

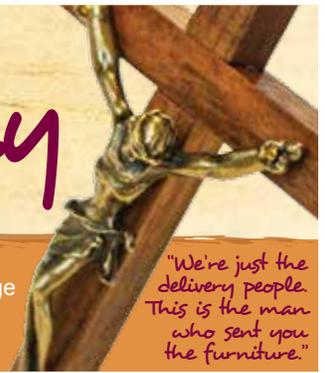


MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Along The Way

January 2014



"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.

2013 was *Historic*...2014 will be even better!

2013 was a historic year for My Brother's Keeper. We made headlines several times as we celebrated our 25th anniversary, opened our Dartmouth facility, made our 100,000th delivery (see inside) and ended with a record-setting Christmas program.

With the help of 3,000 volunteers and thousands of supporters, My Brother's Keeper delivered gifts and food this Christmas to more people in more places than ever before: 2,760 families—10,900 children and parents!—living in 80 communities from Haverhill to Boston to Harwich. Remarkably, we accomplished all this despite a very late Thanksgiving and 2 days lost to snow storms.

These numbers and milestones are impressive but only one thing matters in the end: that we accomplished our mission 'To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve'...one family, one volunteer, one delivery at a time.

The words of those we serve make it clear that God is using My Brother's Keeper today just as beautifully as ever. Here's a letter and picture sent by 'Laura,' a North Shore mom who received our help this Christmas:

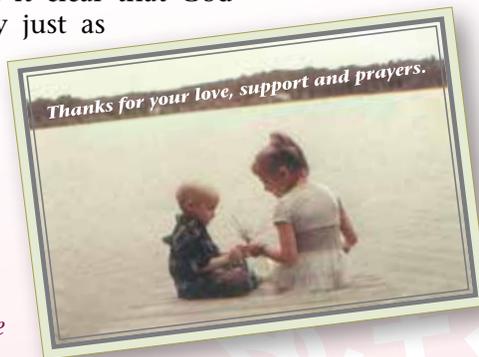
With my son's cancer diagnosis, our lives turned upside down. I have been by his side 24 hours a day since August. Since my time and energy has been focused on his daily care, I have

been unable to work or give my daughter the attention she deserves. As Christmas approached, I realized that there was no way I could provide gifts for my children. I had neither the time nor the money to shop.

My children and I had to spend Christmas at Children's Hospital, but thanks to you, Santa delivered gifts to them while they slept Christmas Eve. Prayers and the amazing skills of the doctors are helping my son improve and now you have been the instrument to answer my prayers for Christmas.

Thank you all so much. I will never forget how you brought joy into our lives during some of our darkest moments. Please keep my son in your prayers. — Laura

Laura thanks you and we do too! Thank you for being so generous and so dedicated to My Brother's Keeper... for helping us be the light of Christ to so many of our brothers and sisters in their time of need.



As remarkable and news-worthy as 2013 was, 2014 will be our best year yet! We probably won't make headlines this year but with your help and God's blessing, we will serve more families with more volunteers than ever before. That means God will give us more opportunities than ever to accomplish our mission... to bring His Love and Hope into the world...and that's what matters in the end.

2013 Assistance Programs – A Year in Review

Christmas	2,760 deliveries	10,900 served
Furniture	1,223 deliveries	3,982 served
Food	3,894 deliveries	16,518 served



TOTAL: 7,877 deliveries serving 31,400 children and parents ... all in Christ's name!

My Brother's Keeper Heating Assistance Program

January's frigid weather has strained the budgets of local families as well as area agencies providing heating assistance.

Can you help? See special insert.



“With God, All Things Are Possible” ...Our 100,000th Delivery



What seemed unimaginable twenty-five years ago became a reality on Christmas Eve: we completed our 100,000th delivery, giving proof to Christ’s words, “With God, all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

At opening prayer, the Riske family of Stoughton surprised co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt with a jar filled with 100,000 mustard seeds and a letter to the My Brother’s Keeper community. An excerpt reads:

“The impact of this mission is immeasurable. Imagine each seed in the jar growing into beautiful faith-bearing plants that will go on to bloom the way God intended them to flourish. They in turn, will produce and nourish the faith of others. And then, there will be another season of abundant



crops and the love and hope will spread.” (full letter printed on back page)

The family who received the 100,000th delivery lives in Taunton just a half mile from the home where Jim and Terry began our work in 1988. It was clear the family had been served by us at some point in the past: a My Brother’s Keeper crucifix was hanging on their kitchen wall—the clearest affirmation possible of our mission.

The historic delivery was made by Jim and Terry as co-founders; Erich Miller, president; and two long-time student volunteers, James Lane from Easton and Maggie Connor from Marshfield. Together, they symbolized the past, the present and the future of My Brother’s Keeper.

“The Right Place at the Right Time” By John DeAngelo



On a snowy Tuesday night in December, my Plymouth friends Kevin Holland, Bob McMakin, Lee Delbos, and I set out to make Christmas deliveries in Brockton. One

was especially memorable.

Catrina was not home when we arrived at her building so we gave her a call. A few minutes later she pulled up, backed her SUV behind us, and opened the rear door. We assumed she had groceries to carry in so we offered to lend a hand. Her response was completely unexpected. She sat down on the back of her car and began crying uncontrollably.

“What’s wrong, Catrina?” I asked. Her story was difficult to believe. Catrina and

her three sons lived in an apartment with mold, no heat, and water leaking into her bathroom from an upstairs apartment. Even worse, her landlord was evicting her the next day. “I have a new apartment I can move into on Friday. I pleaded with him to let us stay until then but he said, ‘No.’”

“What are you going to do?” I asked. “I don’t know,” she quietly replied. “We have no place to stay these next two nights. It looks like we’ll have to sleep in my car and I don’t want to put my kids through that.”

The four of us felt helpless. At that moment, the best we could offer was a prayer and a promise to call her if we could do anything more. We gave her the Christmas gifts and a \$50 gift card for groceries. It brought another round of tears by Catrina followed by genuine hugs for everyone. She put the presents in the back of her SUV and we continued with our route, deeply shaken.

When we got back to the building that night, our staff talked about Catrina’s story. At closing prayer each night, we reflect on the Holy Family. We knew we couldn’t turn away from this modern-day family in need the way others did 2,000 years ago.

I called Catrina to give her the good news: we could put them in a hotel for the two nights. She was so excited, crying and thanking me at the same time, over and over again. In a matter of seconds, she went from desperation to jubilation...from sleeping in a freezing car to a nice room with warm, comfortable beds and even a swimming pool and continental breakfast. Her darkest hour would instead be a bright, joyful memory!

And that’s our mission.

I thanked God for putting us at the right place at the right time to be His instrument to answer Catrina’s prayers.



The Joy of Service

Volunteering at My Brother's Keeper last week truly filled my heart with joy. It was amazing to see so many caring and compassionate people working together to make a difference in the lives of struggling families. The busy-bee children especially warmed my heart as I watched their excitement while they carefully chose items for other kids. I am grateful for the experience and I hope to return next year to help as well.

— Victoria Gill, West Bridgewater (1st-time volunteer)



I want to thank you for letting me take my son Jack on some deliveries and share a story. Jack is 12 and every once in awhile he'll ask me, "Dad, if you hit the lottery and money wasn't an issue, what kind of car would you buy?" I always answer the same way, telling him my car is running fine and we could use that money to help so many people. He'll usually press on saying, "After we help all the charities, wouldn't you want to buy a Lamborghini?" to which I always reply, "I'd never spend that much money on a car even if we had the money. He never likes the answer.

Fast forward to the ride home from My Brother's Keeper after deliveries. We talked about the experience and some of the people we met. On one of the deliveries, after receiving the gift card for groceries, a little girl said, "Mommy, now we can have a nice Christmas dinner." This really moved Jack.

On that ride home, I explained to him the mission of My Brother's Keeper and reminded him we're called to love and serve each other. I also explained that was why I always answer his Lamborghini question the same way. He replied, "I get it, Dad, and I agree."

That experience with my son was the best gift I received this Christmas. Thank you!

— Kevin Holland, Plymouth



Thank You!



"It is people like you, God's Angels on Earth, that make these holidays possible. Together as Christians, we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. And together you have helped me and my babies have joy this Christmas season. 2013 has been hard on us. We thank you for giving us our hope back and with that, strength will follow. Together with God, all is possible."
— Maria, Fall River

"Thank you for doing all you do to help. May you get everything you wish for in return for the love you give to so many."
— Denise, Whitman

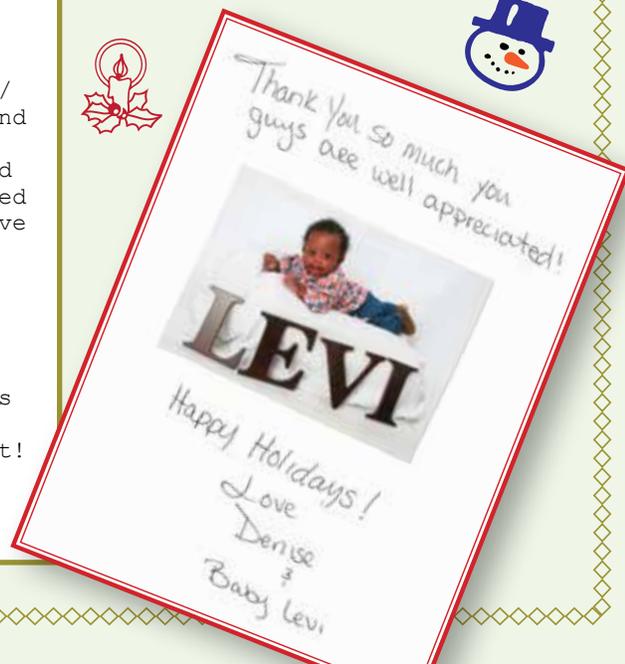
"May God Bless each of you as well as your families. Year after year, you give and ask nothing in return. That to me is what Christmas is all about. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help and love. I would love to help out in any way. To be a part of such an unselfish giving would inspire me to keep living according to God's will."
— Debbie, Weymouth

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for helping me out this year with your Christmas donations for my children. You have no idea what this means to me. Without your help my children would not be celebrating this year. I am truly grateful for your generosity and cannot wait to see their little faces light up Christmas morning. I am recently divorced and work full time but just cannot make ends meet so this is a blessing for my family. Thank you so very much."
— Catherine, Somerville

"I'm writing to say thank you very much for the Christmas help. I can't explain enough how grateful I am. It hasn't been a good year for me and my daughters. We have been in a family shelter since December 2012. I had so many sleepless nights worrying about Christmas and then I heard about My Brother's Keeper. I called and you saved us. I will always be grateful and never forget this Christmas because of you."
— Keisha, Dorchester

"What a wonderful surprise I got yesterday when I received a phone call saying you people had a Christmas dinner for me. I wasn't sure you were helping single people for Christmas! 3 young men came to my door with food, milk, eggs, juice, a wrapped gift and an envelope with a very generous gift card for to Stop & Shop. I could have cried! They even sang a Christmas song to me. It was all so wonderful. I live alone with my cat, Cali. You sure made my day and my Christmas. I thank our Lord and all his helpers."
— Pat, Brockton

"Thank you very much for your donation to my family. What an incredible bounty of gifts you brought for the children and my family. We were just amazed! Your generous spirit is incredible! Thank you so much for all of the love, time, and energy you put into selecting the perfect presents for my family. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make their Christmas morning a magical experience."
— Paulina, Quincy



A Thank You from a Family in Boston



From: Lee xxx [mailto:leexxxx@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 12:54 PM
To: Erich Miller
Subject: Thank you!
Importance: High

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

Your wonderful, cheerful and pleasant team just dropped off your wonderful and generous gifts! THANK YOU! It was strange to be expecting them and still find myself both excited for my kids and overwhelmed with the emotion of being blessed by your great organization. I was at loss of words.

It must've been that it didn't hit me until that moment, what I was dealing with. To be honest this has been such a trying year for all of us. In such a short period we went from being a household with over \$120,000 income to now needing to look outside of our home and comfort level for help from organizations such as yours.

I've been so touched today that I really want to find a way to pay it forward and would like to know how I can help and/or contribute to this effort of being my brother's keeper and help make sure that no other family goes without the true meaning of Christmas...which is one of love, peace, caring and giving to others... the biggest gift that humanity has received through our saviors birth. I'm even debating if I should give the Stop and Shop card to another family because their need is more.

Thank you so much for giving us such a wonderful, heartfelt Christmas! The gifts are great and the kids are going to be so surprised and happy but more so for giving us the best gift of all, a gift for the heart. May God continue to bless your organization, your staff and your families. I look forward to hearing back about ways to help this great effort!

Sincerely,
Lee

In Memory of Jack Shaughnessy, Sr.

...for God Loves a Cheerful Giver

My Brother's Keeper lost a great friend of the ministry when Jack Shaughnessy Sr. of Milton passed away on November 27th.

Jack was introduced to our work by the late Deacon John McDonough and his wife, Ginny, another great friend who recently passed. Jack quickly fell in love with our mission—he loved the crucifix given on each furniture delivery—and he became one of our most devoted supporters.

Jack's favorite passage from Scripture was, "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) He was very generous to My Brother's Keeper financially but he



Jack Shaughnessy (center, seated) surrounded by family, friends, and co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt at our 20th Anniversary Gala. Jack co-chaired the event with John and Margarete McNeice.

and introduce them to our mission. He was so well-respected...his kind words and public affirmations carried great weight! A true leader in every sense of the word, Jack introduced many friends to the My



A Shaughnessy crane helps erect the steel of our Easton facility. Jack Shaughnessy was chair of the building's Capital Campaign Committee.

Brother's Keeper family just as John and Ginny McDonough had done for him. Beginning in 2000, Jack served as the chairman of our Capital Campaign Committee which raised funds to construct our Easton facility. Thanks to his outstanding leadership, we opened our doors debt-free in November of 2002. He also co-chaired our 20th Anniversary Gala and sponsored annual challenge grants to help our Family Walk become the successful event it is today.

We are eternally grateful to Jack for all he did for My Brother's Keeper and for those we serve in Christ's name. He is and will always be deeply missed.

A Mother's Love

By Rachel Smith, Dartmouth staff



The Dartmouth staff—Josh Smith, Jim Whalen and I—recently had the privilege to deliver furniture to Alisha in Fall River. She and her two children, David, 6, and Isabella, 4, moved to Massachusetts from their home in Puerto Rico.

One of the first things Alisha told us is that Isabella is autistic and mostly non-verbal. It didn't stop this beautiful little girl, though, from running around the apartment showing her gratitude and enthusiasm.

As we filled their new home with furniture, Alisha's eyes became wide with awe and disbelief. "You brought me a kitchen table?!" she exclaimed. "I didn't know I'd be getting a couch too!" Alisha was so focused on getting beds for David and Isabella that she'd forgotten about all the other furniture we were bringing. It was easy to understand why: they'd been sleeping on the floor for four weeks.

I began setting up beds in the kids' room and Alisha jumped right in to help me. We got to know each other as we worked.

"It was so hard to leave my family in Puerto Rico," she told me while she tightened the bolts, "but I knew this would be best for Isabella. Where we're from, there's no special education for children like her. I can already see improvements since we've been here. She's so much happier and she's even beginning to talk!"

One thing was clear: Alisha's love for her children came before everything else, even her own comfort and happiness. She was in awe of the furniture we brought... I was in awe of her.

In about an hour, we filled their once-empty space with beds, a couch, chairs, end tables and a kitchen set so Alisha and her children could finally share a meal together.

As the delivery came to a close, we presented her with the crucifix and let her know that God was the one who made this possible.

In that moment, Alisha fell silent and gazed at the cross held tightly in her hands. When I looked to her children and asked them for a hug, Isabella immediately jumped into my arms with a huge smile and a simple, "Thank you." Alisha exclaimed, "She never does that! She never hugs anyone!"

Clearly the Love and Hope of Jesus was at work in more ways than one inside this family's home.

To commemorate our 100,000th delivery, the Riske family from Stoughton presented co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt with this letter accompanied by a jar filled with 100,000 mustard seeds. (see story inside) Very appropriately, the letter was printed on a copy of the 'Mustard Seed' image given to Jim and Terry at our 20th Anniversary Gala in 2008.

December, 23, 2013

To The Lord's Gardener's

Please accept this jar filled with 100,000 mustard seeds as a symbol of today's accomplishment. What started in 1988 with 14 families has grown to service 70 towns in Massachusetts and recently, Rhode Island.

Planting seeds requires faith and that is what your ministry has always been based on. When you deliver love and hope to families you are planting seeds of faith or nourishing a faith worn thin by hardship.

Saint Paul wrote that Faith is "the assured expectation of things hoped for." Often those who plant seeds cannot know what the end result will be. It takes time for flowers to grow and mature and even longer for trees to set roots and produce fruit. The Community at The Keeper has helped 100,000 families. This number easily represents 300,000, or as many as 500,000, individuals touched by God through someone else's actions. It represents hours of work and incredible acts of generosity ... andit does not stop there. Just as the numbers of deliveries has increased, the Community at The Keeper has also grown. Generations of families can be said to have contributed to the mission. Seeds of hope, gratitude and love have been planted in the hearts of all the volunteers that have stepped through those doors.

The impact of this mission is immeasurable. Imagine each seed in the jar growing into beautiful faith-bearing plants that will go on to bloom the way God intended them to flourish. They in turn, will produce and nourish the faith of others. And then, there will be another season of abundant crops and the love and hope will spread.

May the Keeper continue to be truly blessed and may the seeds of love and hope you plant continue to produce prolific and wondrous gifts.

Congratulations and Peace to the entire My Brother's Keepers Family.

The Kingdom of Heaven

is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

Matthew 13:31



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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PO Box 70273
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