



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.*

JUNE 2023

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



EASTON BUILDING PROJECT ON SCHEDULE & ON BUDGET!

Thanks to the exceptional work being done by Acella Construction, the Easton Building Project has made remarkable progress and is on schedule and on budget.

The structural steel for the new second floor is installed, the concrete slab is poured, and the new loading dock is erected. The new walk-in refrigerator and freezer are in place, the new elevator shaft is built, and the larger Prayer Room, kitchen, and bathrooms are all framed.

Given the current pace of progress, we are optimistic the construction project will be completed in October which will allow us to be back in the building for this year's Christmas Program.

"It's exciting to see so much work happening so quickly. In just 4 short months, the building has already been transformed," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper.

"As the improvements take shape, it's easy to see how the investment we're making today will help us serve more local families with excellence in the coming years. And that's really heartening because the need in our community is so great."

Under a moderate growth assumption, My Brother's Keeper estimates the Easton Building Project will translate into 167,000 additional deliveries worth more than \$53,000,000 in additional services to local families in need over the next 20 years.

The estimated cost of the Easton Building project is \$4.5 million and to date, we have raised \$3.3 million, 73% of our goal. The Yawkey Foundation is our lead supporter having generously donated \$1,000,000 to the project.

If you would like to make a donation in support of the Easton Building Project, please contact Deacon Paul Key, Chief Development Officer, or visit www.MyBrotherKeeper.org/EastonBuildingProject.



Please Join Us!

Saturday June 10, 2023 • Stonehill College Campus, Easton, MA

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

<https://www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/FamilyWalk>

My Brother's Keeper
Family Walk



My Brother's Keeper Hasn't Left Me

By Andrew Staiti, former My Brother's Keeper staff member, Canton, MA

I can still remember the phone call with my Mom that introduced me to My Brother's Keeper; the gist of it, at least.

I was in the Fall semester of my sophomore year at Stonehill College and things just weren't really falling into place for me. After being a fixture on the quarterly honor roll, president of the executive board, and a multi-sport athlete at Canton High, I was struggling to find my place at Stonehill. I was struggling to find my "thing." During a weekly check-in, my Mom suggested that I find somewhere to volunteer, find a way to connect with what she felt was always my core self; wanting to make a difference and lend a helping hand. And like any good son would, I took her advice.

To this day I don't remember exactly how I found the Keeper, but for the sake of better storytelling, I guess you can say that the Keeper found *me*.

Beth Collins opened the front door with her signature smile and warmth and showed me around the lobby. It wasn't long before I was on the road doing food deliveries with Ryan Thorley, who recognized my last name and asked if I had a sister, Kacee, who was a classmate of his from the graduating class of 2004. We hit it off from there and any trepidation I had about where I was and what I was doing left me.

As a kid growing up in Canton, Brockton was always spoken about in generally derogatory, fearful terminology. It was the "place you don't go at night" that unfortunately pervades the language and thinking of many suburban communities across our country to this day. When I took that first ride around the city with Ryan, my eyes were opened. This "big bad city" was simply what many cities have become, a veritable melting pot of people from all sorts of backgrounds, walks of life and orientations, all just trying to get by.

As time went on, I found myself more drawn to My Brother's Keeper and their community-changing work. It was a special joy

of mine to bring along my girlfriend at the time during the final semester of my senior year to show her what the Keeper was all about and how it has the great potential to— and so often does— change lives for the better.

After completing a year of post-grad volunteer work in New Jersey, it was an even greater joy of mine to join the staff of My Brother's Keeper as a full-time Direct Service Associate, a position that I held for two years. I had the distinct privilege of working with so many to fulfill our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve" in so many different formats.

When I left My Brother's Keeper in pursuit of related work but in different areas, I kept coming up short in terms of experience on my resume, and so I took a slight detour in my life and career path. As the saying goes, "We make plans, and God laughs."

It took me some time to realize that over the course of those years, though I had left My Brother's Keeper, My Brother's Keeper hasn't left *me*. I thought of my former co-workers and the volunteer crews often. I tried to stay as connected as I could, whether it was going out on deliveries, attending funerals of a beloved volunteer, or just dropping by the Easton facility to chat and catch up. Anywhere I went, the people, the experiences, and the mission of My Brother's Keeper went with me.

And so now I find myself working for another nonprofit— one that is also rooted in the Christian tradition and proud of it— and feeling grateful for the privilege to be here. Grateful for the privilege to serve in a new way.

During countless end-of-day prayers, President Erich Miller's strong, gentle affirmation of that phrase *privilege to serve* still rings clear in my memory. It was a privilege to do the yeoman's work that My Brother's Keeper and their community does for our world, and it is a privilege to carry that with me. I would not be who I am today without it.



Andrew Staiti works as the Office Manager at The Labor Guild of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Labor Guild seeks to promote justice in the workplace and foster a healthy labor-management climate. Andrew graduated from Stonehill College in 2014 and was a staff member at My Brother's Keeper from 2015-2017 after completing a year of service with the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry in Camden, NJ.

May 5, 2023

Dear MBK Family,

Thank you. Thank you for sincerely changing my life.

Since my first year at Stonehill, volunteering with you all has been my favorite part of every week. Each and every delivery has a special story and a special place in my heart.

Perhaps my favorite delivery was one that has had the greatest impact on me. It was a delivery to a woman post Christmas with three children. We delivered a whole van worth of goods to her home. As each of us walked in with more boxes and bags, her eyes filled with tears and she hugged all of us thanking us.

When we gave her the last gift, the crucifix, she cried harder, thanking God. It was the first time I truly felt God working through me. It was one of my first deliveries and one I remind myself of each time I step into that van.

So, thank you for helping me with my own connection to God. It's crazy how quickly four years have gone by, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. Thank you for being a second family to all of us, for being our parental figures (or aunts/uncles), for caring about us, for loving us, and for welcoming us. We will miss being here each week.

To Jimmy, Mark, Erich, Ryan, Michelle, the Christmas crew, and the MBK family, thank you for helping me grow into the woman I am. This certainly is not good bye, it is a see you later. I love you all.

— Liz Jalette, Stonehill 2023

A Special Thank You
from Stonehill volunteer

Liz Jalette

Class of 2023



Liz Jalette, bottom row center, was part of a special group of Stonehill students who volunteered faithfully every Friday afternoon throughout their four years. Pictured with her, left to right, are Kelly Heney, Colton Varholak, Katie Garside, and Ann Cote.

Every encounter...

that My Brother's Keeper makes is an opportunity to accomplish our mission. We can lift people up and be the light of Christ on pickups as well as deliveries.

Here is a thank you note we received after a recent furniture pickup:

Hi Michelle.

I just wanted to thank you and the My Brother's Keeper pickup crew. In a word they were, "AWESOME."

Everyone was so nice, helpful, positive, and funny. I know that your organization does a fantastic job helping those less fortunate trying to get back on their feet. I am sure your work brings smiles to their faces. Well, you and your crew brought a smile to my face yesterday as well. My entire family is so happy that my mother's furnishings can be put to such good use.

Your organization's mission is laudable and wonderful—the hand of God at work in our communities.

Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you.

— Ed

My Brother's Keeper encourages all staff, no matter their job responsibilities, to periodically go out on deliveries as a way to stay connected to our work, our mission, and the people we serve in Christ's name.

The Key to a Brighter Future *By Michelle Byrne, Administrative Program Associate*



I met Scott over the phone when I called to schedule his furniture delivery. It had been a few weeks since a co-worker had taken his request on our Helpline. Scott was so excited and relieved to hear from us. He couldn't believe we were actually coming with his furniture!

He was overcome with emotion when he said, "Thank you for not forgetting me." Powerful words that struck me. Scott opened up and shared his story...

Scott and his fiancée, Sheila, had been homeless for three years and struggled with addiction. They entered a rehab program and have been sober for 16 months. They found a room in a local rooming house and moved in with just the clothes on their backs.

Scott shared how they felt invisible, questioned God, lost faith, and suffered from frequent nightmares when living on the street. We also discussed their hope for the future. They are working so hard to stay clean and rebuild their lives. They've found a church nearby where they share their story and help others living on the street. Now having support, they have found hope for the future.

We talked about God's love for them and the goodness of people who care. They have each other and I reminded them they have the entire community of My Brother's Keeper praying for them too.

My Brother's Keeper was able to provide them with the necessities — a bed, dresser, small table and chairs, dishes, sheets, food and a crucifix. Two weeks later, Scott called our assistance line again, this time for a food delivery. He expressed his gratitude again.

That afternoon, I went out on food deliveries and our delivery to Scott and Sheila was the most special one. As our van pulled up to their address, Scott walked over. I introduced myself and Scott replied, "I know your voice." We shook hands and embraced. I wanted Scott to know he was no longer invisible. We carried the food inside and he showed us their room and the furniture My Brother's Keeper was able to provide.

They were proud to welcome us in and showed us their space. Sheila pointed out the crucifix on the wall and shared, "It's so special to us." They now take time to pray and believe that God is with them. "I'm so grateful to have my own key," Scott offered. He can come and go now as he pleases. The room may be small, but it is his space where he feels safe, a far cry from living on the street or making curfew at a local shelter. I never thought about all the opportunities a key could provide like safety, security, ownership, freedom, peace of mind, hope.

It was a true privilege to meet this kind soul. Scott has a heart full of love and gratitude. Thank you for showing me that we are all worthy of dignity and respect. We all have the same wishes—to love and to be loved.

"We've never had new beds before."

By Paul Key, Chief Development Officer



"I've always wanted to do this!" the eleven-year-old girl blurted out joyfully, then ran across her bedroom and jumped superman-style onto the new bed we just set up.

Her twelve-year-old cousin, who she shares a bedroom with, looked down at her own bed a few feet away and said, "We've never had new beds before."

The girls went on to marvel at how high their mattresses sat on the box spring and bed frame. "Our mattresses are usually on the floor," the younger cousin stated.

When we finished setting up the rest of the furniture in the apartment, the volunteers and I delivered a Crucifix to the family with the message: "We're just the delivery people. This is who sent your furniture."

The eleven-year-old took the Crucifix from her aunt's hands, looked at it adoringly and said, "I know where we can hang this."

In that moment, everything else I accomplished that day seemed less important.

Two Spring Winners: Strikes for Hope and Spring Together



At My Brother's Keeper, we view our events as much more than fundraisers. Our events help us build community. They are opportunities to reconnect with long-time supporters and introduce new volunteers to our work and mission. They're more important than ever after the disconnect caused by COVID.

My Brother's Keeper held two successful events this spring: Strikes for Hope at Wonder Bowl in New Bedford on March 26th and Spring Together at Six String Grill in Foxboro on April 13th. Together, the two events raised nearly \$200,000 to support the work of My Brother's Keeper. Equally important, they brought more than 600 people together to have fun, enjoy each other's company, and be inspired by the work of My Brother's Keeper.

A 'Mission Moment' is a hallmark of all My Brother's Keeper events. Cheryl Fredette, a former student intern from Bristol Community College, spoke at Strikes for Hope about how our policy of "no pre-requisites for service" has informed her career in social work. Erich Miller spoke at Spring Together and he commemorated our 35th anniversary by sharing his favorite student reflection from over the years.

A very special thank you to all our guests and sponsors and to the Easton Development Board, South Coast Development Board, and Spring Together event committee who helped plan and execute these wonderful events.

Thank you to our generous Annual Sponsors



We would like to thank our 2023 Annual Sponsors. Through one, annual donation these generous companies and families support our suite of fundraising events and help us raise approximately \$600,000 to serve local families. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an annual sponsor for My Brother's Keeper, please visit the following webpage: www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/AnnualSponsors.

12th Annual DEACON PLUNGE

May 18-21 at Dartmouth Facility

Every year in May, My Brother's Keeper hosts 'Deacon Plunge,' a 3-day service retreat for men in the Diaconate Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Each day begins with Mass and is filled with prayer, direct service, and evening reflection. At night, the men sleep on mattresses on our warehouse floor to live in solidarity with the poor and homeless.



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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