

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

Along the Way

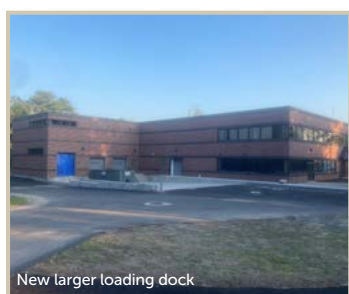
*We deliver furniture, food, and Christmas assistance
free of charge to local families in need
with no prerequisites for service.*

SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Easton Facility — Transformed and On-Target for October

Renovations of the Easton facility have gone just about as smooth as we could have hoped! The building has truly been transformed and is on target for an October completion date. This will allow us to move back in the building in plenty of time to host our 2023 Christmas Program.



New larger loading dock



New Second Floor



VRC Freight Lift



Walk-In Refrigerator and Freezer

The key elements of the project were building out a full second floor and significantly expanding the loading dock to strengthen program logistics. Taken together, those two improvements increased the building's gross square footage from 15,000 SF to 28,000 SF— an incredible 86% increase.

We also tripled the size of the walk-in refrigerator and freezer and relocated them immediately behind the building which frees up space inside the warehouse and will improve work flow. These structural changes gave us the space we needed to then expand important community spaces like our Prayer Room and the kitchen and dining room.

Other important elements of the renovation include adding a freight lift, an elevator, one new office, a dedicated furniture repair room, additional bathrooms, and a new roof.

The Easton Building Project is a long-term investment in the work and mission of My Brother's Keeper. Under a moderate

growth assumption, the capital improvements being made today will translate into an estimated 167,000 additional deliveries worth more than \$53,000,000 in additional services for local families in need over the next 20 years.

The project is being funded by a \$4,500,000 capital campaign. \$3,650,000 has been raised to date, 81% of our goal. To make a donation, please visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org or write "Easton Building Project" in the memo of your check.

My Brother's Keeper is strengthening our work for the future but still doing great in the present. From January 1 to August 31, 2023, we made 11,250 food and furniture deliveries, an 18% increase over deliveries during the same time period last year.



2023 Cruise or Cash!



Special Raffle Insert

Prize donated in full with 100% of proceeds to benefit My Brother's Keeper. Drawing to be held October 30, 2023 at My Brother's Keeper. Winner need not be present.

Christmas-time is *(almost)* here... Again!!!

Summer only recently ended but our preparations for Christmas began some time ago. We conduct an early registration process each year and here's how it works:

Starting August 1st, families interested in receiving help for Christmas are able to fill out a simple pre-registration form online. Each week thereafter, My Brother's Keeper selects families at random and emails them a link to schedule a convenient phone appointment within a one-hour time window, i.e., Friday between 2-3 pm. My Brother's Keeper staff and a team of volunteers then call parents at their selected time to conduct a full intake. Each phone call is a very personal conversation and usually takes 10-15 minutes based on the family size. As of mid-September, 500 families are already enrolled.



Beth Collins is part of the Christmas intake team and shares two conversations she had with parents.

**Adopt-a-Family Program
starts October 1st! Go to:
www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/Adopt**

Tonya missed our phone appointment in the morning so I figured I'd try her again after all the calls were finished. When she answered the phone, I could hear her wheezing and the congestion in her voice.

She said, "I'm so sorry I missed your call earlier!" I told her it was not a problem and I asked her if it was a good time to talk. She said, "It is as long as you can hear me ok. I'm sorry! I'm so sick and sound awful but I don't want to miss the opportunity for my kids."

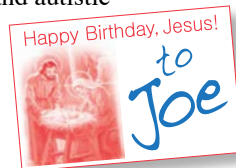
She read from her children's wish lists, taking a break once to cough and take a sip of water. After the list was finished, she said, "Can I ask you one more thing?" and I said "Of course!"

She said, "Can you all please say a prayer for me? I'm going through a lot right now. I'm hoping it will all work out but I'm just struggling so much at the moment." I told her we would pray for her and her intentions, and that God gives her all the strength and comfort she needs. She said, "God Bless My Brother's Keeper. I don't know what I'd do without you all."

Noelle answered our phone call on the first ring, "Is this My Brother's Keeper?" "It is!" I answered and she said, "Oh thank God!"

She explained as a single mom with four kids ranging from ages 6 to 16, My Brother's Keeper was the only resource in her area that could help all of her kids for Christmas, year after year. Many programs only serve children 12 and under but My Brother's Keeper serves teens as well as their parents with clothing and presents.

Noelle gave the sizes and gift ideas for her three oldest children and then told me about her son Joe. Joe is 6 years old and autistic and his favorite part about Christmas is the "Happy Birthday Jesus" labels we put on every present. She laughed and said, "Of course he likes the presents, too, but he's saved every single Happy Birthday Jesus sticker you've sent him."



This year Joe likes Legos, sensory toys, and anything to do with Transformers. As we finished the call, she said, "I want to thank My Brother's Keeper for all you do for so many families—we are so grateful for your generosity."

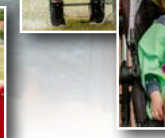
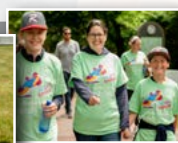


13th Annual My Brother's Keeper Family Walk

On Saturday, June 10th, 800 walkers, volunteers, and staff came together for the 13th Annual Family Walk to enjoy each other's company and support the good work of My Brother's Keeper. The event raised \$220,000 with special thanks to lead sponsors Boston Mutual Life Insurance, Sullivan's Castle Island, Cellai Law Offices, The Wessling Family, The Ogozaly Family, The Payson Family, The Claddagh Fund, and Robert Murray & Christa Hildegard Balzer.

Stonehill College opened up their beautiful campus for the walk which was followed by a fun family celebration with a wonderful array of inflatables and field games. A highlight of this year's event was a special appearance by the Oliver Ames High School Jazz Band.

FUN FACT: the June date of the Family Walk was chosen very intentionally in relation to our Christmas Program. Many families who wrap gifts in Santa's Workshop in December asked, How can we be involved as a family during the year? Creating the Family Walk was one answer!



Celebrating 10 Years Serving in Christ's name on the South Coast

On Friday, August 4th, My Brother's Keeper marked 10 years serving families in need in Christ's name from our Dartmouth location.

To celebrate this anniversary, 60 volunteers and staff members joined together to serve in the morning and share a home-cooked meal prepared by volunteers for our weekly "Community Day" lunch.

My Brother's Keeper was founded in 1988 by Jim and Terry Orcutt in their home in Taunton. For our ministry's first twenty-five years, we primarily served in the Brockton area. In the summer of 2013, we expanded services to the South Coast with a focus on serving residents of Fall River and New Bedford, located just 10 minutes from each other along Interstate 195 and historically two of the poorest cities in Massachusetts.

My Brother's Keeper is the only charity on the South Coast delivering furniture and food free of charge to those in need as core programs.

Our work in the region began from a 9,000 SF leased facility at 999 Reed Road in Dartmouth. Under the leadership of Josh Smith, Director – Dartmouth, we did a remarkable job engaging with the community, especially local schools. Within the first couple of years, My Brother's Keeper created strong partnerships with Portsmouth Abbey, Bishop Stang High School, Bishop Connolly High School, Providence College, Salve Regina, and UMass Dartmouth.

The building at 999 Reed Road wasn't suitable for the long term but the location was perfect: ¼ mile off I-195 and right in the middle of Fall River and New Bedford... only 5 minutes to each community.

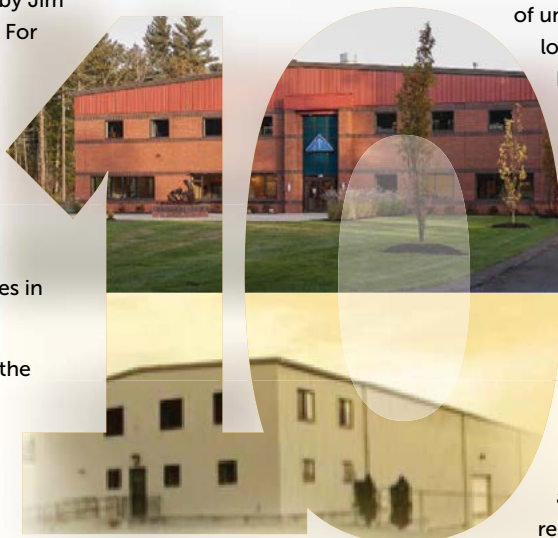
Thanks to God's providence along with sound real estate advice from one of our community members, John Barry, President of JS Barry Development, My Brother's Keeper acquired 22 acres of undeveloped land at 1015 Reed Road, just two lots down from our leased location. In 2017, we built a 23,000 SF facility designed by Wessling Architects which is now our permanent home on the South Coast.

Since opening, our Dartmouth location has made 27,000 total deliveries— 16,000 food deliveries, 6,500 furniture deliveries, and 5,000 Christmas deliveries— representing \$8.5 million of services to more than 75,000 South Coast children and adults in need.

"The number of lives this volunteer community has been able to touch in Christ's name over the past ten years has exceeded all our expectations," said Josh Smith. "As a result, children now have a positive memory of receiving their first bed; families are healthier

thanks to well-balanced, emergency food deliveries; and parents haven't experienced the pain of having to watch their children go without on Christmas morning."

Without a doubt, our mission "To bring the Love and hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve" is truly being accomplished on the South Coast.



Touching the Lives and Hearts of Those Who Serve with Us

This summer, My Brother's Keeper hosted six men in formation: four from the Congregation of Holy Cross and two from the Dominican Order. The men made significant contributions to our daily work and equally important, their faith and shared commitment to our mission lifted us up as a community. It was truly a privilege to play a role in their formation.

Dear My Brother's Keeper Family,

Written words will not be sufficient to express my utter gratitude to you all for welcoming me into your lives and ministry for the brief few weeks I was with you this summer. In such a short period of time, I felt so deeply embedded within the My Brother's Keeper family which demonstrates to me that the love and hope of Jesus Christ truly animates what you all do day in and day out at My Brother's Keeper. Your zeal for the ministry and for bringing Christ's love and hope to others was made plainly obvious to me in your welcome and prayerful commitment and joyful exercise of your unique duties at My Brother's Keeper.

Because of you all and each in your unique way, I so looked forward to beginning each new day at My Brother's Keeper because I knew I would be interacting with cheerful and loving people. Cherish daily and always the privilege that you have to be part of so great and so unique a family under the banner of Christ. Cherish also the unique privilege you have to partake in a work that unwaveringly keeps Christ first. My Brother's Keeper is His work, never forget this.

And so, I must simply say thank you! Thank you for a great, exhausting, memorable and joyful summer. Thank you for making me feel part of the family. Thank you for your ministry!

In Holy Cross,

Br. John Draves, CSC



Dominican seminarians Br. Thaddeus Pistrang, OP (Tennessee) and Br. Columcille Milligan, OP (New Hampshire)



Holy Cross seminarians Kevin O'Leary (Illinois) and Jordan Chang (Indiana)



Holy Cross seminarians Ethan Kelley, CSC (New York) and Br. John Draves, CSC (Ohio)

Dear My Brother's Keeper Staff and Friends,

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:40) It has been an honor and a blessing to work with you all this summer. And not only has it been an honor and a blessing, but it has been a great joy as well. Despite that, I will say, shouldering a couch was not how I expected to spend my days when I entered religious life! But how can I be surprised when I volunteered to take the cross upon my shoulder?

When the apostles returned to Jesus after their summer assignments (or at least something roughly similar), they "told him all they had done... and he said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a lovely place and rest awhile.'" (Mark 6:30-31) That is what we do now. And what is that lovely place where we speak to Jesus but the "inner room" of the heart at prayer?

That is how I will continue to bring the love and hope of Christ to you and to those you serve. Know of my prayers for you and be quick to send me prayer requests. God has blessed me superabundantly with the call to religious life and to union by prayer. Let me share that with you.

"for his love endures forever," (Ps 136)

Br. Thaddeus Pistrang, OP

A local family volunteered regularly at our Dartmouth location this summer and Mom sent us this note on their last day of service before the start of school.

You and your team have made us feel so welcome and appreciated during our time volunteering this summer. We have enjoyed every encounter with the staff and volunteers. I asked my kids what they took from volunteering and they agreed, it doesn't matter how young you are, you can still make a difference. My 8 year son told me on the way home last week that his heart is so full from the experience. Thank you all for helping me show them.

Thanks, Amanda Sladewski



Christ Watching Over Him

by Riley Bast, Direct Service Associate - Dartmouth

A few weeks ago, my co-worker Julie Carchedi told us that we would be delivering to a missionary named Rui. This immediately intrigued us and she encouraged us to learn his story when we visited him.

I was fortunate to be part of the delivery crew along with another staff member George DuCasse, and two recent Bishop Stang High School graduates — our summer intern Chris Pacheco and Kevin Santiago.

When we arrived at Rui's apartment in Fairhaven, he greeted us with a wave and a cheery smile as he eagerly awaited us on the sidewalk. His apartment was empty and we brought him everything he needed to start his new life: a bed, dresser, living room set, dining set and kitchen items.

Rui was most excited, however, about a desk and chair we brought. He carefully directed us to place his desk next to a bookcase in his living room. George thoughtfully maneuvered it closer to an outlet so Rui could use the desk lamp. This was important to him because

he had plans to sit at that desk, write letters, read his Bible, and make progress towards returning to his work as a missionary.

After moving all of his furniture in, we asked Rui about his calling and the ministry that was so important to him. Rui explained that he had lived as a Christian missionary in China for many years doing much the same work as those of us at My Brother's Keeper: bringing the love and hope of Jesus to those he served.

Rui found China's government to be hostile to many religions, especially those with Western ties, so his mission was often a risky and life-threatening endeavor. Unfortunately, as he says, "the devil struck his foot" and he was injured while fleeing from authorities in China who wished to stop his work.

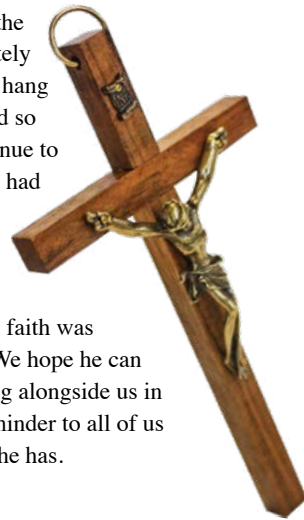
This injury plagued him for many months before he managed to make his way to the United States. Once at a hospital in New Hampshire, Rui discovered that his injury had gone untreated for too long and the doctors had to amputate part of his leg. Now in America, and recovering from his long journey and injury, Rui found himself needing help in the same way that he had helped so

many other people for so many years. Local counselors assisted him with finding an apartment and requesting furniture for his new home.

When Rui heard of My Brother's Keeper, our mission resonated with him deeply because our mission has been his own mission for so much of his life. His story was impactful to those of us on the crew and we felt blessed to be able to serve this man who had risked his own life to serve others in the name of Jesus.

When presented with the crucifix, Rui immediately decided that he would hang it at the head of his bed so that Christ could continue to watch over him, as He had during many months of turbulence and difficulty.

Rui's dedication to his faith was inspiring to all of us. We hope he can live his mission serving alongside us in the future and be a reminder to all of us to trust in the Lord as he has.



Since writing this article, Rui has visited and toured our Dartmouth facility and looks forward to volunteering in the future.

People often ask...

"Do the people you serve ever reach out and get involved after deliveries?" The answer is "Yes!" Not only do they volunteer, but they also share the good news of our work with their friends and family. Here are some online volunteer forms we recently received:

Type of Volunteering:	Individual
How did you hear about us?	MBK Helped me and I want to give back
Contact Information	
First Name:	Sandra
Last Name:	*****
Address:	*****
City:	Fall River
State / Province:	Massachusetts
Zip / Postal Code:	02724

Type of Volunteering:	Individual
How did you hear about us?	From a person that was receiving food assistance
Contact Information	
First Name:	Elaine
Last Name:	*****
Address:	*****
City:	North Easton
State / Province:	Massachusetts
Zip / Postal Code:	02356

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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