

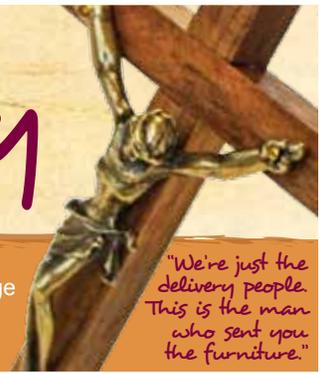


MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Along The Way

May 2015



"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.

God at Work

By Ryan Thorley, Operations Manager–Easton facility

At My Brother's Keeper, God frequently gives volunteers and staff a great privilege: the opportunity to use our special gifts and talents to serve others in His name.

Recently, we made a delivery to Marie in Brockton and I was joined by six students from Cardinal Spellman High School as part of their Sophomore Class service project.

Marie graciously welcomed us into her second floor apartment. Her English was very limited but she made up for it with her beautiful smile and by warmly shaking our hands as we greeted her.

I tried to ask Marie where she wanted the the furniture to go but she was clearly embarrassed because she couldn't communicate better in English. "I speak Haitian Creole," Marie managed to tell us.

From behind me, one of the Spellman students, a young man named Josue, offered a greeting in her native language. The two began talking and a look of joy and relief appeared on Marie's face.

Through Josue's translation we learned Marie had been living with her mother and six-year-old daughter for several months in one room of a cousin's house. This apartment was her first real home in the United States.

We furnished Marie's entire place with beds, dressers, a living room set, a kitchen table and chairs and even a refrigerator. She was amazed by the quality of the furniture and touched by the hard work of our young Cardinal Spellman volunteers.



Six students from Cardinal Spellman High School in Brockton with Ryan Thorley (right), Operations Manager–Easton Facility.

At the end of the delivery, Josue presented Marie with a crucifix and offered our message in Creole: "Se mesye sa a ki voye meb la. Nou selman pote'l vini pou li" which means "We're just the delivery people. This is the man who sent you the furniture."

Marie was moved to tears and excitedly said, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" We exchanged hugs and made our way back into the truck.

I thanked Josue for his assistance with translation and I was impressed by the faith and humility of his response: "No need to thank me; this was God at work."

Profound words from a sophomore in high school!



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Family Walk

Please join us!

Saturday, June 13, 2015



If you have not registered on-line, walk-up registration is available the morning of the event. For details, please visit:

www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org

Milestone Delivery!

Furniture delivery #1,000 on the South Coast

On March 31st, we completed a wonderful milestone on the South Coast: the 1,000th furniture delivery from our new location in Dartmouth.

Of note, this special delivery happened about 12 months ahead of schedule. Our initial forecasts called for it to be completed in the spring of 2016.

The 1,000th delivery was made to Carmen, a mother of two young children, living in Fall River. "Her story is sad and tragic," said Josh Smith, Director of our Dartmouth facility, "but it's one we encounter often at My Brother's Keeper."

Carmen became homeless after she lost her job. To keep a roof over their heads, she and her kids moved from friend to friend every couple of weeks. Carmen finally saved enough for an apartment of her own but the only thing she had when she moved in was a borrowed futon.

Student volunteers from Bishop Stang High School and Providence College helped on the delivery which included beds, a crib, two dressers, a kitchen table and chairs, a full living room set, as well as household items such as linens, pots and pans, dishes and lamps. The two bedroom apartment was fully furnished by the time we finished.



Providence College students Keith Lee, Kate Burnett, and Sara Davis deliver furniture in Fall River with My Brother's Keeper staff, Rachel Smith.

"I've had the opportunity to make several furniture deliveries like this one the past two years," said Anthony Mahoney-Pacheco, senior at Bishop Stang and Fall River resident. "What makes volunteering at My Brother's Keeper so special is I get to meet the families we serve and see the difference I am making."

Since the fall of 2013, My Brother's Keeper in Dartmouth has provided service learning opportunities to students from 40 different area schools, including Bishop Stang, Bishop Connolly, Portsmouth Abbey, Providence College, Salve Regina University, Tabor Academy and the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

"Without question, the single biggest factor in accomplishing this milestone so quickly has been the tremendous involvement of volunteers, especially student volunteers," said Erich Miller, President of My Brother's Keeper. "Over 600 local students have already walked through our doors in Dartmouth and taken on our mission as their own."

Heating Assistance Program

Every January our newsletter includes a special appeal to help local families in need with Heating Assistance (see right). It's just one more important way we live out our mission and can be present to local families in need in Christ's name.

Here's one request we received by email.

From: ****, Gail
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 6:06 PM
To: Erich Miller
Cc: Terry Orcutt
Subject: ?

Good Afternoon, Can either of you tell me if you ever do any type of assistance with OIL? Been Running on Diesel for a while. Thank you as always for everything you have done for us. Especially the prayers. God Bless you all.

Gail

Gail works full-time for a large health insurance provider but things are tough because her husband is battling cancer. We first helped their family at Christmas, then with furniture and food. Our prayers are ongoing.

My Brother's Keeper Heating Assistance Program

January's cold weather has strained the budgets of local families. Can you help provide heating assistance to local families in need?

See special insert.



Does it surprise you to know that struggling families sometimes use diesel from a gas station in place of home heating oil. Why? They can't afford the minimum oil delivery, usually 100 gallons.

Thanks to your generosity, My Brother's Keeper was able to help 40 families with heating costs this winter including Gail's.

In keeping with our mission, each family received a crucifix as a reminder that the help came from God...that He heard and answered their prayers.



Affirmations & Awards

Yawkey Foundation 2014 Grants Report

Each spring, The Yawkey Foundation publishes an annual Grants Report which outlines their charitable giving to honor the philanthropic legacy of Tom and Jean Yawkey.

The theme of this year's report is "Building on Success." It highlights My Brother's Keeper along with four other organizations that are expanding programs and enhancing their commitment to those they serve. What a wonderful affirmation of our work and mission!

In the report, the Yawkey Foundation commends My Brother's Keeper for a number of things:

- For expanding our Furniture Assistance Program to Fall River and New Bedford after years of thoughtful business planning
- For strategically locating our facility in Dartmouth, halfway between the two communities we primarily serve
- For hiring homegrown staff who volunteered at My Brother's Keeper and fully embrace our mission



- For our strong service model which inspires thousands of volunteers—from retirees to students—to share their personal gifts and talents.

The Yawkey Foundation has supported our South Coast expansion with \$380,000 in funding bringing the Foundation's total support of My Brother's Keeper to more than \$1.2 million since 1996.

"As a 100% privately-funded charity, My Brother's Keeper could not have attempted to scale up our services without the Yawkey Foundations," says Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper.

"They were among the first to support this expansion and their public vote of confidence had an enormous impact on local leaders and other funders. We are extremely grateful for all they have done and continue to do to honor the lives and legacy of Tom and Jean Yawkey."

To read the foundation's full report, visit: www.yawkeyfoundation.org/reports.html

Trinity Catholic Academy's Thomas F. and Mary J. Shields Founders Award



On behalf of My Brother's Keeper, co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt proudly accept the Thomas and Mary Shields Founders Award from Trinity Catholic Academy.

On April 29th, Trinity Catholic Academy (TCA) in Brockton honored My Brother's Keeper with its most prestigious award, the Thomas F. and Mary J. Shields Founders Award, in recognition of our ministry's outstanding support of TCA as well as our loving service to local families in need.

Trinity Catholic Academy was established in 2007 and is a widely-recognized leader in rebuilding, revitalizing and re-inventing Catholic urban education. It provides an excellent academic program for 500 students in grades K-8, many of whom face significant financial hardship.

As an expression of our faith in God and our strong belief

in the excellence of TCA, My Brother's Keeper has funded one full scholarship per year to provide a Catholic education to a student whose family could not otherwise afford tuition.

Co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt accepted the award from TCA's board chair, Mary Lou Jackson. Receiving the award this year was especially poignant because Tom Shields passed away on April 2nd following his wife, Mary, who passed in 2014.

In his acceptance remarks, Jim said, "My Brother's Keeper accepts this award from Trinity Catholic Academy on behalf of the families that God has given both organizations the privilege of serving. God has connected our ministries to families who pray to Him for help. And the light of Christ shines especially bright in the faces of the children whom He entrusts to our mutual care. I hope your hearts are warmed, as is mine as we picture the beaming smiles of Tom and Mary, as they look upon the fruits of their many good works in Christ."

Lovely Ladies Spring Social Grows at Granite Links!

Keynote speaker, Maureen Feeney



A full house at Granite Links!



From left to right, Patti Elliott, Meg Kaster, Jill Hayes, Margaret Walsh, Astrid Hajjar, Eileen Heller, Margaret Pellegri, Evelyn Knight, and Denise Queally—all first-time attendees of our Lovely Ladies Spring Social.

Over the past nine years, the Lovely Ladies Spring Social has been a tremendous success in every possible way.

It's introduced hundreds of women to our work, inspired them and their families to volunteer, and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help local families, especially women in need. (see below)

This year, the event committee moved the dinner to Granite Links in Quincy, a larger, more centrally located venue. Their wise choice and leap of faith resulted in our most successful Lovely Ladies event yet—more than 325 guests from all over Southeastern Massachusetts. 160 women were first-time attendees truly making the evening a "friend-raiser" as well as a "fund-raiser."

Maureen Feeney, Boston City Clerk and former President of Boston City Council, was the keynote speaker and a big part of the night's success. She spoke eloquently about balancing faith, family, and the demands of a busy life.

Special thanks to the event's lead sponsors, Wessling Architects and State Street Corporation, as well as the Lovely Ladies Committee whose hard work and dedication made the evening such a joy: Patti Boucher, Stephanie Coose, Lori Grant, Justine Harrington, Kathy Jones, Miriam Keen, Donna Lane, Kathy McDevitt and Deb Murray.

Going Above & Beyond in Christ's Name

You may remember this thank you note printed in last June's newsletter. It's from a 60-year old grandmother we helped named Sue who unexpectedly had to take custody of her 3 grandkids.

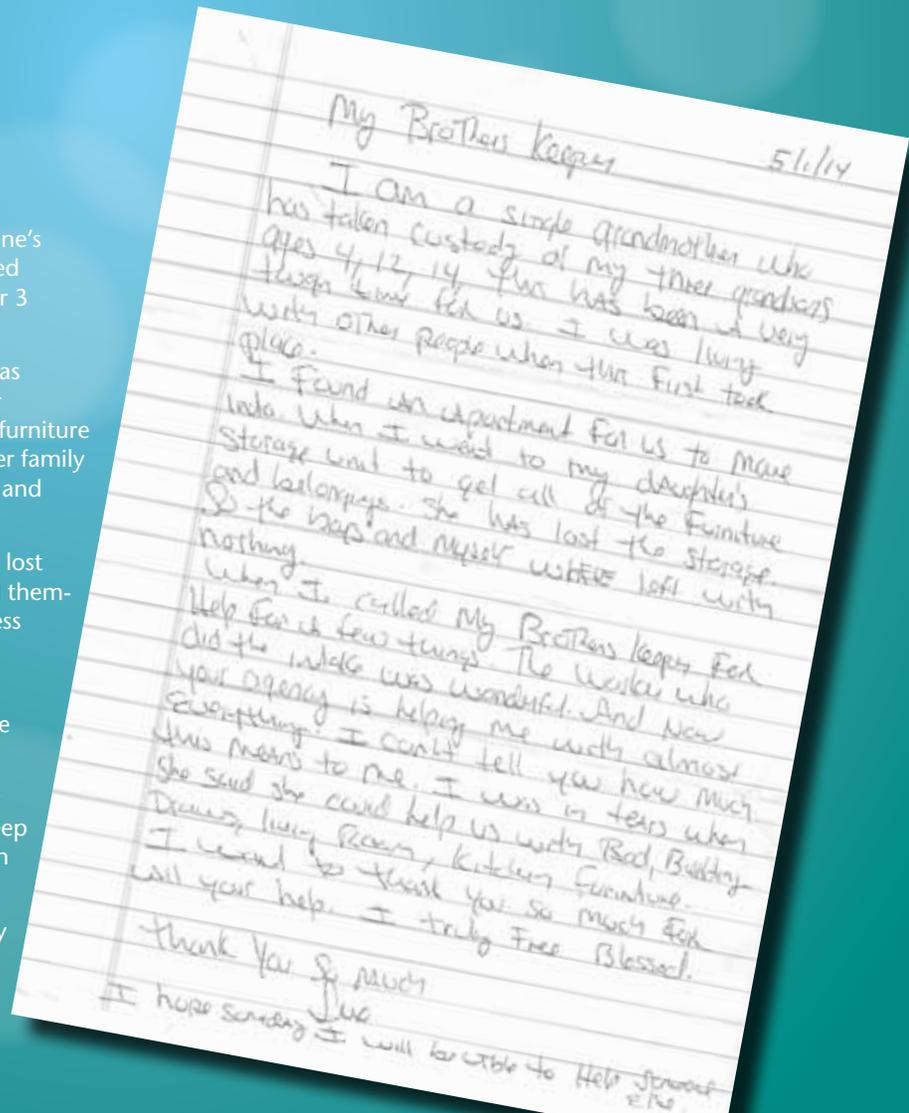
Sue works as an advocate for low-income children and has referred many families to My Brother's Keeper. She never thought she'd need our help herself. Since we delivered furniture to Sue last spring, we've had the privilege to also help her family with food, back-to-school supplies, Christmas Assistance and even getting a reliable car.

This past month, Sue had health issues which resulted in lost wages and she and the kids—ages 5, 13, and 15—found themselves on the verge of eviction. You can imagine her stress and anxiety!

We don't normally provide rent assistance but serving in Christ's name calls us to go above and beyond. What else could we do?

My Brother's Keeper partnered with our friends at Father Bill's & Mainspring's Tenancy Preservation Program to keep Sue and the kids in their home. Sue was so relieved when she heard the good news!

Thank you, as a community, for being so generous to My Brother's Keeper so that we can respond as Christ would in these special situations.



A Ministry of Education & Formation

In March, My Brother's Keeper welcomed 10 students and faculty from King's College in Pennsylvania for a week-long alternative spring break service trip. (pictured right).

The group stayed at the Holy Cross Retreat House, attended daily Mass, spent their days serving at our Easton and Dartmouth facilities, and had evening discussion & reflection periods. Tim Mike, a senior at King's College sent us the following reflection.



“Catchers of All” by Tim Mike, King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Thank you for a truly incredible experience. This was my fifth service trip at King's college and it will always remain closest to my heart. The reason is simple: every volunteer and staffmember was completely willing to let go of themselves and let God do the work.

The week was filled with unforgettable experiences and one in particular comes to mind. We delivered beds and a couch to a very grateful family. The mother spoke little English and was holding a newborn baby. She also had a five year old son named Derek. He was so happy to see us and “helped” us carry every item in and even helped me put his new bed together. After we finished, Derek simply could not control his excitement. He was running all over the room and bouncing off every object. Then, he JUMPED off his bed and into my arms.

For me, this act of jumping is the perfect representation of anyone who asks for

help. The moment people ask for help, they are vulnerable. They don't know what's going to happen next. They don't know if they will be judged, criticized, or laughed at. Just as Derek jumped, they jump without knowing the outcome. They just want to be caught, held, and brought back down to safety.

And this is exactly what My Brother's Keeper does. You catch people. You catch people in their time of need and you want nothing else but to bring them back to solid ground. And once they reach the ground again, they are not alone anymore. They will never be alone anymore. They will always have that bond with you and you with them.

My week at My Brother's Keeper helped my discernment process. I wasn't quite sure where I was headed or what field I should devote myself to. I'm still unaware of my true calling to a certain extent, but I have more figured out. I'm now

considering a year of service after college which will prepare me for a career in pastoral counseling, faith directing, or campus ministry work. I don't know if this is my final destination, but I do know it's a great next step.

What helped me see this is the mission statement of My Brother's Keeper. You truly bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to those you serve and I am hoping to adopt this as my personal mission statement.

So, thank you again for everything you have done. Thank you for answering God's call day after day, week after week, year after year. Thank you for creating an environment that can positively affect everyone you meet. I will keep My Brother's Keeper, every volunteer and supporter, and everyone you serve in my prayers. Thank you, catchers of all.



From May 14-17th, My Brother's Keeper hosted our 6th Annual 'Deacon Plunge,' a service retreat for 10 men studying to be deacons in the Archdiocese of Boston. To live in solidarity with the poor and homeless, the men slept each night on mattresses on our warehouse floor.



In 2015, these 4 seminarians from the Congregation of Holy Cross will perform 4-8 weeks of ministry at My Brother's Keeper as part of their formation. Pictured L-R, T-B: Cameron Cortens, Gil Stoy, John Kyler, Robert Yanik.

Upcoming Events

June

Saturday, June 7th, 10:00 am

Nurturing Faith Brunch & Mass
UMass Dartmouth

Saturday, June 13th

6th Annual My Brother's Keeper
Family Walk
Stonehill College

July

Monday, July 13th

9th Annual My Brother's Keeper
Golf Outing
Foxborough Country Club

**Have a question about one of our events?
Please call Vin Shea at 508-238-7512.**

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.



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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
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