Day Boston-to-Bermuda Cruise or \$3,000 Cash**

Prize Donated in Full - 100% of Proceeds Benefit My Brother's Keeper



## New Classrooms for Christian Service

My Brother's Keeper trucks and vans are more than delivery vehicles. They are tools we use to involve hundreds of students each year in Christian service.

Like "classrooms on wheels," they allow our staff to use experiences on the road as "teachable moments" which inspire young people to be their brother's keeper.

Our new location in Dartmouth means our fleet must grow from 6 vehicles to 9 by adding 2 trucks and a van. The newest "classroom" is pictured below: a four-door, seven-passenger truck with a 16-foot cargo box.



Our first truck, 'The Green Monster'

"As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we feel so blessed to be entrusted with such an incredible truck, especially when we think back to 'The Green Monster' and our humble beginnings," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper.

"The new vehicles will allow us to serve thousands of families in Christ's name in the coming years and the extra seating capacity will allow us to involve so many more volunteers in our work. Think of all the seeds which will be planted!"

It's been our tradition for the past two decades to name our trucks after saints. The first truck is named 'St. Thomas' in memory of Tom Flatley of The Flatley Foundation and Tom Yawkey of The Yawkey Foundation. The second truck is named 'St. James' in memory of James M. Salah of The Salah Foundation. All three foundations are key supporters of our expansion to the South Coast.

Our newest truck, 'St. Thomas'



## St. Thomas' First Delivery

By Ryan Thorley, Operations Manager, Easton facility

We recently made a special delivery to Debra in Holbrook. The delivery held extra significance for us because it was the first delivery made in our newest truck, 'St. Thomas.' I was joined by six volunteers and we were all excited to be a part of this inaugural delivery.



As soon as we met Debra, we could tell from her accent that she wasn't from the area. She was a victim of domestic violence and had been relocated from Atlanta, Georgia. Though she moved here for her own safety, it was difficult being far away from family and friends. And if that wasn't bad enough, Debra also has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

We spent ten minutes listening to Debra's story before we brought in the first piece of furniture. That's why we call My Brother's Keeper a "ministry": we minister to people spiritually and emotionally... we don't just provide a physical service.

After a quick tour of Debra's small apartment, we got to work setting up her new furniture. We brought all the essentials she needed: a bed, dresser, kitchen table and chairs, and a living room set. She was thrilled with each piece that came in and kept saying, "Wow! That's beautiful!"

Beyond her struggles, Debra was clearly suffering from loneliness being so far away from home. With St. Thomas's 7-passenger capacity, we were able to bring all the furniture in and still have volunteers visiting and being present with her throughout the delivery.

I overheard her say, "I can't remember the last time I felt so much joy!" We knew the extra volunteers in our truck would help us carry furniture but Debra showed us how 'St. Thomas' will truly help us accomplish our mission.

After all the furniture was set up, we presented her with our final gift, the crucifix. She held it in her hands and looked directly at it saying, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

We gave Debra our thanks in return because she gave us a gift too: we witnessed the strength of her faith by the way she carries her crosses. She was truly an inspiration to us all.

### SUMMER 2013: June 1 - August 15

Student volunteers:	Summer Interns:
Students: 175	Students: 8
Schools: 44	Schools: 3
Hours: 2,627	Hours: 1,960

# "Thank You!"

"May God bless all of you for the help and kindness you give. What makes me feel so good is that you don't judge people and make me feel like I'm begging. The world would be a much darker place without wonderful people like you."

Deborah, Brockton

"The staff and volunteers were fabulous, courteous, professional, friendly and made us feel comfortable. The items delivered were wonderful and we can't thank you enough! We will definitely pay it forward!"

Cathy, Milton

"The final gift of the crucifix is so special to me. I keep it where I can see Christ every day and it reminds me of how good some people are. I thank you and Christ for my happiness."

Laura, Brockton

"Thank you so much for helping me & my family. You are a God-send. You make us feel like it's Christmas every month. God bless all of you for caring about complete strangers."

Cheryl, Dorchester

"I would like to thank all of you tremendously for the help... we truly appreciate it! And I must say, receiving the crucifix was the part that made me the happiest."

Marian, Braintree

"My Brother's Keeper was truly a God send. You helped us rebuild after we lost everything in the fire. If it wasn't for you guys, we would be sleeping on the floors. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and souls."

Karen, Brockton



"I feel so blessed by your organization. Thank you so very much! The volunteers were so respectful and gracious. I feel blessed to have met them. Please call me and let me know how I can help and volunteer to give back what you have given to me."

Patty, Quincy

"I am so grateful to the staff and volunteers of My Brother's Keeper. They are all so nice, pleasant, compassionate and caring. I've never felt so much love from an organization. My 6-year old daughter and I are so happy and will never forget your help. We love you, My Brother's Keeper!"

Tracey, Randolph

"My Brother's Keeper is a gift from God. They made me feel hope again."

Candice, Taunton

"There are really no words to describe the delivery people. They are simply God's angels. They smiled, laughed, joked around. They really showed a lot of love. They were like family, even more than our own. And at the end of the delivery, each one gave us a big hug. How many people do that these days?? Keep up the good work. God's very proud."

Rose and Tom, Brockton

"The My Brother's Keeper food program is wonderful, especially for seniors and those on fixed incomes as we are. It is a tremendous help. Thank you so much."

Nicole, Brockton

"I am so very grateful for your help. It was a huge weight taken off my shoulders. Thank you!"

Heidi, Fall River



# “A Light on a Lamp Stand”

By Jim Orcutt, Co-Founder & President Emeritus

Following each delivery, everyone who receives help from My Brother's Keeper receives a survey asking how well we served them. The forms ask several questions and invites comments and suggestions. The person may sign their form or choose to remain anonymous. To the right is a survey we received from 'Bill' in Weymouth. He gave My Brother's Keeper high marks on all the questions and finished with a comment on how he felt as someone who isn't Christian.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus tells us, “Whoever is not against us is for us.” Since the inception of My Brother's Keeper, two of our principle policies have been: “No prerequisites for service”—we do not judge—and if someone who is not Christian declines the crucifix when it's offered, we reply, “No problem, whoever your God is...that's who sent you the furniture.”

At My Brother's Keeper, we are not called to challenge the belief of others. Tolerance for the opinions and beliefs of others is the corner stone of our service. We are called to be a light on a lamp stand to draw others to Christ.

We can best be that “Light” by following the words of the prophet Micah: “This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Did the delivery truck show up when scheduled?  YES  NO EXACTLY!

Were the delivery people nice and respectful?  YES  NO EXTREMELY!

Were you happy with the quality of the furniture?  YES  NO VERY

Was our final gift, the crucifix, meaningful to you?  YES  NO

Overall, how would you rate the service provided to you by My Brother's Keeper?

POOR FAIR GOOD VERY GOOD  EXCELLENT!

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS: I WAS ORIGINALLY HESITANT TO CALL NOT BEING CHRISTIAN BUT I WAS REJECTED, NOT HUNDED OR BARGORED! THE PEOPLE I DEALT WITH WERE WONDERFUL, ALL OF THEM. WHILE I'M NOT CHRISTIAN, I RESPECT YOUR GIFT AND WILL KEEP IT IN THE SPIRIT IT WAS GIVEN. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR THE HELP, I WOULD HAVE NOTHING WITHOUT IT. THANK YOU!

**We've worked hard on our expansion to serve Fall River and the South Coast but, day after day, we're still doing great work from our Easton facility.**

**We recently received this e-mail, a beautiful affirmation of our mission “To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.”**

**From:** XXXXXXX, Patricia  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2013 2:07 PM  
**To:** info@mybrotherskeeper.org  
**Subject:** THANK YOU

Hello,

I just want to THANK your organization for TRULY BLESSING my niece (also named) Patricia. The LORD is AWESOME and your organization is definitely doing His Work! My Niece Patricia is a faithful Christian, raising her 6 year old son, has (2) part-time jobs and attends Suffolk University—I don't understand how she manages to do it all except for “the Grace of God”. Patricia moved into her first apartment and although I was trying to help her, it wasn't enough. She desperately needed furniture, so she contacted some organizations in an attempt to get assistance, but for one reason or another her efforts were in vain. Until she contacted “My Brother's Keeper” who willingly provided and delivered furniture to her home—FREE of charge and volunteers even setup the furniture for her—THANK YOU JESUS!!! Have a BLESSED Day ;-)

**Patricia**

*There's no better exercise for strengthening the heart, than reaching down and lifting people up...*