



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.*

FEBRUARY 2023

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

Always Focused on Our Mission

**The last three months have
been an incredible whirlwind
at My Brother's Keeper!**

In November, we conducted a great Thanksgiving Program which served 700 families in 10 towns.

We also held two major community events, our 12th Annual Hungry Men Dinner on November 21st and our 32nd Annual Gratitude Mass on November 25th.

In December, we welcomed more than 5,000 volunteers to our Easton and Dartmouth locations in support of our 2022 Christmas Assistance Program. With their help, we served 3,140 families for Christmas living in 107 communities in eastern Massachusetts — more than 12,000 and adults! (see page 2)

Over the first two weeks of January, we completely emptied out our Easton facility and vacated it.

On January 16th, we turned the building over to Acella Construction and major renovations began the very next day. (see page 3)

We simultaneously moved to a temporary location at 100 Messina Drive in Braintree and started up operations.

As a ministry, we can be extremely proud that throughout all the busyness and transitions, we never missed a day of deliveries and our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve" remained at the forefront.

**In January 2023,
My Brother's Keeper completed
1,100 food and furniture deliveries
to our neighbors in need versus
1,005 deliveries in January 2022,
a remarkable 9.4% increase!**



Hungry Men



November 2022



Gratitude Mass

December 2022



Thanksgiving



Easton Building

January 2023



Christmas



Braintree Location



Our Christian faith is full of paradoxes such as “the first shall be last” (Mark 9:35) and “whoever wants to save his life will lose it.” (Mark 8:35) In much the same way, the beauty of My Brother’s Keeper is that our work and mission touches the lives of those we serve **AND** those who serve with us.

This was profoundly true in December when 5,000 volunteers walked through our doors in Easton and Dartmouth to help us serve 3,140 families — more than 12,000 children and adults in their time of need — all in Christ’s name.

Vicarious Deliveries

By Joe Kennedy, Volunteer, West Bridgewater

I have been part of the My Brother’s Keeper Christmas Program for almost 20 years and I truly look forward to jump starting my Christmas spirit with those first deliveries in late November or early December. I have been blessed to share this experience with hundreds of volunteers and staff members over the years.

Friday, December 16th was a most unique run to Brockton. I was waiting to be assigned another volunteer. With no one coming through the doors, Ryan approached Bill Tremblay to head out with me. Bill had never done Christmas deliveries before so I reviewed what was expected and we were off.

Bill called each recipient when we were 5 minutes out. He was a natural — he had a real kind way about him on the phone — and all our recipients were eagerly awaiting us when we arrived.

As we traveled around the city to serve 9 families, Bill was really getting into it. He was truly excited to see the smiles of those who met us. He eagerly joined in with the singing of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas!” He mentioned several times how much fun it was and how much he enjoyed the opportunity to go out on deliveries.

For me, I was seeing our deliveries vicariously through Bill’s eyes — I was more aware of the joy he took from each stop. When we got back to the Keeper, he couldn’t thank me enough for allowing him to be part of this worthwhile experience.

Bill, I had nothing to do with that. The Good Lord chose you to go out and spread His message and you did Him proud!!!

The pleasure was all mine — thank you, Bill!

Dear Volunteers at My Brother's Keeper,
I cannot thank you enough for the
incredibly generous + thoughtful Christmas
delivery! I really don't have words. My
children came down Christmas morning
& were so, so happy + excited to open your
lovely gifts. My youngest even commented
this was the first Christmas he felt "normal"
and "loved" after enduring years of domestic
violence.
We are just ^{so} grateful, and our prayer is
that the blessings of ~~peace~~ ^{grace} flood your heart
this year.
Love, R

From: William Tremblay
To: info@mybrotherskeeper.org

Subject: Re: Another Year of Christmas Miracles

I have definitely experienced the Christmas miracle here at My Brother’s Keeper over the last few weeks. I’ve never experienced such an outpouring of generosity as I’ve seen while volunteering here. It’s both humbling and uplifting to be a part of this ministry. Thanks so much for the opportunity to be a part of this. Best wishes to all my MBK family for a blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

– Bill T

From: Olivia

To: info@mybrotherskeeper.org

Subject: Sincere Thanks

Good Afternoon, I just wanted to say thank you for what your organization does for people. This morning my son and I participated in the gift wrapping for Christmas Families for the first time ever. It was truly an emotional morning. You see I haven’t had very easy times and a couple of years ago I was on the receiving end of a Christmas Family. It felt so rewarding and fulfilling to be able to return that love to someone else in need. I may not ever be able to repay my little elves so being a part of what Christmas truly means and stands for — love, hope and God’s undying love— means the world to me. I also was able to teach my son a very valuable lesson of helping others. Again thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do.

God Bless all of you and your Families. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!

– Olivia





EASTON BUILDING PROJECT UNDERWAY!

ACELLA Construction Corporation

My Brother's Keeper handed Acella Construction the keys to our Easton facility on January 16th. They wasted no time making great progress!

Workers from Superior Plumbing in Walpole were on site the very next day removing all the plumbing fixtures in preparation for demolition.

The following two weeks, demo crews completely opened up the left front interior of the building. They removed all the walls, flooring, and ceilings of the Prayer Room, kitchen, and bathroom as well as the dividing wall between the warehouse and these areas.

The demo team then shifted their focus to sawcutting the concrete slab for the new underground plumbing locations as well as the elevator pits.

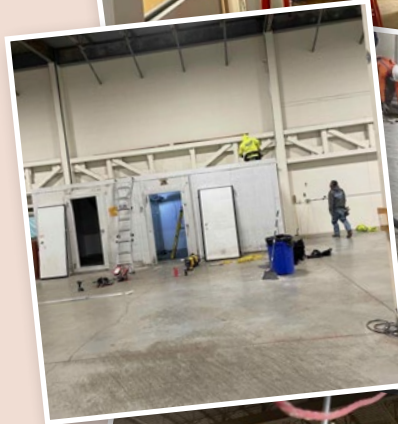
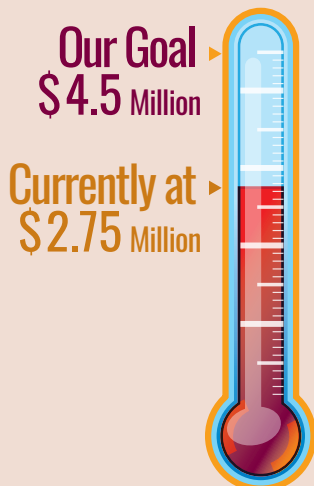
Refrigerated Structures of New England, Northstar HVAC & Refrigeration, and Northstar Electrical Contracting worked together to dismantle our existing walk-in refrigerator and freezer. The companies then went above & beyond. After disassembling the units, they transported them to our temporary Braintree location and re-assembled them so we can continue delivering fresh produce, milk, juice, eggs, and frozen meat to recipients of our Food Assistance Program while our Easton renovations are underway.

Acella Construction is a very organized, professional construction management company and their goal is to get My Brother's Keeper back into the building in time for our 2023 Christmas Assistance Program.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$4.5 million which includes design, engineering, construction, and leasing our temporary location in Braintree. To date we have raised \$2.75 million.

If you haven't already, please consider making an investment in My Brother's Keeper by donating to the Easton Building Project.

We conservatively estimate that the improvements we are making today will enable us to make 167,000 additional deliveries worth \$53 million over the next 20 years. That's a great return on investment!



My Brother's Keeper Turns 35 Years Old

The 35th Anniversary of My Brother's Keeper is right around the corner!

It was March 21, 1988 when Jim and Terry came home from work and sat down to watch TV. Flipping channels, they settled on the ABC Monday night movie called *God Bless the Child*. "I put my recliner in second gear and thought I'd be asleep by the second commercial," Jim likes to say.

Something very different happened, though. The movie was a powerful film portraying a mother and daughter's desperate struggle with homelessness. Jim and Terry were profoundly affected by the pain and hopelessness they witnessed. They felt God was calling them to act.

After having the most serious conversation of their married life, Jim and Terry held hands before a cross and said a prayer: "God, we want to bring your love and hope to people who are feeling lost and hopeless, but we don't know what to do. If you'll guide us, there will never be another day when this won't be first." And so My Brother's Keeper was born.

Countless miracles and many milestones have happened since: we rented our first home on Plain Street in Brockton in 1992,

purchased a facility on West Chestnut Street in 1995, built our headquarters in Easton in 2002, expanded services to the South Coast in 2013, built our Dartmouth facility in 2017, responded strongly in the face of COVID-19 in 2020, and completed our 200,000th delivery in 2022.

Literally hundreds of thousands of lives have been touched in Christ's name over the past 35 years — both those we serve and those who serve with us — because Jim and Terry said "yes" to God. Thank you and God bless you always, Jim and Terry.



Celebrating 32 Years of Board Service: Deacon Dan Sullivan

On December 31, 2022, Deacon Dan Sullivan retired from the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors after 32 years of outstanding board service.

Deacon Dan was among the very first supporters and volunteers of My Brother's Keeper. Our first delivery truck was affectionately known as "The Green Monster" and Dan anonymously paid the insurance on it for the first year.

Co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt were deeply touched by Dan's quiet and humble gift. When they found out what he had done, they invited Dan to be a founding member of the Board of Directors. He served as Chair of the board from 1990 – 2011 and continued as a director from 2011 – 2022. As the old saying goes, "No good deed goes unpunished!"

Dan has been foundational to our ministry's work over the last 30+ years and he has been a key part of every historic milestone we have celebrated.

"I often refer to Dan as the 'architect' of our Christmas Program," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper. "His talents relating to systems, operations, and logistics have helped us scale our Christmas Program to a level that was unimaginable when the program started in 1990. We helped 14 families that first year and we now serve 3,000+ families every Christmas. Dan has been so important to that program's growth and what we accomplish every Christmas."

"Deacon Plunge" — a 3-day service retreat for men in the Archdiocese of Boston's diaconate formation program — was

also Dan's inspiration and many current deacons call it a highlight of their 4-year formation experience.

"These are just two examples of the many ways Dan has helped shape and strengthen My Brother's Keeper," said Jim and Terry Orcutt. "With the help of his leadership, hundreds of thousands of families have been served in Jesus' name during his time on the Board. Think of all the children who have warm, comfortable beds; families that have shared nutritious meals; the parents who've seen smiles on their children's faces on Christmas morning; the volunteers who have experienced the joy of service. It's been such a pleasure serving alongside Dan for so many years. We are deeply grateful to him and for him."

Dan has ended his time on the Board of Directors but not as a volunteer. You'll still see him quietly, humbly serving at My Brother's Keeper, especially at Christmas.



An International Exchange By Jimmy Doulos, Easton staff

On February 7, we hosted a dozen or so students from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Although it was on hold for the last few years, Boston College High School and Colegio Del Salvador have a student exchange program. As part of their time in the US, the students visit us to do furniture deliveries and learn how it is we at My Brother's Keeper serve others in Jesus's name. This was the first group we hosted in our facility in Braintree, making the day extra special.

Having personally lived in Latin America for 8 years, serving with the Argentinians is an annual highlight of mine, giving me an opportunity to practice my diminishing Spanish skills. In my truck that particular morning were students Santi, Valen, Matt, and their chaperone, Profesora Eugenia.

After a brief tour of the facility, we departed to meet a woman named Edina in Brockton. Edina is a native Portuguese speaker. When I explained to her that the students were from Argentina, she immediately began to converse with us in Spanish.

After a few minutes of conversation, I witnessed an amazing coincidence: Edina and Profesora Eugenia were big fans of the same Brazilian band and it was fun watching the two women from two totally different parts of the world, singing and giggling like two old friends.



Eugenia began to tell us a little about herself. She told us that the two beds we were setting up were for relatives who would be staying with her from Cape Verde. She then explained why. Sadly, Edina was experiencing her second bout with breast cancer. The relatives would be helping take care of her and her children.

Despite her challenges, Edina thanked us profusely, telling us how happy she is that her caretakers would have comfortable beds to sleep on. As I presented her the crucifix, her eyes lit up and she held the crucifix to her heart, saying, "I know Jesus will always take care of me and my family."

Standing in Solidarity with Those We Serve

Unimaginable pain and suffering often fills the lives of those we serve. They give us a precious gift when they allow us into their homes and lives and grant us the privilege of serving them. Students from Portsmouth Abbey School in Portsmouth, RI recently helped with a delivery to 'Mary' in Fall River who escaped domestic violence and called My Brother's Keeper to furnish her new apartment. We are sharing words of thanks we received from Mary along with quotes taken from reflections written by the Portsmouth Abbey students.



Good morning, this is Mary. I just wanted to Thank You for all the beautiful furniture that you delivered to me on Tuesday morning. I want to thank you for making my day. Sometimes we forget as adults how important life is when things happen to us, but by the grace of God, He saved me. I'm His child. God bless all of you that helped me. I know that my tears were of joy and not sadness that day.

"When we finished giving her a table and a couch, she made me realize that not everyone is given the same opportunity in this country, and people don't always decide their own fate."

"The first house we went to was the most transformative for me because it allowed me to stand in solidarity with Mary. We heard Mary's story because we listened, we did not ask, and we did not tell her what she should have done. Instead, we stood alongside her and became immediate friends."

"Mary started to cry while giving us some advice. She said to Caroline and I, because we were the only two girls there, 'If you are ever in a situation of domestic abuse or any kind of abuse, just know to walk away and do not turn back. You are such strong women and never forget that.' I almost started to cry as she was crying but I did my best to hold in the tears."

"Mary had a little puppy named Gracie with her and she let Caroline and I hold her. She showed an amount of trust with Caroline and I that really touched my heart and made me so happy to have been able to bring furniture to her home."

Our Facilities



EASTON



DARTMOUTH

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

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