

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.*

NOVEMBER 2023

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

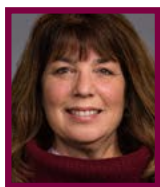
We'll be Home for Christmas!

By Erich Miller, President

The Easton Building Project is officially complete so we'll be home for Christmas thanks to the great work of our project management team at Acella Construction.

Acella started our major renovation on January 17th and as promised, got us back in the building in late October. This was critically important because our temporary location in Braintree (see page 2) was very suitable for our Food and Furniture Programs but with only 14 official parking spots, it could never accommodate our Christmas Program.

And how important is our Christmas Program to local families? A story written by my co-worker, Julie Carchedi, helps explain:



I began my Christmas Request calls at 9am on a sunny Wednesday morning. The first woman I called—a single-mom, Jessie—answered in a way that sounded as if I'd awoken her from a deep sleep. My initial thought was, "Wow... this mother has a very important 9am call. I

would have thought she'd be up early, ready to go." Boy, was I wrong...and right.

I asked Jessie if this was a good time to talk about Christmas. She said, "I'm in the Emergency Room." Only 40 years old, she was undergoing chemotherapy and had a reaction the night before. She'd been up all night vomiting while being administered anti-nausea medication and waiting for a bed in the oncology unit. It was now perfectly clear why her words came out so slow and weak.

Jessie told me she set a timer on her phone for 9am to make sure she was alert enough to answer her call from My Brother's Keeper. "I didn't want to miss your call," she said. "My 11-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son really need something positive in their lives this Christmas."

I could hear medical staff asking questions and monitors beeping in the background as Jessie spoke. It was crystal clear just how important this call was to this loving mother.

I offered to call Jessie later or on another day. She reluctantly agreed, asking more than once if changing the date/time would jeopardize her chances of submitting a Christmas request. I assured her that she would not be forgotten and encouraged her try to rest and take care of herself for the next few days.

I'm happy to report I did connect with Jessie a week after our initial conversation and she completed the intake call. I could hear happiness and relief in her voice as we said goodbye, grateful for the opportunity to provide for her children despite her health challenges. I was grateful for the reminder of how important this one phone call is to the families we serve.

Julie's story is a great reminder for us all of the importance of our Christmas Program. What a privilege it is to serve our brothers and sisters in need in Christ's name!

My Brother's Keeper will serve more than 3,000 struggling families like Jessie's this Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts—more than 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**.

One Day – Two Great Events!
Friday, November 24th, 2023

Grand & Gratitude
Reopening & Mass

of My Brother's Keeper Easton Facility

at Stonehill College Sally Blair
Ames Sports Complex



Grand Reopening of the Easton Facility • 4:00–5:30 pm
534 Washington Street, Easton
Brief Ceremony at 4:00 pm

33rd Annual Gratitude Mass • 6:00 pm
Stonehill College, Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex

*Food & refreshments will be available at
the Open House and after Mass.*

RSVP not required but helpful for our planning!
For RSVP and more details please visit
MyBrothersKeeper.org/reopening



Fathers Helping a Father

By Joe Gelly, Volunteer, Hanover

A Furniture Delivery Made from Our Temporary Location at 100 Messina Drive, Braintree



Deliveries often start with a donation of furniture, food, a volunteer's time, or a gift for Christmas. This time it was a beautiful child's

bed frame. This white sleigh bed was high quality and was in excellent condition—just a beautiful piece of furniture for the right child.

As a bit of background, I volunteer with a great group of guys from a Hanover prayer group. We help once a month to deliver or pick up furniture, make food deliveries, and help around the warehouse—whatever needs to be done. The fact that this was a special bed, and the My Brother's Keeper staff was looking for the right family in need and the right delivery crew to handle the assembly with great care, made our monthly service day even more special.

The intake call to My Brother's Keeper for this particular delivery was emotional. The father, Miguel, reviewed his needs and the family's difficult circumstances: his beautiful three-year-old daughter, Sofia, was

sick and had recently undergone heart surgery. Sofia's mom had left them not too long ago and hard for me to fathom, she took all the furniture with her when she left, even Sofia's bedroom set.

On the day of Miguel's delivery, we took great care loading the bed and other furniture on the truck, unloading, carrying it up to the apartment, disassembling it so it would fit through the front door, and finally reassembling the furniture. As we put together Sofia's new bed, we felt Miguel's meticulous care when he jumped in to help us as a show of love for his little girl. The bed fit perfectly in her room! He asked us to leave the wrapping on the mattress so when his daughter came home, she could open it with him, and they could make up the bed together.

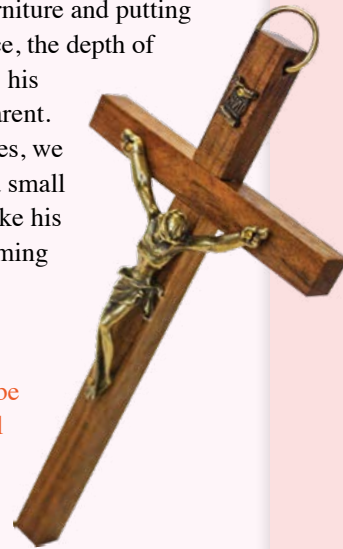
Each delivery is unique and always a humbling and a blessed experience. When we met this father at the back of the delivery truck, he offered sincere thanks to us for coming, but he didn't really have to say a word—his eyes and his expression said it all. The apartment had barely any furniture when My Brother's Keeper arrived. When we were done, a new bed and

furnishings, along with the gratitude of the Holy Spirit, filled his home.

As we were getting ready to leave, we presented Miguel with the crucifix and our message, "We're just the delivery men. Jesus is the one who sent us." Miguel got very emotional. He said, "I'll be hanging it on the wall right away" and he gave us all big hugs of thanks.

The Hanover crew was happy to be part of God's plan to help Miguel and Sofia on that day. As we drove back to the warehouse, we all had the same feeling of "what else could we do" for this father. As we worked together, carrying up the furniture and putting things in their place, the depth of his need as well as his gratitude was apparent. As fathers ourselves, we felt blessed to be a small part of helping make his home more welcoming for his little girl.

Note: The men's prayer group will be sponsoring Miguel and Sofia for Christmas.



*I don't know
how I'd do life
without you.*



*Thank you all
so much for your
kindness and generosity.
This has helped our
family greatly and
given us and our kids
a chance at success.
We are eternally grateful.
Brisette
&
family*

The Miracle of 100 Messina Drive, Braintree...

Construction on our Easton facility kicked off in January 2023 but planning started back in 2021. At that time, we knew two things: the scope of construction would require us to vacate the building for up to a year and the daily work of My Brother's Keeper had to continue uninterrupted— especially food deliveries. The need in our community was too great.

In November 2021, a small committee of My Brother's Keeper volunteers met to discuss alternative locations during the renovation. The committee quickly learned that finding a temporary location in the current business environment would be extremely difficult. The typical lease term for commercial properties is 3-5 years and coming out of COVID, the warehouse market was very tight because so much commerce had moved online and away from brick-and-mortar stores.

The committee thought it was unlikely that we would find a purely market-based solution. Ultimately, we believed it would come down to the strength of our community: someone who appreciated the special work of My Brother's Keeper would offer us favorable terms. After all, God works through people.

Throughout 2021, we explored countless properties. None worked. Either the building, location, cost, or length of lease wasn't right for My Brother's Keeper.

In October 2021, Rachel Rhodes, a community member from Easton, saw a 'For Lease' sign at an FX Messina property in Avon and she passed along the lead. Erich Miller called to inquire and left a message about a possible 12-month lease. With a January 2023 start date for construction, time was running out.

Joe Harnan, Director of Leasing at FX Messina, returned the message the same day. "The main reason I called you back is because of Deacon Art Keefe," he said. "Art gave me my start in real estate 30 years ago. I owe my career to him. I know how much he loves My Brother's Keeper and if there's any way we can do it, I want to make this work."

The property in Avon wasn't available but FX Messina had a renter at 100 Messina Drive in Braintree who wanted to get out

of the last year of their lease. My Brother's Keeper could assume the lease on the 16,000 square foot flex-warehouse unit for the one remaining year starting January 1, 2023.

It was truly a miracle! God worked through Deacon Art and Joe's friendship 30 years ago and through Rachel today.

The Braintree location has been an absolute Godsend. Since January 17, 2023, My Brother's Keeper has made 8,500 food and furniture deliveries from our Braintree site to 29,000 children and adults with services valued at \$1.6 million.

The building at 100 Messina Drive has also been a home away from home for our community. It allowed our volunteers to stay

connected to the work of My Brother's Keeper and to one another. This continuity was particularly important given the sense of disconnectedness we all felt during COVID.

Three other companies played special roles in our move to Braintree. Northstar Refrigeration, Northstar Electric, and Refrigerated Structures of New England dismantled our walk-in refrigerator and freezer in Easton, transported the

equipment to Braintree, and re-installed the units in the new location. Thanks to their efforts and generosity, My Brother's Keeper was able to deliver perishable items like milk, juice, eggs, butter, fresh produce, and frozen meat throughout our time in the temporary location.

As we pack up and leave Braintree, we offer our deepest thanks to the Messina Family and FX Messina Enterprises for providing My Brother's Keeper with a home during the renovation of our Easton facility. They will always hold a special place in our hearts and in the history of our ministry.

Deacon Art Keefe from Duxbury and Erich Miller pictured in front of the walk-ins at our temporary location in Braintree. Installation services related to the walk-ins were generously donated by Northstar Refrigeration, Northstar Electric, and Refrigerated Structures of New England.

Since January 17, 2023,
My Brother's Keeper has
made 8,500 food and furniture
deliveries from our Braintree
site to 29,000 children and
adults with services valued
at \$1.6 million.



New Faces & New Roles

My Brother's Keeper is blessed with incredible buildings and a fleet of delivery vehicles but our greatest asset is our people, especially those who are willing to take on leadership roles as staff and board members. It is a testament to their deep belief in the goodness of our work and our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve."



Amanda Dean joined our staff in July 2023 as our Event Coordinator & Development Associate. In her short time with us, she has already helped manage two very successful events, the My Brother's Keeper Golf Tourney and our South Coast Soiree. Amanda received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Springfield College. She and her husband Evan are proud parents of their 15-month old son, Carter, and they live in Cumberland, RI. Prior to joining our team, Amanda worked as the Development Coordinator at Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a non-profit which provides services for homeless and at-risk veterans.

Marty Greeley joined our staff in August of 2023 as a Program Support Associate at our Braintree / Easton location. His primary responsibility is coordinating our Furniture Donation Program. Prior to working at My Brother's Keeper, Marty enjoyed a long career in the IT field and has a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from Northeastern University. He and his wife Ginny live in Mansfield and have three adult children: Dave, John, and Matt. In his free time Marty enjoys spending time with family, especially on the Cape, and outdoor activities such as golfing, bike riding, and hiking.



Marissa Cremin joined the Development team as our part-time Gift Processor in February 2023. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Westfield State University and is currently a graduate student in a Master of Public Health program. In her full-time job Marissa works in Development at a local university. She is passionate about community engagement and mental health advocacy. She grew up in Easton and volunteered at My Brother's Keeper with her family and friends. She now lives in Boston and enjoys spending time outdoors, cooking, skiing, rollerblading, and reading.

Alex Ogozaly is the new chair of the Easton Development Board, succeeding Mary Keough-Anderson who generously served as board chair from 2020–2023. Alex started volunteering at My Brother's Keeper in 2010 as a sophomore at Stonehill College. In 2011, he was appointed our first student member of the Board of Directors. After graduating with a degree in accounting, he transitioned onto the Easton Development Board and has served as chair of the Family Walk for multiple years. Alex is greatly respected by his peers on the Development Board for his deep faith, strategic thinking, and kind yet strong leadership style. He and his wife Bethany live in Franklin, MA with their two sons, Noah and Max.



Jacqueline 'Jacquie' Williams is the newest member of our Board of Directors. Jacquie attended the Lovely Ladies event in 2007 and began volunteering at My Brother's Keeper in 2008. She started out wrapping gifts at Christmas, graciously helped with hospitality at the Easton facility, and has been a regular food delivery volunteer since 2021. Professionally, Jacquie founded a consulting business called I Love Me, a program designed to positively influence pre-teens and teenagers. The objective is to encourage young men and women to confidently embrace their authentic selves and teach them to recognize that their "Uniqueness is Their Super Power." Jacquie attended Stonehill College and is a member of Jubilee Christian Church in Stoughton. She and her husband Brent have been married for 33 years. They live in Easton and have three adult children: Brennan, Camren, Jaylen and three grandchildren.

Matt Payette joined our South Coast Development Board in May 2023. Matt is Senior Vice President, Chief Community Banking Officer at BayCoast Bank. Matt's involvement with My Brother's Keeper began in 2017 when he and his family began volunteering to wrap presents at our Dartmouth location. He has been a tremendous advocate of our work in many ways such as organizing days of service for BayCoast managers, coordinating volunteer opportunities at My Brother's Keeper for about 50 co-workers and their families, and serving on our South Coast Soiree event committee. Matt has a degree in Mathematics from UMass Dartmouth and is a proud Bishop Stang High School alum where his wife Tina works as Director of Admissions. They have three adult children: Lucas, Simone, and Eric, with the youngest two graduating from Stonehill.



5th Annual South Coast Soiree

An *Unexpected* Evening of Mission!



In five short years, the South Coast Soiree has become our signature event on the South Shore, now raising more than \$100,000 each year to support the work of My Brother's Keeper.

It's traditionally held under the stars at our Dartmouth facility and guests have loved great conversations on the patio and relaxing in Adirondack chairs around fire pits. Thanks to all the stormy weekend weather, though, this year's event had to be moved indoors. With steady rain in the forecast, the Dartmouth staff, the South Coast Development Board, and our wonderful volunteers did an outstanding job clearing space in the warehouse, setting up tables, and stringing lights among the racks to give the building a festive feel.

The result was incredible! The facility looked fantastic and guests loved being literally surrounded by the work and mission of My Brother's Keeper...the mattresses, cribs, couches, kitchen tables, dressers, food, and a Christmas

display. More than any previous year, our supporters could appreciate how their donations are used to bring help and 'the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ' to our neighbors in need.

Kristin Applegate from our South Coast Development Board graciously served as our emcee for the evening and Ben Williams, Logistics Manager – Dartmouth, offered a deeply moving 'Mission Moment' (see excerpt below).

More than 350 guests attended—the event's largest crowd ever—which raises the question, "Should the Soiree be indoors or outdoors next year?" We'll see!

Special thanks to our lead sponsors John and Janine Higgins, First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, Bristol County Savings Bank, Dropkick Murphy's Claddagh Fund, North Easton Savings Bank, In memory of Jean Marie Lank, Stop & Shop, Southcoast Health, BayCoast Bank, and Refrigerated Structures of New England.



Excerpted Mission Moment Remarks Offered by Ben Williams, Logistics Manager – Dartmouth

I've been on staff for eight years, but I first got involved with My Brother's Keeper almost

15 years ago when I was a student at Coyle & Cassidy. Like every student in my year, I had required service hours. It was on a whim that I chose My Brother's Keeper; I had no inclination where I wanted to serve until I flashed back to when I was very young and sitting in the back seat of my grandfather's car while he dropped off canned goods to My Brother's Keeper. "That's as good a place as any," I told myself.

And then the unexpected happened: I did my first delivery and I was hooked. I continued to volunteer long after my hours were completed, and kept coming back year after year, through my time at Providence College, until here I am today.

Each person I've met through this work has been a blessing but one delivery highlights why I'm standing here this evening. I went with a crew of volunteers to a family of three in Fall River: mom, dad and their

daughter. The family joined us in bringing in the furniture and before long we were talking and joking like old friends.

At the end of the delivery, I presented the family with a crucifix. The dad, Adam, happened to be the closest to me so I handed it to him. He looked at the crucifix for a long moment before handing it to his family to see. He asked me if I had noticed the shadowbox on the railing of the stairs leading from the sidewalk to their front door. I said I had. He told me that he and a friend had been standing on that sidewalk when they were the victims of a drive-by shooting. Adam spent several weeks in the hospital recovering from his wounds, but tragically his friend did not survive. Adam put up the shadowbox as a memorial for his friend, which included a crucifix just like the one we gave the family that had since gone missing. He was very moved to have an identical crucifix so that the memorial would again be complete.

A remarkable coincidence to be sure, but it was what he said next that truly floored me: the shooting was exactly one year ago to

the day that we were there. We could have made any delivery that day, and yet there we were, bringing a crucifix to the person who needed it most on that specific day.

Therein lies one of the most beautiful parts of this ministry. As people of faith, we take it on faith that our lives and our actions are part of a larger plan; that there is a reason we are where we are in any given moment. And yet we rarely get to know or see what that reason may be.

Except here at My Brother's Keeper, where we encounter countless coincidences that, taken together, show God's love in action every day; from a couch that perfectly matches the color scheme of a living room, to a dresser that fits perfectly in the nook of a bedroom, to a wayward high school student who discovered his calling on a whim, to Adam receiving that crucifix on such an important day. Every day we see these moments come to fruition as seeds of faith bearing fruit before our eyes and assuring us that we're in the right place at the right time doing the right thing.

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

CO-FOUNDERS

James H. Orcutt, Sr. | President Emeritus

Theresa Orcutt | Secretary

OFFICERS

Erich E. Miller | President

Theresa Orcutt | Secretary, Co-Founder, My Brother's Keeper

James Philbin, CPA | Treasurer, Partner, Marcum LLP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Anthony V. Szakaly, CSC | Chair

Director of Campus Ministry and Alumni Minister, Stonehill College

Joyce M. Donadio | Program Manager, Home Base

Ryan J. Gelly | Senior Photonics Engineer, Draper

Deacon Brian Kean | Senior Vice President, Wingate Management

Donna B. Lane, CPA | Controller, Bentley University

Laurie Drew Hubbard, Esq. | Sanzone & McCarthy

Erich E. Miller | President

William H. Ohrenberger, III, Esq. | Ohrenberger, De Lisi & Harris, LLP

Theresa Orcutt | Secretary, Co-Founder, My Brother's Keeper

James Philbin, CPA | Treasurer, Partner, Marcum LLP

Martin A. Reynolds | Volunteer, My Brother's Keeper

Brendan M. Sullivan | Owner, Sullivan's at Castle Island

Jacqueline Williams | Founder, I Love Me

EASTON DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Alex W. Ogozaly | Chair

Managing Director & Head of Business Operations,
Global Fund Banking, Silicon Valley Bank

Nicholas Barishian, MBA, LLIF | Vice President of Individual Solutions,
Boston Mutual Life Insurance

Richard L. Kendall | Volunteer, My Brother's Keeper

Deacon Paul Key | Chief Development Officer, My Brother's Keeper

John F. O'Donoghue, III | Pilgrim Skating Arena, Inc.

Mark H. Payson, Jr. | Volunteer, My Brother's Keeper

Stephen F. Sypek | Senior Vice President, UBS Financial Services

Richard Wade | Vice President, State Street

Laura Walsh LeClair, FNP-BC | Nurse Practitioner, Massachusetts
General Hospital

Stephen Wessling | Founder & President Emeritus, Wessling Architects

SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT BOARD

William A. Suneson | Chair

Co-Founder and Managing Director, Next Generation Insurance Group

Kristin R. Applegate | Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer
Berkley Construction Solutions

Christine Cavanaugh, CPA | Volunteer, My Brother's Keeper

Kimberley Coon, MHA | Executive Director of Hospital and Medical Staff
Services, Southcoast Health

Nicole Dias | Director of School Counseling, Bishop Stang High School

Janice Foley | Senior Manager, Public Relations, Waters Corporation

John Higgins | Executive Finance and Operations Consultant

William Morse | Former President, Mutual Bank

Matthew Payette | SVP, Chief Community Banking Officer, BayCoast Bank

Josh Smith | Director, Dartmouth Facility, My Brother's Keeper

James B. Witkowski, MD | Southcoast Physicians Group

Easton Facility

PO Box 338
Easton, MA 02356

508.238.4416 Furniture & Food Assistance

508.238.7512 Donations & Business

Dartmouth Facility

PO Box 70273
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

774.305.4590 Furniture Assistance

774.305.4577 Donations & Business