

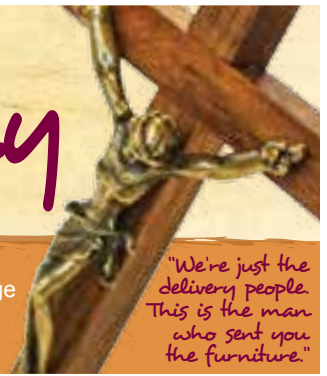


**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

# Along The Way

November 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.

## A Mother's Plea for Christmas Help

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

I am writing this letter to request help for Christmas. I am a single mother with two daughters and I've come out of a domestic violence relationship.

My youngest child who is 4 yrs. old has autism and ADHD. I've had to stay home with her as she goes through testing and all her issues. We live on public assistance and all the money goes to bills and living. If I were to spend any money on gifts, everything would fall apart.

Last Christmas was terrible. They didn't get anything. It was devastating as a mother. My older daughter is 16 yrs. old and for her it was so sad.

This year I'm reaching out. I have to not be too proud to ask for help. We really need it. Anything would be so appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Melinda*

This letter from Melinda—filled with pain and heart-ache—says so much with so few words. You can feel a mother's deep love for her children, the crushing burden of poverty, how difficult it is to ask for help, and the agony of parents who watch their children go without.

Melinda makes it clear that our Christmas Program does so much more than simply provide toys and gifts... physical things.

Kids and parents who go without at Christmas are overwhelmed with sadness, disappointment, stress and shame. These are feelings no one should have on the most holy occasion of Jesus' birth.

The Good News is that God affords us a tremendous privilege as a ministry: the opportunity to remove this pain and replace it with joy, excitement, peace and love in His name.

This is the accomplishment of our mission 'To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve' and it's the true spirit of Christmas...loving one another as a sign of our love for Him.

My Brother's Keeper will again serve 3,000 struggling families this Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts—more than 11,000 children and parents!

To join us in this wonderful effort, please return the enclosed cards for our Adopt-A-Family Gift Program and Loaves & Fishes Food Program.

A reminder that our Christmas effort starts in prayer each year with our Gratitude Mass the Friday night after Thanksgiving at 7:00 pm.

This year's Mass is very special: our 25th annual Gratitude Mass. Please join us and help welcome Bishop Edgar da Cunha of the Diocese of Fall River who will be the principal celebrant. What an honor for us!

### My Brother's Keeper 25th Annual Gratitude Mass

Friday, November 27th 7:00 PM  
My Brother's Keeper, Easton Facility



Principal Celebrant:  
**The Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.**  
**Bishop of the Diocese of Fall River**

Reception following Mass  
Priests, please bring alb & stole to concelebrate

Please bring one unwrapped gift per family  
for children to bring to the altar.

# Thanksgiving: A Time Of Bounty

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

Thanksgiving is so much more than a meal... it's a special occasion for families to come together, enjoy each other's company, and thank God for His blessings. It should be a time of joy and happiness for families, not a time of stress.

My Brother's Keeper will make 300 deliveries this Thanksgiving and we try to be extremely generous with each one. In keeping with our mission, we want our deliveries to reflect God's abounding, overflowing love.

As you would expect, our Thanksgiving deliveries include the ingredients of a traditional Thanksgiving meal: turkey, stuffing, cranberry, potatoes, squash, apple pie, and rolls. But in addition, we also include the core items of our basic food deliveries— things like pasta & sauce, peanut butter & jelly, rice & beans, cereal, tuna fish and fruit plus milk, juice, eggs, and bread. Kids are home extra days from school so parents need food for



Jim and Terry Orcutt thank the Cardinal Spellman community for their donation of 30 bountiful food baskets at the school's annual Thanksgiving Mass. (November 2014)

extra meals, not just Thanksgiving dinner.

It's also very important for us to make our Thanksgiving deliveries early in the week instead of waiting until late Wednesday afternoon. Put yourself in the shoes of the people we serve. Imagine how anxious parents are until the food actually arrives. Now imagine their delight when 4-5 volunteers bring in so

much food that it covers the table... what Jesus might call "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over."

This generosity is made possible by many partners who run special food collections each Thanksgiving including Personal Best Karate, Cardinal Spellman High School, Knights of Columbus Council #6267-Pembroke, MATS Inc., the New England Food Foundation, Organogenesis, St. James Parish-Stoughton, the Greater Boston Food Bank, Grant-Stanton Produce, Tavilla Produce, Brown Chiropractic, The Halfway Café, New England Raider Boosters, American Cancer Society, HarborOne Bank and REXA.

The average retail value of our Thanksgiving deliveries is approximately \$200. With the help of these generous groups, My Brother's Keeper delivers about \$60,000 worth of food to struggling families each Thanksgiving— all in Christ's name.

## Be Your Brother's Keeper This Christmas!

**Looking for ways to help this Christmas?  
Here are a number of things you can do:**

- Help with building set up (early December) and breakdown (late December)
- Sponsor a family in need
- Wrap gifts with friends & family
- Help make deliveries
- Make a financial donation
- Make cookies or soup for our volunteers
- Help with kitchen clean-up (3-6pm) or building cleanup (8-10pm)
- Buy high-need gifts off our Amazon Wish List which you can access from our website [www.MyBrothersKeeper.org](http://www.MyBrothersKeeper.org)
- If you shop on Amazon, start at AmazonSmile and name My Brother's Keeper as your charity of choice. Amazon donates .5% of your purchases.
- Run a gift collection drive at your church, school, office or gym (see sign to the right)
- Donate \$50 supermarket gift cards to be given to families in need along with their Christmas gifts
- Pray for no snow in December!

### Top 10 Gift Needs:

1. Anything "Frozen"
2. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3. Spiderman / Superheroes
4. Winter Coats
5. Video Games
6. Legos
7. Axe or Old Spice Gift Sets
8. Art Supplies / Arts and Crafts
9. Ride-on toys / Infant toys
10. Action and Wrestling figures



Questions? Call 508-238-7512

# God's Answer to our Prayers

## Moving Toward a Home of Our Own in Dartmouth

We'd like to share some exciting news about our long-term efforts to serve families in need in Fall River and New Bedford.

As you may remember, we began our work on the South Coast in September 2013 with a Blessing & Open House at our Dartmouth facility. In the time since, we've encountered tremendous need in the community and the new operation has exceeded all our expectations. Three key points highlight what we've been able to accomplish:

- We've hosted more than 800 student volunteers from 46 schools who have contributed 8,500 service hours collectively.
- 75 organizations have referred people in need to our Dartmouth location.
- We completed our 1,000th furniture delivery a full year ahead of schedule.

Our expansion to the South Coast has profoundly touched thousands of lives in Christ's name— both those we serve and those who serve with us. Because we are clearly accomplishing our mission in Dartmouth just as we do in Easton, our board believes God is calling us to set down firm roots in the community.

In Dartmouth, we're operating from a leased facility at 999 Reed Road. It's been the perfect start-up site. The neighborhood is attractive and inviting for volunteers and the location is very strategic. We're situated halfway between Fall River and New Bedford, just 45 seconds off I-195, and only 5 minutes from Route 24.

As much as we love the location, though, we're already outgrowing the building. It's not suitable for the long term.

With this in mind, our leadership has been praying and diligently exploring all options to put us in the best position when our current lease ends on June 30, 2017. As always, God provides.

While we were conducting a full market analysis, a beautiful property came up for sale at 1039 Reed Road, **just two lots down from our current location.** Thanks

to benefactors who were very generous with their time, talent and treasure, we were able to acquire 22 acres of prime land in our ideal location. The effective cost to My Brother's Keeper was only \$150,000 for the property. We couldn't ask for a better answer to our prayers!

In addition to the location, the new property is exceptional for us in other important ways:

- It will allow us to build a 14,000 -16,000 square foot facility designed to suit our unique needs and provide overflow storage for our Easton facility.
- Its wooded setting is perfect for a prayer path which will beautifully complement our mission similar to the Rosary Walk in Easton.
- It will give us plenty of room to grow in the future.

The estimated cost of the project is pending the design of the building. When total costs are determined, we will utilize a three-pronged fundraising approach: (1) we will solicit lead gifts to provide a foundation of support, (2) we will seek donated construction services to significantly reduce costs, and (3) we will launch a Capital Campaign to bring the project to completion. At the appropriate time, we

hope you will support these efforts as you are able.

In terms of a timeline, our goal is to break ground in 2016 and complete the new facility in the summer of 2017, coinciding with the end of our current lease.

This is exciting news for My Brother's Keeper and we are filled with joy and anticipation. We move forward trusting in God's plan for My Brother's Keeper and also extremely grateful for the trust He is placing in us as a ministry. What an affirmation that He is calling us to shine our light even brighter for Him!

We will provide additional details as this project moves forward. In return, please keep us in your prayers as we work hard to make this wonderful vision a reality.

God bless you and thank you for being part of the My Brother's Keeper family.



God is Good! Thanks to generous benefactors, My Brother's Keeper recently acquired the 22-acre parcel of property highlighted in yellow. It will be the site of our future home in Dartmouth. The property we currently have under lease through June 2017 is in green.

Yours in Christ,

Erich Miller,  
President

Jim & Terry Orcutt,  
Co-Founders

Brian Concannon,  
Chair, Board of Directors

Joyce Donadio,  
Chair, Development Board

# Words of Gratitude

In 2015, My Brother's Keeper has already served 19,000 children and parents in Christ's name from our Easton and Dartmouth locations.

Here are just some of the expressions of thanks we have received from those we've served. We carry furniture and food. We delivery Hope.



I was so overwhelmed and grateful for everything. I tried calling the first week after receiving the beautiful gifts, but I was so emotional I'd start crying and was unable to talk. Your organization has touched my heart. I hope and pray someday I'll be able to give back. When they handed me the crucifix and prayed, it was a moment in my life I will never forget. Thank you with all my heart and soul. May God Bless everyone that helped me.  
Sandie, Taunton

I was appreciative and grateful for what My Brother's Keeper does. Always a great attitude, friendly and smiling. I hung my crucifix over my threshold. I love God and I love you guys. Keep up the great work.  
Gregory, Brockton

Thank you for the kindness you share with everyone. My son was sleeping on the floor and I on the couch. Now we have beds and a kitchen set that couldn't be anything more than I wanted. I know this is what Jesus wants but not many carry out His wishes. Thank you from a sister in Christ.  
Margaret, Norton

You are doing a great job! It is hard to find people who are willing to help. My Brother's Keeper is a blessing.  
Lacarie, Fall River

Thank you so much, we really needed a crib for Melissa and you came right on time.  
Tanya, Brockton

I was very impressed and thankful for the service and furniture I have received. I had nothing and was sleeping on a blowup mattress. I am very happy and thankful for your service.  
Nikita, Brockton

Keep spreading peace and light!! Thank you!!!  
Richard, Braintree

The men were extremely pleasant and helpful, the furniture was great but the crucifix was AWESOME!  
Laura, Rockland

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have never had such a good experience with an agency when asking for help. I am a single mother of an 18 month old baby girl and had just moved into this apartment in January of this year. I didn't have any furniture at all and couldn't afford to buy any. Your agency treated me with such respect and didn't look down on me and the volunteers were so kind and friendly. The furniture they brought me was so nice. Thank you so much. I am very grateful to your organization. God Bless you All!!!!  
Kristy, New Bedford

God bless you. You have always been there when I need help and I thank God for you.  
Paula, Brockton

Beautiful help! It was a difficult move and my hat goes off to you! We are no longer sitting on the floor, we have dressers, and they put our beds together. They made our house a home. The entire family thanks you from the bottom of our hearts. I'd rate My Brother's Keeper a 10...a 20 if I could!  
Vanessa, Fall River

## An Unexpected Gift by Marci Yazwinski, Volunteer, Norton



On a bright, beautiful day I had the opportunity to be part of a furniture delivery to a gentleman named James along with Bob Loxley from Easton, Stonehill students Dan Wilson and Nate Marcoulier, and Ryan Thorley, Operations Manager in Easton.

James just moved into a small, third-floor apartment in Taunton and was so proud. He welcomed us upstairs and explained that he was recently divorced and works at a car wash six days a week.

"I love my new apartment!" he exclaimed as he gave us a tour. The only piece of furniture he had was an end table, "I got it from the side of the road", he said. "I had to pay first month's rent, last month's and another month for security so I don't have any money left for furniture."

As we started moving items up the stairs, James quickly jumped in and we all worked together. His enthusiasm and eagerness to help was inspiring to all of us. James thanked us for each and every item. Then came the couch. James looked down at the couch and said with happiness in his voice, "This is where I'm sleeping tonight."

Witnessing the pure joy on his face was something that moved me beyond words.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you" James said at the end of the delivery. We told him we were just the delivery people and presented him with a crucifix. Although he tried to hold back, James began to cry, kissed the crucifix and repeated, "Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus. He is good!" Wiping his tears, James gave each one of us a hug.

When we had first entered the apartment, it was bare. As we left and James held the crucifix— his first item to hang on the wall— the apartment suddenly felt like a home. We jumped in the truck to drive to our next delivery and James came back downstairs with more than you's saying, "I'm going to come help you on my day off. Like you helped me."

This was my very first delivery at My Brother's Keeper. I have worked in Human Services for the past twenty years and thought I had seen and experienced so much, but this delivery and James' gratitude moved me in a way that words cannot express.

It truly was a gift for me to be a part of the delivery, to meet James and to see God's work happen before my eyes.

## "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

By Jake Lane, Student Volunteer, Oliver Ames High School, Easton



God was certainly in our midst when 50+ students from Oliver Ames High School filled a crowded classroom after school to sign up for the My Brother's Keeper Club.

Oliver Ames, Easton's public high school, is home to many clubs, but none like the My Brother's Keeper Club. It is remarkable that 56 teenagers, all feeling the stress and tension of high school life, would be willing to dedicate their precious time to helping others.

In 2012, the My Brother's Keeper Club was founded by Pam Grant and my brother, James Lane. The goal of the club is to introduce as many new people as possible to direct service at My Brother's Keeper and to help at their events throughout the year. In its infancy, the club attracted 10-15 members annually but it has grown exponentially since then.

Here are some of the things we plan to do this year: biweekly food deliveries in between sports seasons; host a fundraising night at Wendy's to raise money for My Brother's Keeper; run a water stop along the Family Walk course; and with the Christmas season quickly approaching, we plan to sponsor some families and

organize Christmas volunteering.

Seven members of the club recently spent their Saturday morning delivering food to 14 families throughout Brockton. (see photo) Three of the volunteers had not been on deliveries before and the experience particularly impacted them. One student, Alden Newman, said he was surprised "to see how different a life people live just 15 minutes away from me. Despite their struggles, everyone was nothing but welcoming and grateful. It felt good to help them out."

Volunteering at My Brother's Keeper is undoubtedly beneficial for students who witness the realities of the world around them and take away a sense of fulfillment as they carry out God's work. This is what makes the club so remarkable!



# Upcoming Events



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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**November**

**Monday, November 23th**  
Hungry Men Event  
at Black Rock Country Club,  
Hingham

**Friday, November 27th**  
25th Annual Gratitude Mass  
7:00 PM, Easton Facility

**December**

**Friday, December 4th**  
Christmas Volunteering Starts  
Please call to schedule

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

**Congratulations to Nadia Lane,  
winner of our "Cruise or Cash" Raffle.**



Special thanks to all who participated and to our Anonymous Prize Donor.

### 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

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