

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.

SUMMER 2025

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

A Message from Our President Looking Ahead New My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program



People sometimes ask, "Will My Brother's Keeper open a 3rd location in the future?"

Maybe, but our next area of growth will be a programmatic expansion, not a geographic one.

My Brother's Keeper is excited to announce that our ministry will pilot a new program this fall: a career-focused mentoring program

designed to help disadvantaged college students begin successful careers aligned with their major.

There are too many talented kids coming from challenging backgrounds who study hard, graduate from college, struggle to find a job afterwards, and end up significantly underemployed.

The inspiration for a mentoring program stems from our belief that the My Brother's Keeper community is one of the greatest gifts we can share with those God calls us to serve. We are blessed with thousands of volunteers and supporters who possess tremendous talent, experience, and professional networks across a broad spectrum of industries. If a young person can dream it, one of our volunteers has likely excelled in it!

The My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program will act as a bridge connecting accomplished mentors with talented mentees. Here's how we envision the program working:

Mentees will be juniors or seniors attending a Boston-area college and will be referred to us by a select group of local community partners. A typical mentee will be a low-income, first-generation student without access to social capital.

Mentors will be members of our community who have excelled in careers parallel to the student's field of study.

In keeping with our mission, our mentoring program will be firmly rooted in relationship. Our mentors and mentees will connect twice a month—once in person and once remotely, for example. The cadence of meetings should offer a depth of encounter which will be mutually fulfilling without being burdensome.

An important expectation of our mentors is a willingness to share their social capital. In addition to providing professional guidance, mentors should be willing to help open doors and create opportunities for success for their mentees, the same as one might do for family or friends.

The goals of the program will be two-fold:

1. Mentors and mentees will enter into an authentic, respectful relationship.
2. Mentors, in partnership with the My Brother's Keeper community, will help mentees secure a job or internship aligned with their major.

We believe our Mentoring Program has the power to transform students' lives and possibly change their family's lives for generations.

We also believe it will be a strong complement to our existing essential service programs—our Food, Furniture, and Christmas Assistance Programs—which mentors will be able to access as needed to support their mentees.

The schedule for our Mentoring Program will generally align with the academic year. The pilot will start in September 2025 with an expected initial cohort of 10-12 students.

As a starting point, My Brother's Keeper needs to develop a directory of volunteers who are interested in serving as either (1) a primary mentor or (2) a secondary contact who is open to one-off meetings and can assist with networking.

If you are interested in learning more about the My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program, please return the enclosed reply card or visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/Mentoring

DID YOU KNOW?

Only **25%** of low-income, first-generation college students get quality jobs or attend graduate school.

70% of all jobs are not published publicly on job sites.

80% of jobs are filled through personal or professional connections.

73% of graduates who start out underemployed remain so 10 years after completing college.

My Brother's Keeper Development Boards Add New Members

Claudine McCluskey

Easton Development Board



Claudine McCluskey joined our Easton Development Board in May 2025. Claudine is originally from Warwick, RI and has lived in Bridgewater, MA for over 30 years with her husband,

Paul and their three adult children, Andrew, Scott, and Ally, who have volunteered and attended My Brother's Keeper events. Claudine graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and worked at Texas Instruments in design engineering and marketing before raising her family.

Claudine first became involved with My Brother's Keeper through her mother-in-law, Rita McCluskey, who volunteered on Thursdays and during Christmas. Claudine has served on our Spring Together committee the last three years, has served on event committees for Cardinal Spellman and Coyle & Cassidy High Schools, and volunteered for more than a decade at Bridgewater Senior Center delivering meals.

Maura Thursby

Easton Development Board



Maura Thursby joined our Easton Development Board in May 2025. She grew up in Brockton and lives in North Attleboro with her husband, Michael. They have three adult children, Maddy,

James, and Ted who have volunteered and attended My Brother's Keeper events. Her uncle Jim Kearney volunteered in our food pantry in the 1990s-2000s and her parents, Ed and Dolly Kent, were faithful monthly supporters.

Maura started volunteering on a weekly basis in 2023 during our time in Braintree helping with food deliveries. She continued volunteering when we moved back to Easton and has taken on new roles such as assisting with intake calls for our Food Assistance Program. Maura had a career in pharmaceutical sales before raising her family. In addition to volunteering at My Brother's Keeper, she enjoys golf and has ridden in and fundraised for the Pan Mass Challenge for 15 years.

Jeannette Watka

South Coast Development Board



Jeannette Watka joined our South Coast Development Board in September 2024. She lives in Sagamore Beach, MA and is recently retired. She and her husband Greg were co-owners of

Refrigerated Structures of New England (RSNE). In 2017, Jeannette, Greg, and RSNE responded to a cold call by making a significant in-kind donation to the Dartmouth Building Project—they generously built our walk-in refrigerator and freezer at a materials-only cost.

Subsequently and coincidentally, they became friends with John Higgins, a long-time member of our South Coast Development Board. Through John, the Watka's got personally involved at My Brother's Keeper wrapping gifts at Christmas, supporting and attending events, and helping with event set up. Jeannette attends Cape Cod Church and studied at Boston College. She and Greg have three adult children who live throughout New England—Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maine—and they are the proud grandparents of 9 grandchildren.

The Joy of our Community Brightened the Day!

Rain at this year's Family Walk couldn't dampen the spirit of our community or the success of the day. The weather required us to cancel the "family fun" portion of the event, but more than 400 people turned out to celebrate our mission and participate in the 1.5 mile walk around Stonehill College's beautiful campus.



My Brother's Keeper Family Walk

Thanks to our sponsors and generous supporters, the event raised a record \$256,000 to support our Furniture, Food, and Christmas Assistance Programs.

We are so very grateful for the unwavering support of our community. Thank you!



Blessed to Still Have the Capacity to be Shocked

By Josh Smith, Director, Dartmouth



be shocked by some of the situations we encounter and I think that's a blessing.

Along these lines, we recently delivered to Natalie and Matt, who stopped into the Dartmouth facility looking for help. A local priest had directed them to us as soon as they secured their new apartment. The couple was incredibly excited for this new place as they had been homeless the past six months.

Their ordeal started when bed bugs were discovered in their apartment building and the landlord forced all the tenants out. At first, Natalie and Matt were living in a series of motels—each one cheaper than the last—until they exhausted their savings. At the end, they were living in a tent in a campground. Shockingly, they were still paying over \$300 every week for a campsite.

“We were down to our last dollar when we got the call that our housing application had been accepted,” Natalie told us.

We drove to their new place to deliver furniture and much to my surprise, it was in a nice town we often pick up from but only occasionally deliver to. As we began walking up the driveway to

One of the great strengths of My Brother's Keeper is that every person we serve is seen as a fellow child of God. Our mission keeps us from becoming desensitized to the suffering we witness. After making countless deliveries as a volunteer and staff member, I still have the capacity to

“...after what they had been through, this was their fresh start and answer to their prayers.”

a rundown, split-level home, the garage door began to open. And just like that, we were in the couple's 'apartment', with all their meager possessions visible to cars passing on the street.

I was taken aback to see the room hadn't been finished or converted in any way. It was really just your typical dirty garage—light even peeked through the cinder block walls in a few places—but you wouldn't know it talking to Natalie and Matt. They were over-the-moon excited to finally have a roof over their heads and a place of their own again.

Their excitement only grew as the My Brother's Keeper volunteers carried in a brand-new bed, dresser, linens, and a beautiful

leather reclining couch. It was a tight fit but it at least looked like a decent dorm room when we were done.

Afterwards, standing in the driveway, Natalie gratefully grabbed ahold of the crucifix as soon as our volunteer, Becca, offered it to her along with our message, “We're just the delivery people. The furniture is from Him.” We chatted a while longer about Natalie's new job and the fact that Matt's house painting gigs were picking up with the nicer weather.

For Natalie and Matt, after what they had been through, this was their fresh start and answer to their prayers. I believe this was a perfect illustration of the fact that blessings take many forms. This first step was what they needed at a low point in their lives, restoring their hope for brighter days ahead.

AN ANONYMOUS
THANK YOU
TO US ALL

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

I just want to take a moment to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. When I went through one of the hardest times in my life—after my accident, when I couldn't work and things felt like they were falling apart—you were there.

You didn't hesitate to help me, even with something as simple and powerful as making sure I had food. That meant more to me than you probably know. Your support gave me strength when I had very little left. You reminded me what family means, and I'll never forget that.

I'm sending prayers your way every day, grateful for you and all that you've done for me.

Thank you, my brother. I love you. 🙏❤️

A MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Formation Service

Over the past two decades, hundreds of men exploring a vocation to ordained life have volunteered at My Brother's Keeper as part of their formal formation process. Religious partners include the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Dominican Friars, the Archdiocese of Boston, and the Diocese of Fall River. Five Holy Cross seminarians and two Dominican seminarians are serving with us this summer.



CONGREGATION of HOLY CROSS
UNITED STATES PROVINCE OF
PRIESTS AND BROTHERS



Dominican Friars
province of saint joseph
DOMINICAN FRIARS FOUNDATION



Matt Header, C.S.C.

Matt is from East Lansing, Michigan and is in his 3rd year of formation. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with degrees in Math and Spanish and taught math for three years in Corpus Christi, TX. Matt felt he had found his life's calling as a teacher but realized that experiences of ministry were speaking to his heart more deeply than teaching.



Br. Ambrose Marie Power, O.P.

Br. Ambrose grew up in Scottsdale, AZ and is the oldest of five children. He earned a B.A. in Economics and Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law from the University of Virginia. After working for one year in the investment management industry, he entered the Dominican novitiate in 2023. "Once I realized that there is no greater work than bringing souls to Christ, I wanted to follow St. Dominic by praying, studying, and preaching for the conversion of the whole world."



Thomas Searl, C.S.C.

Thomas is from Wichita, Kansas and has a degree in Management from Notre Dame. He participated in the order's undergraduate seminary which allows full-time students to explore their call to priesthood while pursuing their academic studies. Thomas believes his attentiveness to where he felt at peace is what led him to seminary with Holy Cross.



Br. Gabriel Marie O'Neill, O.P.

Br. Gabriel Marie O'Neill is from Williston Park, New York. While he was a student at Chaminade, a Marianist high school on Long Island, he first discerned that God was calling him to become a priest. He completed his undergraduate studies in Philosophy and Theology at the University of Notre Dame and entered the Dominican novitiate the summer after graduation. "I want to become a preacher of grace like St. Dominic who truly fulfilled the command to preach the word in season and out of season."



Lane Poché

Lane is from Baton Rouge, LA and just completed his fourth year of discernment for religious life. He is a Notre Dame grad with a degree in Philosophy. During COVID, he found himself at the 2020 Summer Seminary Immersion Program on Zoom. He was struck by the personalities, depth, and relatability of the Holy Cross Priests who led the program and wanted to know how they lived their lives with such joy.



Daniel Pronko

Dan is from San Diego, CA and just completed his first year of discernment for religious life. He earned a Civil Engineering degree from Notre Dame and a Masters in Structural Engineering from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. As an undergraduate student at Notre Dame, he got to know several Holy Cross priests. Hearing about their work in apostolates around the world ignited a fire to maybe one day do the same.



Edwin Donnelly, C.S.C.

Ed is in his 4th year of formation and studied Theology, Classics (Greek & Latin), and Liturgical Music Ministry at the University of Notre Dame. He grew up in a big, joyous Italian family in Cranford, New Jersey and has longed for a deep intimacy with God for as long as he can remember. When he was five, a family member told Ed "he would make a good priest" because he liked to talk with her about God.



15th Annual Deacon Plunge

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Boston, My Brother's Keeper recently hosted our 15th Annual Deacon Plunge, a 3-day service retreat for men in the Diaconate Formation Program. 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.

One of the many miracles of My Brother's Keeper is way the God uses our ministry as a vehicle for learning and personal growth. Volunteers of all ages, vocations, and ranges of spirituality often share a similar experience— they are shocked by the poverty they encounter, inspired by the people they serve, and feel called to make their part of the world a more loving, Christ-like place. This has long-term benefits for us all!

School Partnerships

My Brother's Keeper regularly welcomes student-groups from area grade schools, high schools, and colleges for service retreats. Students typically help make furniture and food deliveries which allows them to see the people we serve as individuals in need of a loving, helping hand rather than a much stereotyped group called "the poor." This spring, we welcomed the 8th grade from St. Philomena School in Portsmouth, RI for a day of service and reflection.

"I've Never Experienced Anything Like That Before"

By Erich Miller

For the past number of years, St. Philomena School in Portsmouth, Rhode Island has sent their 8th grade students to our Dartmouth location for a service retreat. It's been a special joy for me to help welcome these students because our three kids attended St. Phil's and made enduring friendships.

As part of the retreat, I had the privilege to make furniture deliveries with my co-worker Riley Bast, volunteer Anne Marie Coakley, and two 8th graders, Ryan O'Hara and Leah Donovan. The day was also special for Anne Marie. She worked at St. Phil's for 30 years, she was making her first deliveries for My Brother's Keeper, and Leah is her granddaughter.

One of our stops was particularly meaningful. We delivered to Stacy in Fall River, a single mom of two adult children who now lives alone. Stacy met us outside and was wearing a striking t-shirt. It was a picture of a woman along with the words, "I have an angel in heaven. I call her Mom." Clearly, family was important to Stacy and she was no stranger to loss and heartache.

Relatively speaking, this was a very small furniture delivery: just a queen box spring, bed frame, sheets, and a blanket. The rest of Stacy's apartment was cozy and well-furnished. Over the years, though, I've learned accomplishing our mission has little to do with the amount of furniture we carry.

We enjoyed visiting with Stacy, looking at her family pictures on the wall, meeting her cat, and hearing her story. Stacy worked for years as a physical therapist. She suffered a work-related injury a few years ago and that derailed her financially. That's why she needed our help today.

"I also used your Christmas Program about 10 years ago," Stacy shared. "I was so amazed by all the gifts and I couldn't believe everything came wrapped. Wow!" It was a great compliment to hear, especially after so many years.

One of the things that really impressed me about Ryan and Leah is that they both were willing to give out our final gift, the crucifix — many student-volunteers don't quite have that self-confidence.

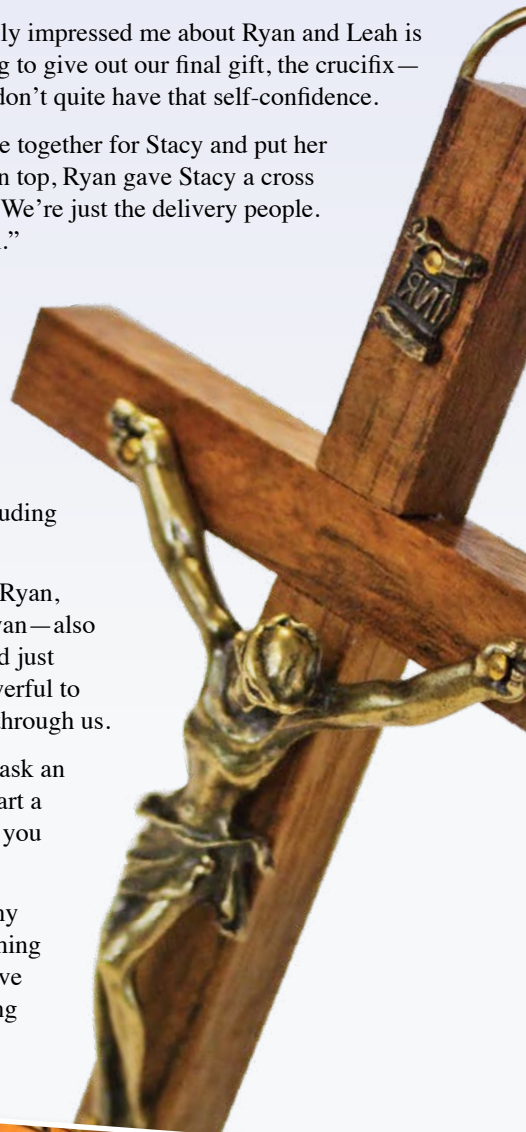
After we put the bed frame together for Stacy and put her mattress and box spring on top, Ryan gave Stacy a cross along with our message, "We're just the delivery people. The furniture is from Him."

Stacy was deeply moved and broke into tears. She thanked us, gave us all hugs, and placed the cross on a special bookshelf which held her most valuable possessions, including mementos of her Mom.

Riley, Anne Marie, Leah, Ryan, and I headed back to the van — also deeply moved by what had just taken place. It was so powerful to experience God working through us.

After deliveries, I always ask an open-ended question to start a conversation: so what did you think about that delivery?

Ryan answered without any hesitation and said everything that needed to be said: "I've never experienced anything like that before."



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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