

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.*

FALL 2025

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

"I Thought God Had Forgotten About Me"

By George DuCasse, Direct Service Associate
– Dartmouth



It was a Thursday morning this summer and I was looking forward to being on vacation the following week. The phone rang. It was my daughter, Emily, calling with some sad news.

Her very good friend, Maria, was in a domestic violence situation and had to move out immediately. She had just found a new apartment in a different town and was staying with a friend until she could move in the following Tuesday.

"Dad, can My Brother's Keeper help Maria with furniture?" Emily asked.

The answer for my daughter and anyone who calls My Brother's Keeper is the same: of course!!!

The following Tuesday, I met Emily and Maria at our Easton facility so Maria could pick out the dresser and nightstand she wanted. This is unusual. We usually pick out items for families and deliver them sight-unseen, but these were special circumstances because of the domestic abuse.

My co-workers in Easton knew we were coming and they were certainly ready for us! The staff and volunteers took turns walking Maria around the warehouse and pointing out all the furniture she might need, for example, a loveseat, coffee table, end table, lamps, kitchenware, and even food. A volunteer Gail had kindly prepared huge bags of linens, toiletries, and towels and there were lots of hugs all-around.

As Maria made all her selections, we loaded up a full van with her new things so we could make the delivery that morning. All the while Maria alternated between laughing and crying and kept whispering to herself, "I can't believe this."

Before we headed out, we joined the Easton staff and volunteers for morning prayer. After prayer, while we were all still gathered in the prayer room, I broke with tradition by presenting Maria with the crucifix before she received her furniture. I explained, "My Brother's Keeper delivers the furniture, Maria, but this is the Man who sent it to you." She clutched the crucifix tightly and gave it a little kiss.

It was a beautiful moment—a blessing to Maria, no doubt, but also to the many volunteers in our community who don't go out on deliveries. They could see the beauty and grace of our mission being accomplished and the fruits of all their hard work.

Afterwards, Emily, Maria, and I drove the furniture to her new apartment. Maria hadn't even seen her new place yet because she had to relocate so quickly. After we brought everything inside, I stayed awhile and watched as Maria took great care unpacking and arranging things between even more tears and laughs. This was a special gift to me because on most deliveries, we usually leave

after carrying in the furniture. Witnessing what happens next was a moving experience.

Later that day Maria sent me a text: "I cannot begin to thank you for what you all did for me today. You rescued me from a very bad

domestic violence situation. You all LITERALLY saved my life. Thank you. I thought God had forgotten about me."

What a privilege it is to be able to remind others that God doesn't forget about us and is with us through our most difficult challenges.

**"You all LITERALLY
saved my life."**

Our Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program is now open online!

My Brother's Keeper
expects to serve more
than 3,000 families
this Christmas and
we've already taken
requests from 1,000
local families in need.

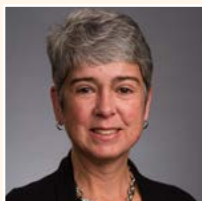


Want to get a head start on your shopping? Visit:
www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/adopt

My Brother's Keeper is blessed with strong, enduring partnerships with several area colleges and high schools. To mark the start of the 2025-26 school year, My Brother's Keeper hosted student volunteer groups from Providence College, Stonehill College, BC High, Portsmouth Abbey, Xavierian Brothers, Thayer Academy, and more.

Be Still and Trust in Me

By Michelle Byrne, Administrative Program Associate – Easton



When I called Sara to schedule her furniture delivery, she was standing in the cleaning supply aisle of Walmart. "Is this really happen-

ing?" she asked quietly. I reassured her it was, and she began to cry, tears of joy and relief.

Sara, a 45-year-old mother of two, lost her husband three years ago to cancer. It's been a tough road since for this family. Sara has a young adult son and an eight-year-old daughter. Sara and her daughter have stayed with family, lived in a hotel, and struggled to find a safe space for them to live. When a possible apartment fell through, an acquaintance from church referred Sara to a woman with an apartment available for rent. Another friend offered the exact same contact. Maybe this would be the one? It was the perfect place for Sara and her family!

When we arrived, the apartment was empty of any furniture, except for an old TV, a mattress, and two totes of clothing. We had a full crew with us that day as we were joined by three young men from Xavierian Brothers High School. These students were part of a larger group of rising seniors participating in the Xavierian Leadership Institute (XLI). These young men opened their hearts and served with kindness, compassion, and respect.

We brought the food delivery in first. Sara exclaimed, "I can eat!" She'd been getting food from a friend and ordering take out when she could. When the boxes of pots and pans and dishes came in, we saw the same enthusiasm, "Now I can cook!"

As Sara and I unpacked the groceries, the rest of the crew brought in beds, dressers, nightstands, linens, lamps, a kitchen set, a living room sofa, chair and ottoman, TV stand, end tables, and even a small table for the pet bird (inherited from her mom).



In August, My Brother's Keeper welcomed 20 rising seniors from Xavierian Brothers for a day of service as part of their school's flagship retreat, Xavierian Leadership Institute (XLI). The theme of this year's XLI retreat was "Responding to the Call." We're grateful these young men did!

The empty space was transformed into a warm and comfortable home. What a privilege to witness Sara's pure joy!

Sara stood in her new bedroom looking around in disbelief. "This is mine. This is my room, my bed, my home. I still can't believe this is all mine. Thank you all so, so much. Please thank everyone at My Brother's Keeper for their help in making this possible for my family."

When Sara and I first spoke on the phone, while she stood in that Walmart aisle, she shared that her niece had just called her on the phone five minutes earlier and prayed with her. She told me how scared she was to start this new chapter in her life without her husband. God had been telling her to just Be Still and Trust in Him.

Before we left, we presented Sara with the crucifix, to let her know that this was all possible through Him, we were just the hands and feet that delivered it. We also

presented her with a special plaque for her wall, "Be Still and Know That I Am God," Psalm 46:10, her favorite verse. We just happened to have this special item available in our household donations, and Sara needed that reassurance.

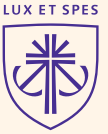
She told us the plaque would go in her room so she would see it first thing in the morning and last thing at night. The crucifix will be hung in her living room so all will know that He is present.



Back-to-School Volunteer Groups



BC HIGH
A Jesuit School for Boys, Grades 7–12



**STONEHILL
COLLEGE**



PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL



Thayer Academy



FaithWorks, Providence College

FaithWorks is a service-immersion program for first-year students at Providence College. Fifty new PC students arrive on campus before the school year starts to build community with their peers, serve vulnerable populations in the area, and reflect on the significance of this work for their lives.

Quotes from PC FaithWorks Students

We were in a very run-down house in Fall River with extremely tight staircases, delivering to families on the second and third floors. One student remarked that she had never even thought about the maneuvers needed to get furniture into homes, as she had never moved furniture before. In the truck after the deliveries, she exclaimed, "I'm going to call my dad after this to thank him for all he has done for me that I never realized, everything he worked hard to provide for me, and all the ways he took care of our home. I had no concept of how much work goes into maintaining a house."

"When we gave the family a crucifix at the end of the delivery, they gladly accepted it and pointed out to us a table near their door with a many other crucifixes on it, among them a few they had received from the Keeper in the past. That really stuck with me, how they had treasured each crucifix we had given them and still continued to be grateful to receive another representation of God."



**PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE**

"Just these few hours doing deliveries this morning has completely changed my perspective—I used to think a bad day was when Dunkin got my coffee order wrong. Now I will be thinking of all those I met today who show so much strength in the challenges they face every day."

Seven seminarians served at My Brother's Keeper this summer as part of their formation for priesthood in the Catholic Church. Five seminarians were from the Congregation of Holy Cross, founders of Stonehill College and the University of Notre Dame. Two seminarians were from the Dominican Order, founders of Providence College. Each seminarian was a true gift to the work and community of My Brother's Keeper. We hope, in return, the memories of My Brother's Keeper and those we serve will strengthen their future lives of ministry.

"This is worth more than a million bucks!"

"I promised God I wouldn't gamble, but sometimes it's tempting to enter the lottery for the chance to win a million bucks," Paula told us.

Paula has spent most of her life in her Brockton apartment. In recent years, she's suffered from chronic back pain but hasn't had the means to afford a new mattress that could bring her relief.

When we entered her home to deliver her new bed, Paula was quick to let us know that her sister died from COVID four years prior. She shared that since her sister's passing, her daily prayers have included asking God to provide her with a new bed. After moving her old full-size mattress, which rested upon her bedroom floor, and bringing in her new queen-size bed frame, box spring, and mattress, she was elated with gratitude.



Still, it wasn't the comfort of a new bed that brought Paula to tears, but the crucifix placed in her hands and the quiet words, "This is the man that sent you your new bed."

Paula's voice trembled as she placed the crucifix to her heart and said, "This is worth more than a million bucks!"

Despite years of unanswered prayers, the loss of her sister, and the weight of poverty, Paula's faith in God remained steadfast. It is not the wisdom of the world but the wisdom of faith that allowed her to see the image of the crucified Christ as a gift greater than that of winning the lottery. It's a reminder that in every cross we bear, Jesus bears it with us.

What an honor to experience the witness of Paula's faith!

By Dan Pronko, Novice –
Congregation of Holy Cross

What a gift to serve as the hands of Christ through My Brother's Keeper! — bringing His love and hope to those we serve.



Dan Pronko from San Diego, CA spent six weeks volunteering at My Brother's Keeper this summer before entering the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colorado in August. The Novitiate is a year of prayer, silence, reflection, and discernment in preparation for religious life.

End-of-Summer Thank You Note

Lane Poché, Holy
Cross Novice from
Baton Rouge, LA



MBK Staff & Volunteers,
Thank you. I am incredibly grateful for my past 5 weeks spent here. Thank you for your generous Zeal that witnesses to the love & hope of our Lord, our Friend, our Brother, & our Savior, Jesus Christ. This Place is truly special, & I am humbled to have been part of it even just for this short time. It has been wonderful to give without counting the cost in freedom & to receive a glimmer of the hope of God in return. Know of my prayers for this Community & please keep me in yours.
In Christ, Lane Poché

Update on the My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program



In our summer newsletter, we announced our plans to pilot a career-focused Mentoring program this fall. The program will focus on juniors and seniors in college who are first generation / low-income. There are too many talented students from challenging backgrounds who graduate from college, struggle to find a job afterwards, and end up significantly underemployed. The My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program will act as a bridge connecting talented, motivated mentees with accomplished mentors and it will have three goals:

1. Allow mentors and mentees to enter into an authentic, meaningful relationship
2. Strengthen mentees' career-readiness and soft skills
3. Help mentees get a job or internship aligned with their major

Some updates to share:

- We have established four initial referring partners—Cristo Rey Boston High School, Crossroads, New Heights Charter School, and School on Wheels. We are thrilled with this initial group—the quality of their mentee referrals will be key to the program's success.
- Our referring partners have identified high-potential mentees who are interested in applying for our mentoring program. We intend to enroll 8-10 mentees to make up the Year-1 pilot cohort.
- We've contracted with a mentoring software platform called MentorPRO. The MentorPRO app will facilitate communication, goal setting, and evaluation. It will also create a level of transparency that increases safety and accountability for all parties involved. As a client of MentorPRO, we have access to their staff's mentoring expertise, an important added benefit.

- To support our mentees, we'll be utilizing two types of mentors:

1. **Primary Mentors** who will take the lead in supporting a student by meeting twice a month with their mentee for 10 months
2. **Flash Mentors** who are open to one-time, one-hour meetings with students to share their professional journey and answer career-related questions

We will be using a limited number of primary mentors this first year—8-10 mentors to match the number of mentees—but getting as many community members as possible to complete the mentor interest form will help us build our directory of professionals. A strong directory will be key to the Mentoring Program's success, now and in the future.

For more information, please visit:
www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/mentoring



19th Annual My Brother's Keeper Golf Tourney A Great Time for a Great Cause!

The 19th Annual My Brother's Keeper Golf Tourney was another sell-out event and tremendous financial success—more than \$140,000 raised to support our work serving local families in need with food and furniture.

The event was founded in 2006 by Bill Lane Sr. of Superior Plumbing in Walpole and an outstanding committee follows in his footsteps today: John Anderson of Plumb House; Bill Lane Jr., Frank Monroe, Billie Klegrae, and Dave St. Cyr of Superior

Plumbing; Norman Fine of FW Webb; Gary Grillo from Urell; Glen Schlager, owner of Schlager Company; Nancy Monroe from Bank of America; Brent Trethewey of ID Group Inc.; Tom Lanahan from 401kquote.com; and John O'Rourke from David Gooding, Inc.

Special thanks to our lead sponsors: Atlantis Comfort Systems, F.W. Webb, Keith Construction, Plumb House, and Superior Plumbing.

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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