

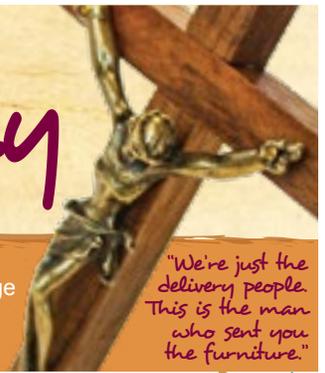


MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Along The Way

November 2018



"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.



"We're REALLY gonna need your help this Christmas."

By Erich Miller, President



On July 10, a local mom named Regina called My Brother's Keeper for the first time. She asked for help with food— her most important immediate need— but she was dealing with two other crises in her life:

her house in Brockton was on the verge of foreclosure and her husband had just been deported. She and her three kids were in a tough, tough spot.

To make matters worse, it was her son's 16th birthday and his bike had been stolen from their front yard the night before.

Around 3PM, we delivered food including a birthday cake. I had the privilege of making a follow-up delivery at 5PM with a brand new bike for her son. Regina was working with her other agencies on her bigger issues. At that moment, our work was to lift her family up in Christ's name and give them Hope.

Regina and her son were thrilled with the new bike and appreciated our extra effort to come back the same day. It was a special birthday present. Regina thanked me effusively as I left but as I got to the door, she quietly whispered something I'll never forget, **"We're REALLY gonna need your help this Christmas."**

I was stunned. It was 96 degrees outside. Regina's life was spiraling out of control. December was five months away but providing a good Christmas for her kids was on her mind. It showed me her incredible love for her children— her thoughtfulness, care, and concern. It also highlighted just how important our Christmas Assistance Program is to the families we serve.

Our Christmas Program does much more than simply provide toys and gifts... physical things. Kids and parents who go without at Christmas are overwhelmed with feelings of sadness, disappointment, stress and shame. What a sad thing on the most holy occasion of Jesus' birth!

The Good News is that God gives us 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.

My Brother's Keeper will again serve more than 3,000 struggling families this Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts— more than 12,000 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 Program starts in prayer each year with our Gratitude Mass. It's always the Friday night after Thanksgiving at 7:00PM at our Easton facility. We hope you'll join us.

My Brother's Keeper 28th Annual Gratitude Mass

**Friday, November 23rd 7:00 PM
My Brother's Keeper, Easton Facility**



Principal Celebrant: Rev. James M. Mahoney
Pastor, St. Bridget's and Holy Ghost Collaborative,
Abington and Whitman

Homilist: Rev. Joseph Raeke
Pastor, Carver/Plymouth Collaborative

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

We invite you to bring one unwrapped gift per family for children to bring to the altar.

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 facility 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
- 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!

Questions?
Call 508-238-7512



Cards for a Cause

Does your company send out holiday cards to your customers and associates? Would you like to support the good work of My Brother's Keeper at the same time? If you answered yes to these questions, please consider ordering your cards through My Brother's Keeper and our Cards for a Cause program. Here's what you need to know:

- Multiple formats are available: cards, electronic distribution, or both
- Features artwork from actual thank you's sent by children served by My Brother's Keeper
- Includes your corporate logo, a custom message, and this acknowledgement to your customers: "A donation has been made in your honor to My Brother's Keeper in support of their annual Christmas Assistance Program which provides gifts and food to 12,000 children and parents who would otherwise go without."
- Demonstrates your company's concern for the community and those less fortunate
- Raises awareness about My Brother's Keeper. The more people who know about our work, the better!
- Provides much-needed support for our Christmas Program which serves 3,000+ families annually

For more information, please visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org or contact Heather Byrnes at hbyrnes@mybrotherskeeper.org

Beautiful Day, Beautiful Delivery

By John DeAngelo, Direct Service Associate since 2009



On a beautiful fall morning, Rebecca Merkel from Stonehill, Bob Grenier from Lakeville, and I drove to Braintree for a furniture delivery to Lauren, a very nice woman with an infectious smile. She and her 8 year-old son Ben had escaped an abusive situation in Georgia. Things had been looking up, though. On her birthday, she got the good news their new apartment was available and their move-in date was on her son's birthday!

Lauren and Ben had been in the apartment about 10 days. They had nothing besides a TV in the living room and some plastic shelves. We noticed a picture on her fridge of a good-looking boy with a beautiful smile. That was Ben. Lauren couldn't stop talking about him. It was obvious she loved him very much and would do anything for him.

We went to work bringing in the furniture and "extras" that would fill her empty apartment. We started with boxes of dishes, pots & pans, linens, and household items that our volunteers had thoughtfully selected. Lauren immediately started opening the packages while we moved on to the heavier items: kitchen table and chairs, sofa, recliner, coffee table, end table, TV table, and lamps. She couldn't get over how nice everything was.

Finally we brought in a dresser, nightstand, and mattress for Ben's room. That's when we realized there was no bed frame or box spring for him and it wasn't on our list. We asked Lauren about this, curious why she didn't ask for one. She opened his closet and showed us a wooden headboard, footboard, rails, slats, and a bag of hardware. She bought it at Salvation Army, but didn't have the tools or "know-how" to put it together. We said, "No problem. We can do it for you."

As we began putting the bed together, we asked Lauren, "By the way, do you have a bed or a dresser?" "No, I don't" she sheepishly said.

Continued on inside

New Project Underway:



We are delighted to announce that a new, much-needed building project is underway: the construction of an additional 29-car parking lot adjacent to My Brother's Keeper in Easton.

The existing parking lot in Easton has 36 parking spaces. This has always been inadequate in December when volunteer numbers peak during the Christmas program. In recent years, though, the lack of parking has been clear on a weekly basis. Every Thursday, people double-park and park on the grass... really any place they can find!...when 50-60 volunteers join us for our "Community Day."

"It's a shame if a new volunteer drives through our parking lot, can't find a space, says 'they must not need me,' and drives away without ever coming in our door," said Jim Orcutt, co-founder of My Brother's Keeper.

"People make the mission of My Brother's Keeper possible and if we can't welcome new people, we can't grow and help more families in need in Christ's name."

The current Easton building sits on 1.8 acres of land leased to My Brother's Keeper by the Congregation of Holy Cross for 50 years at \$10/year as an expression of their order's "preferential option for the poor." The Holy Cross Fathers have generously agreed to add another 0.9 acres to the existing lease for the new parking lot at no additional cost. There are 33 years left on the lease.

John Holmgren and his staff at J.K. Holmgren Engineering generously donated their professional services to design the new parking lot and represent My Brother's Keeper through the permitting process with the Town of Easton.

Kenny Kostka and KLK Enterprises of West Bridgewater will handle construction of the new parking lot. KLK's proposal was approximately 30% lower than the nearest bid and very generously represents an "at cost" proposal.



In addition to their help on the Parking Lot Expansion Project, Kenny Kostka and KLK have donated full plowing services to My Brother's Keeper in Easton each winter since 2002. It's one more wonderful example of a local business supporting our work in their own special way.

Construction on the new parking lot is scheduled to begin in November and will likely continue into 2019 based on winter weather.

The total construction cost is estimated at \$200,000 and the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund recently awarded My Brother's Keeper a \$25,000 grant to help with the costs.

If you would like to contribute to this special project, please contact Vin Shea at 508-238-7512 or vshea@mybrotherskeeper.org

Beautiful Day, Beautiful Delivery continued

She wasn't concerned about herself though. She just wanted to make sure Ben had what he needed.

After everything was moved in, we gathered in the living room to say our good-byes. This once-empty apartment had been transformed into a beautiful home. Lauren was still smiling and thanking us for what we had done when I told her, "We have one more gift for you, Lauren."

Before I could finish, she responded "No, you don't have to give me anything else; you've already given me more than I ever expected," and she gave me a big hug.

I continued on, "Lauren, we want you to know this furniture didn't come from us; we're just the delivery people. This is the man who sent you the furniture" and I handed her the crucifix.

She looked at it intently and barely got the words out "I know Him" before she broke down and cried uncontrollably. She gave each of us a long, heart-felt hug and thanked us through her tears. The three of us

were blown away by her reaction to the cross. What a beautiful way to complete this delivery on such a beautiful day!

But the story doesn't end here. When we got back to My Brother's Keeper, I talked to Terry Orcutt about our delivery and told her that Lauren didn't have a bed or a dresser. She immediately scheduled a follow-up delivery. When we visited Lauren for a second time, we found the apartment beautifully decorated. A scented candle gave it a warm feel. Lauren was decorating a mirror for Ben. She'd purchased a bag of felt letters from the Dollar Tree Store and used them to create words that have a positive meaning like Truth, Love, Honor.

After we brought her bed in, we gave her another crucifix. She was so grateful. "The first crucifix went in Ben's room," she said. "This one is for mine." We hugged our goodbyes, and went on our way knowing we had accomplished our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve."



South Coast Soiree

South Coast Soiree sells out!

South Coast Soiree, our first fundraising event in Dartmouth held on Saturday, October 13th, was a tremendous success. "Flawless!" was the way one South Coast supporter described it.

During the planning stages, our event committee led by Development Board members Bill Suneson, Christine Cavanaugh, and Jamie Witkowski established a goal of 100 attendees. In the end, 265 people registered for the event, a second tent was required to seat all the guests, and there was still a waiting list!

The primary goal of the evening was to introduce new people to the Dartmouth facility and showcase ways to become involved. That goal

was 100% accomplished— more than half of the 265 attendees were new to My Brother's Keeper.

In addition to the great attendance, the South Coast Soiree was also a fund raising success. A group of 23 corporate and individual financial sponsors, predominantly from the South Coast, contributed \$43,000. Gross revenues for this inaugural event topped \$54,000.

Bishop Edgar da Cunha of the Diocese of Fall River joined us for the evening and graciously offered the blessing before dinner. The crowd enjoyed a gourmet French meal served by Plouf Plouf Gastronomie of Tiverton, RI as well as beer and wine tastings donated by Newport Vineyards in Middletown, RI and Moby Dick Brewing Co. in New Bedford. The entertaining

sounds of a jazz trio provided a wonderful backdrop for the night.

Guests of the South Coast Soiree were excited to hear that My Brother's Keeper will open its first "Santa's Workshop" in Dartmouth this December for volunteers to shop, gift wrap, and deliver presents to South Coast families in need.

Reflecting on their appreciation for the committee's hard work and the enthusiastic turn-out, co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt remarked, "My Brother's Keeper is invigorated by events such as the South Coast Soiree. As a community, we're always looking to reach out and engage a broader community of volunteers and supporters eager to lend a helping hand in serving families in Christ's name."



CORPORATE SUPPORT

More than 400 organizations support the work of My Brother's Keeper each year through financial gifts or in-kind donations of goods and professional services. We are very grateful to each of them for their generosity and willingness to help in their own special way. Here are just a few of their stories.



A senior executive at Bob's Discount Furniture recently learned about the good work of My Brother's Keeper through a long-time friend who volunteers with us.

On his recommendation, Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation donated new merchandise valued at \$20,000: 27 loveseats, 20 recliners, and 67 mattress and box spring sets which were delivered in October to our Dartmouth facility. Bob's will also consider My Brother's Keeper for ongoing donations of discontinued product lines. This would provide a steady supply of new, first-quality furniture going forward.



In addition to the furniture donations, senior operational leadership of Bob's Discount Furniture welcomed Erich Miller, Ryan Thorley, and Josh Smith for a tour of their 900,000 SF distribution facility in Taftville, CT.

"Bob's Discount Furniture is the 12th largest furniture chain in the U.S. with 104 stores throughout the country. They make 30,000 furniture deliveries a week," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper. "There's so much we can learn about best practices from them when it comes to logistics. We're very grateful they're willing to share their expertise as well as such beautiful furniture."



Companies like Jenny Boston Boutiques, Franklin Sports, and Ocean State Job Lot use their purchasing power to allow My Brother's Keeper to buy items for our Christmas program at cost. Thanks to their generosity, we can purchase large quantities of items like comforters, sports equipment, clothing, and jewelry for up to 80% off retail pricing. This saves My Brother's Keeper tens of thousands of dollars each year and helps every donated dollar go further.



Ed Collazzo, a senior leader at Bose Corporation in Framingham, was introduced to My Brother's

Keeper by a friend and brought his family to volunteer with us at Christmas. Ed was so impressed by the operation that he arranged a donation of 500 Bose SoundLink around-ear wireless headphones this year valued at more than \$100,000 in support of our Christmas Assistance Program.

"These will be amazing gifts this Christmas!" said Heather Gallagher-Byrnes, Program Administration Manager at My Brother's Keeper. "Given our mission, we want to give the families we serve the very best and everyone knows Bose has the reputation of being the best."



FAMILY MATTERS. NO MATTER WHAT.™



Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company in Canton, MA has generously supported all 2018 My Brother's Keeper fundraising events at the leadership level as a 30th Anniversary Platinum Sponsor.

Earlier this year, Boston Mutual launched a new corporate citizenship program, Making An Impact, and My Brother's Keeper is proud to be one of their four signature nonprofit partners along with The Salvation Army, United Way, and the Town of Canton.

In addition to their financial support, Boston Mutual also helps organize employee group volunteer opportunities at My Brother's Keeper, fields a team of walkers at our Family Walk, and has made generous donations of corporate furniture which has a residential use.

We are equally grateful to Wessling Architects and the Dropkick Murphy's Claddagh Fund who are also 30th Anniversary Platinum Sponsors.



Can your company help?

If your company can help, please contact Vin Shea at vshea@mybrotherskeeper.org

Upcoming Events

November

Monday, November 19th

Hungry Men Event
Granite Links Golf Club, Quincy

Friday, November 23rd

28th Annual Gratitude Mass
7:00 PM, Easton Facility

December

Monday, December 3rd

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 Wallace Lueders of Stoughton, MA,
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.



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
774.305.4577 Donations & Business
774.305.4578 Fax

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