



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER
A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Our Mission:
"To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve."

Along the Way

We deliver furniture, food, and Christmas assistance free of charge to local families in need with no prerequisites for service.



"We're just the delivery people. This is the man who sent you the furniture."

NOVEMBER 2022

An Opportunity to Act...

Grocery prices are surging and energy costs are expected to be the highest in more than a decade. We're all probably aware of these painful realities.

Most of us can still manage but it's different for the people we serve. For them, these higher costs usually mean difficult, heartbreaking decisions, especially at Christmas. Their household budgets are already so tight and their crosses are often so heavy.

Armando from New Bedford is one example. He lost his daughter to cancer last year and he's now caring for her four children and several others. Armando isn't a healthy man himself but he's trying to be the best provider he can while his heart is heavy with grief.

Another hurting parent, Mary, recently left us a voicemail. She asked for prayers because she's struggling to provide for her family of three. Halfway through her message, Mary began to cry and said, "I just don't know what to do, please pray for me and my kids."

We will certainly pray for Armando, Mary, and others in need but the good news is that My Brother's Keeper provides an opportunity for each of us to act too!

During the holidays and throughout the year, My Brother's Keeper is a wonderful bridge which connects our neighbors in need with a caring, compassionate community of people who want to ease their burdens in Christ's name.

This is our great privilege each Christmas: the opportunity to help our more humble brothers and sisters, to remove their stress and anxiety, and replace it with joy, peace, and love in Christ's name. This is the true spirit of Christmas... loving one another as a sign of our love for Jesus.

My Brother's Keeper plans to serve more than 3,000 struggling families this Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts — 12,000 children and parents! To join us in this important 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 7:00pm. **Like last year, the Gratitude Mass will be held at the Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex at Stonehill College.**

PLEASE JOIN US!

Excerpt from the *My Brother's Keeper Prayer*

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.

2022 Santa's Workshop Guidelines

We need your help selecting and wrapping gifts!

- Volunteering will start on Tuesday, November 29th
- Shifts will be 2 hours 15 minutes
- Hours: Mon-Fri 12-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10:30-6
- Volunteering by schedule only — no walk-ins please
- Children are very welcome! — sorry, no play area!

To schedule a volunteer shift, please call us:

Easton	508-238-7512
Dartmouth	774-305-4577

32nd Annual Gratitude Mass

Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex
Stonehill College

320 Washington St, North Easton, MA
Friday, November 25th at 7:00PM



Principal Celebrant: Rev. James M. Mahoney, Pastor
Burlington Collaborative

Homilist: Rev. Tony Szakaly, CSC
Director, Campus Ministry, Stonehill College
Chair, My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors

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.

UPDATE: EASTON BUILDING PROJECT

The Easton Building Project is right around the corner and we've made progress on many fronts.

PERMITS: We received project approval from the Town of Easton Planning & Zoning Board and conditional approval from the Conservation Committee. The building permit application is in process and typically takes about 30 days. That means we are on schedule for a January project start date.

TEMPORARY FACILITY: We have finalized a lease on a temporary home during construction — a 16,500 SF facility at 100 Messina Drive in Braintree. The building offers ample office and warehouse space, a break room for community lunches, one roll up door, and one dock-height door. The cost per square foot is very reasonable and the owners are willing to do a one-year lease starting January 1. The normal term for commercial leases is 3-5 years or more so finding a one-year lease is truly a miracle!

FUNDRAISING: We have raised \$2.6 million which is 55% of our \$4.5 million goal. We invite you to support this generational project which will literally touch hundreds of thousands of lives over the next two decades.

Our conservative projections estimate that My Brother's Keeper will make an additional 167,000 deliveries worth \$53 million to local families in need because of the Easton Building Project.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Volunteers Joe Gelly and Eddie Alicea complete The Camino and reach their goal for My Brother's Keeper.

In early September, volunteers Joe Gelly and Eddie Alicea flew to Europe to begin the journey of a lifetime: The Camino de Santiago, an ancient religious pilgrimage walked by 350,000 people from around the world each year.

Their trek began at St. Jean de Port in France on September 7 and ended 484 miles later on October 12 in the holy city of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Joe and Eddie averaged about 14 miles per day over the course of 36 days. As with all journeys, there were challenges along the way – blisters, aches and pains, and probably no surprise, COVID – but the spiritual benefits of the journey and meeting so many wonderful, like-minded people from around the world made it an experience they'll never forget.

To make the pilgrimage even more special, Joe and Eddie invited their friends and family to make donations to the Easton Building Project in honor of their trip. With the help of a matching grant from The Lynch Foundation, they raised \$29,000, exceeding their goal of \$25,000 by 15%.

Eddie and Joe often wore My Brother's Keeper t-shirts as they hiked The Camino and it was a great conversation point. It's beautiful to think of people from all over the world talking about the work of our humble charity started by Jim and Terry Orcutt in the cellar of their home three decades ago.

We sent Joe and Eddie a care package with My Brother's Keeper t-shirts to share with their fellow pilgrims along the way. Here they are (left) celebrating the end of the journey with their new friends at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.



Board members, staff, and volunteers gather for a picture after morning prayer.

2022 Board Volunteer Day

Since 2009, My Brother's Keeper has held an annual Board Volunteer Day when members of our Board of Directors and Development Boards pray together, serve together, break bread together, and reflect together. The day is an expression of our philosophy that "to lead is to serve." We believe that our leadership team should be out in the community serving local families in need to inform their decisions and keep them connected to the work of My Brother's Keeper.

This year's Board Volunteer Day was held on Wednesday, October 26th at our Dartmouth facility. The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Tony Szakaly, CSC, chair of the Board of Directors. The boards made 44 furniture and food deliveries in Fall River and New Bedford followed by an inspiring group reflection.



Grounded, Grateful and Energized

By Janice Foley, South Coast Development Board

I was assigned to a familiar truck with our humble leader and driver, Ben, along with members from both Boards and staff. I have always been in awe of the compassion and respect that is shown at each delivery, and how regardless of the volunteer make-up – we all pull together seamlessly in bringing the love and hope of Jesus Christ to all those we serve.

Our deliveries were all in New Bedford, a City in my own backyard. We pulled up to a public housing complex that I have likely passed hundreds of times to find a young mother in need of almost everything. This young Mom said she was referred to us through her counselor at the domestic violence center. She shared that she needed to leave Boston, and the distance of New Bedford provided additional safety for her and the children.

We were delivering beds for the five-year-old-twin girls and 8 year-old brother along with living room furniture and kitchen necessities. The Mom shared that her kids were going to be so excited to have their own beds as they had all been sleeping on her mattress on the floor since they moved in over three months ago. When we presented her with the crucifix and walked out the door, she had an enormous smile on her face and could feel some hope settling into her new home.

I always walk away from my service with My Brother's Keeper feeling grounded, grateful and energized. The mission makes such an incredible impact for so many in meeting what most of us consider basic needs. I find everyone that volunteers and the staff to be such impressive examples of God's call to us to love our neighbor.

Being able to serve as a Board brought us all closer and certainly was a poignant reminder of what really matters, and will allow us to continue to lead in our Board roles with more understanding, awareness and love.

I Feel Very Blessed

By John Higgins, South Coast Development Board

It was a good day. I really enjoyed it and feel very blessed to be involved at My Brother's Keeper.

The first delivery we did to Samantha had a big impact on me. I was on deliveries with Erich Miller (president), Jim Philbin (treasurer), and Mary Keough-Anderson and Nick Barishian from our Easton Development Board.

We were standing in Samantha's living room after bringing in the furniture and she explained to us how she ended up in her current apartment. "My former landlord decided to sell the building and all the tenants were evicted." Heartbreaking.

Samantha and her 3 children, one being autistic, became homeless and began couch surfing and living on the streets.

Over the course of several months, she was placed in a hotel in Springfield and then a homeless shelter. She was just moving back to her home town of Fall River from Springfield when we made the delivery.

I was amazed at how quickly her life went from normal everyday living to homelessness. I was also amazed at how mentally strong and focused Samantha was at making sure her children were going to be ok.

I am not sure how she kept such a positive attitude about life and I wondered if I would be able to survive such an ordeal.

I feel very blessed to be in a situation to help her thanks to My Brother's Keeper.



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NEW FACES AND NEW ROLES

My Brother's Keeper is blessed to welcome new faces to our work and have long-time community members take on new roles to support our mission. We offer our special thanks and welcome to the following:



LAURIE (DREW) HUBBARD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurie Hubbard is a new member of our Board of Directors. She is originally from Easton, MA and was a summer intern at My Brother's Keeper in 1996 while attending the University of Notre Dame. After graduating from ND in 1998, Laurie earned her law degree from Boston College in 2001. She is an attorney at Sanzone & McCarthy in Wellesley specializing in employment law. Laurie and her husband Jon live in Mansfield, MA with their 3 children, Sarah, Jack, and Ben. Laurie has been part of My Brother's Keeper for more than 25 years and remains actively involved in our work today. Her primary volunteer role is answering Christmas request calls and the Hubbards volunteer together as a family each year wrapping gifts.



KRISTIN APPLGATE
SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Kristin Applegate is a new member of our South Coast Development Board. She is originally from Los Angeles, CA and currently lives in Portsmouth, RI with her husband Bo and their two daughters, Peyton and Reagan. Kristin, Bo, and the kids have been exceptional Christmas volunteers at our Dartmouth facility and Kristin has served on our South Coast Soiree Event Committee. Professionally, Kristin is Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Berkley Construction Solutions. She was previously at Starr Companies for 16 years, starting as Operations Director and leaving as their Chief Administrative Officer.



JOSH PEGG
DIRECT SERVICE ASSOCIATE - EASTON

Josh Pegg is originally from Plainville, MA and now lives in Foxboro with his wife, Elizabeth. He works as a Direct Service Associate in Easton assisting with pickups, deliveries, and volunteer supervision. He first got involved with My Brother's Keeper as a Youth Group Volunteer through his church, Church of Emmanuel. Past positions include working as a Job Coach Supervisor at Alternatives Unlimited, in sales and marketing at Walpole Outdoors, and as a delivery driver for Fed Ex.



RHEANNON SWIRE
DIRECT SERVICE ASSOCIATE - EASTON

Rheannon Swire is from Stoughton, MA and works as a Direct Service Associate in Easton assisting with pickups, deliveries, and volunteer supervision. She has volunteered during Christmas and participated in our Family Walk at the invitation of a family friend. She graduated from Assumption University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and earned her Masters of Occupational Therapy from Regis College. She most recently worked as an activity coordinator on a residential dementia unit.



RILEY BAST
DIRECT SERVICE ASSOCIATE - DARTMOUTH

Riley Bast is from Stillwater, Minnesota. She volunteered at My Brother's Keeper's Easton facility all four years as a student at Stonehill College and served as our Volunteer Coordinator during her senior year. Riley graduated with a degree in Criminology and recently completed a year of service with AmeriCorps, planning and directing conservation and trail maintenance projects throughout western Massachusetts. She works as a Direct Service Associate at our Dartmouth facility assisting with pickups, deliveries, and volunteer supervision.

Beth Collins Receives the Spirit of St. Angela Award from Ursuline Academy

Beth (Sheehan) Collins '02 was recently honored by her alma mater, Ursuline Academy, with the Spirit of St. Angela Award at the school's 75th Anniversary celebration. The award honors alumnae whose life and work demonstrate a strong integration of the Ursuline mission with the courage, kindness, and humility of Saint Angela.

Beth began volunteering at My Brother's Keeper in 2001 for her Ursuline senior service project. During that summer, she fell in love with our work, our mission, the people we serve, and those she serves alongside. Beth joined our staff in 2007 and works as Manager of our Food Assistance Program. She played a key role in our COVID-19 response which increased annual food deliveries by more than 300%.

Beth was a featured speaker at Ursuline's senior parent brunch this past spring. Sitting in the audience that day was Bella Matthews '22,

who founded her own nonprofit, Bella's Food Drive Boston, when she was 14 years old. Bella was so inspired by Beth that she decided to donate to My Brother's Keeper as a fitting way to celebrate her 2022 graduation. Bella's donation helped My Brother's Keeper provide a week's worth of groceries to 160 families.





The following reflection was written by Tanya Rybarczyk, a Catholic writer, speaker, teacher, and retreat guide who works as Program Manager for Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) New England. My Brother's Keeper hosts 7 IVC volunteers and Tanya recently visited us in conjunction with her IVC role. She was so moved by her experience that she felt inspired to write about our ministry. Thirty four years after our founding, it is a tremendous affirmation that first-time volunteers are still so deeply touched by the Holy Spirit's presence at My Brother's Keeper.



In a world so quick to focus on what we “do” – and how successful we are in that “doing” – My Brother's Keeper keeps their focus on who they serve: Christ first and foremost, and then their neighbors through Him.

Their mission statement reflects the organization's laser-like focus: To bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve. “Mission is not what you do,” says co-founder Jim Orcutt, “but why you exist.”

At My Brother's Keeper, every staff member and most volunteers can recite this mission and it is spoken twice each day as part of the workday's opening and closing prayer. Similarly, all the policies and procedures of the organization, now incorporated by the Board, have grown out of and remain true to this focus.

I recently spent a day at My Brother's Keeper and was taken aback by the introduction and applause I received before morning prayer...but then everyone is applauded at My Brother's Keeper! The unexpected miracle of this organization, says president Erich Miller, is how it serves the people who serve, and I saw evidence of this everywhere I looked.

Upstairs, women – many in their 70's and 80's -- were making box springs for mattress deliveries, several cutting the cloth patterns, others chatting over humming sewing machines, and still others pulling the fabric over the frames and securing it with an electric staple gun. I was told how this group of women have become family, occasionally going on day long outings together, and supporting each other through the pandemic. A couple of talented women sat to one side, creating beautiful gifts out of donations of cups and saucers, teas and soaps, to be included in the deliveries so as to make recipients know that they were being thought of.

Downstairs, where others were packing “standard” crates of kitchen items, as well as filling orders for more specific needs, the camaraderie was the same, evidenced in the laughter and joyful conversation, and by little intimacies – knowing who ate a piece of chocolate every day with her tea, and who would want pickles with her lunch. Their joy spilled over to embrace me, the otherwise outsider.

Meanwhile, pickups and deliveries of furniture and food packed on site came and went in the background. Collectively, the staff preside over it all, making it look easy, peaceful, even though they're managing a myriad of activity and details. I was privileged to be the only woman in the van as we delivered

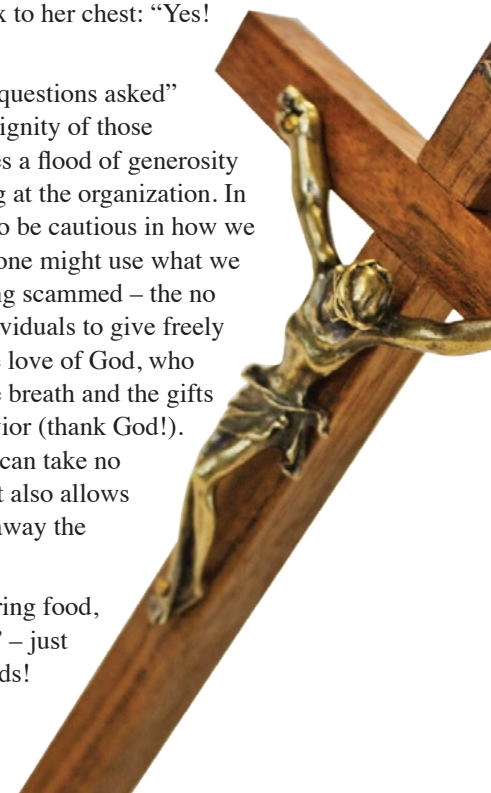
furniture in the morning and food in the afternoon. As we exited the van to deliver a crib and dresser to a pregnant mom, her face relaxed when she saw me. Her baby was due on my daughter's birthday, and she showed me the baby clothes she had carefully washed and organized as she waited for the dresser's arrival.

As we drove to the woman's address, that day's driver told me he was at first taken aback by My Brother's Keeper's “no questions asked” policy of service, even if someone was suspected of selling the furniture that was delivered. And it is true: No one seeking assistance has to provide anything other than their name and their presence at their home address when deliveries are made. As with many of the policies at My Brother's Keeper, this began by searching scripture. Looking at the miracles of Christ, Jim and Terry noticed that Jesus never asked for a reason before helping someone... all he asked was, “What do you want from me?” His miracles were proof of his word, which was of God's love and forgiveness.

The miracle of a household of furniture and home supplies is proof of My Brother's Keeper's word, grounded in Christ's. And after each delivery is complete, recipients are given a crucifix for their home and told “We're just the delivery people. This is the person who sent you the furniture.” This our driver did for the woman preparing her home for her baby. After handing her the crucifix, he continued with a wink: “Do you know that guy's name?” She held the crucifix to her chest: “Yes! It's God!”

My Brother's Keeper's “no questions asked” policy not only honors the dignity of those seeking help, but it unleashes a flood of generosity in the hearts of those serving at the organization. In a culture that often asks us to be cautious in how we give – worrying about how one might use what we give, or whether we are being scammed – the no questions policy invites individuals to give freely of themselves, mirroring the love of God, who does not withhold the air we breath and the gifts given us based on our behavior (thank God!). Because of this policy, they can take no federal or state money, but it also allows them to do things like give away the crucifix.

Later, when we were delivering food, a recipient asked for “Jesus” – just like that, word of God spreads!



Our Facilities



EASTON



DARTMOUTH

Congratulations to Thomas Sullivan of Plymouth, MA for being this year's 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.*



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