

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 2025



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

"I Don't Know What Else I'm Going to Do"

These are extraordinarily challenging times for the families we serve. Stress and anxiety around the holidays is about as high as it's ever been.

The parents we serve are often dealing with multiple serious challenges in their lives: things like health issues, rising costs, housing instability, and challenging relationships. Providing for the family's most basic needs—food on the table and a safe home with light and heat—can be a daunting task.

And then comes the holidays—Thanksgiving and Christmas—and all the expectations that kids and parents have with it. That it'll be a happy, joy-filled time no matter how meager or difficult the circumstances.

Here's one local Mom's heartfelt appeal for Christmas help:

Good morning. Several months ago, my 4 young children and I moved into a new apartment due to escaping domestic violence, stalking, and harassment. Your organization was kind enough to help us with furniture and other essential items.

I am disabled and a single mother. Due to the domestic violence, I don't receive any child support and have no other family except my kids. The kind staff who helped deliver the items said that I should reach out in the fall to request help for Christmas gifts for my kids.

I thought we would be in a better place by now, but things have not improved and I have been struggling quite a bit just to keep up with rent and utilities. I am hoping that your organization can help for Christmas because I don't know what else I'm going to do and want my kids to have something to open on Christmas morning.

They've seen a lot in their short lives, and I want them to be able to be "normal kids". If there's anything you can do to help, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you and God Bless. **"Audrey"**

Christmas should be a joyful celebration of Jesus' birth but without our help, it becomes a major stressor for parents like "Audrey" and a disappointment for children. It's another reminder of the painful and seemingly overwhelming challenges their families face.

"Audrey" is carrying the weight of the world on her shoulders. She feels like she's doing it alone. This is where My Brother's Keeper comes in. She is not alone. As a loving Christian community, we stand with our more humble brothers and sisters in their time of need.

In a sacred way, our help becomes Hope—"the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ"—and that is the priceless gift My Brother's Keeper gives to those we serve at Thanksgiving, at Christmas, and throughout the year.

My Brother's Keeper will serve 4,000 struggling families this Thanksgiving and Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts—about 15,000 children and parents!

To join us in this wonderful effort, please return the enclosed cards for our Adopt-A-Family Gift Program and Loaves & Fishes Food Program.

A reminder that our Christmas effort starts in prayer each year with our Gratitude Mass the Friday night after Thanksgiving. Please join us!



Friday, November 28th at 6:00 pm
Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex • Stonehill College
124 Belmont Street, Easton, MA

Homilist – Rev. Tony Szakaly, CSC
Chair, My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors
Reception following Mass
Priests, please bring white alb and stole to concelebrate.

**We invite you to bring one unwrapped gift per family
for children to bring to the altar.**

Annual Board Day of Service

Since 2009, My Brother's Keeper has held an annual Board Day of Service when members of our Board of Directors and Development Boards come together to pray, serve, break bread, and reflect alongside our staff and other volunteers.

The day is an expression of our philosophy that "to lead is to serve." We believe that our leadership team should be out in the community serving local families in need to inform their decisions and keep them connected to the work of My Brother's Keeper.

This year's Board Volunteer Day was held on Friday, October 24th at our Dartmouth facility. The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Tony Szakaly, chair of the Board of Directors. The boards then worked with our staff to make 40 furniture and food deliveries in Fall River and New Bedford followed by an inspiring group reflection.

"TO LEAD, IS TO SERVE."



"I Only Wanted to Make Sure My Kids Were Taken Care Of"

By Kelsey Pandiani, Director of Development



As a member of our Development Team most of my days are spent in the office, but during our recent Board Day of Service, I had the joy of step-

ping away from my desk and joining our team to deliver furniture directly to families in need.

Our first stop that morning was a triple decker apartment where we met Benjamin, a single father who had recently gained full custody of his four children—two boys and two girls, all in middle school. Benjamin welcomed us inside and shared that he manages a local store full-time and is doing his best to provide for his children, though the financial strain has been heavy. He had heard about My Brother's Keeper through his sister and called us asking for help furnishing his home. His requests were simple:

beds, linens, dressers, a couch, a comfy chair, and a kitchen table and chairs.

As we went inside, the apartment building showed signs of wear, the siding was peeling, and the stairway windows were held together with tape, but inside the apartment, Benjamin's home was spotless. The kids' rooms were neatly arranged; with two twin air mattresses they shared between the four of them. Benjamin himself slept on an air mattress in the dining room—neatly made and well cared for, just like the rest of his apartment.

As we unloaded the furniture, I noticed something missing: a bed for Benjamin. When I asked, he smiled and said, "I hadn't thought of asking for one. I only wanted to make sure my kids were taken care of."

That humility spoke volumes. Here was a father who, like Christ, put others before himself, quietly sacrificing for the sake of love.

As we finished the delivery that day, I couldn't stop thinking about the children's joy when they'd come home from school to find real beds, warm blankets, and pillows waiting for them. Benjamin smiled and said it would be quiet until the kids returned—and then "crazy" once they were back. I could already picture the laughter and pillow fights filling that little apartment with joy.

Before we left, I promised we'd return with a bed for him. Back at the office, I shared his story with our Dartmouth staff, and we quickly arranged a second delivery. No father who gives so much should go without a place to rest.

What a blessing it was to step away from my desk for the day and see our ministry in action—to witness Benjamin's selfless love for his children, and to see Jesus' love at work through simple acts of service.

Leadership Transitions

The two greatest strengths of My Brother's Keeper are (1) its mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve" and (2) the community of people who believe so deeply in the goodness of our work.

Change is a natural part of life and My Brother's Keeper is blessed with a deep, talented, dedicated group of leaders who humbly say 'yes' to God's call to serve in new and different ways. Here are some of the recent and upcoming leadership changes at My Brother's Keeper.



Fr. Tony Szakaly, CSC, Outgoing Chair, Board of Directors

Fr. Tony Szakaly has served on the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors since 2019 and became the 3rd chair of the Board in 2022. He served as Director of Campus Ministry at Stonehill College from 2013 to 2025. In January 2026, Fr. Tony will be leaving for Rome, Italy to begin a new assignment as Steward (Treasurer) for the General Administration of the Congregation of Holy Cross. As steward, he will oversee the finances of the Congregation throughout the world. Thank you, Fr. Tony, for your tremendous love for and outstanding service to My Brother's Keeper. You go with our prayers and best wishes and will be deeply missed!



Deacon Brian Kean, Chair Elect, Board of Directors

Deacon Brian Kean will serve as the next chair of the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors effective January 1, 2026. Brian works as Senior Vice President at Wingate, a property management company for non-profit / affordable housing clients. He is a CPA, an attorney, a licensed real estate broker, and an ordained deacon in the Catholic Church. Brian has served on our Board of Directors since 2022 and volunteered for more than 20 years delivering Christmas gifts and furniture with his wife Marcia, their family, friends, and Brian's co-workers. He was co-chair of the Dartmouth Building Capital Campaign Committee along with Jim Orcutt and he volunteers weekly driving food deliveries.



Bill Suneson, Former Chair, South Coast Development Board, Moving to Board of Directors

Bill Suneson is the founding chair of the South Coast Development Board which works to raise funds and awareness in the Dartmouth region. Bill served in this capacity from 2019 to September 2025 at which time he transitioned onto our Board of Directors. Bill is the Co-Founder & CEO of Bindable and also the Co-Founder of Next Generation Insurance, the company that launched Bindable and GradGuard—both recognized leaders in insurance technology and digital distribution. Bill has volunteered at My Brother's Keeper with his wife Joanne and their sons for more than 2 decades. In addition to his strong business and entrepreneurial skills, Bill brings a strong South Coast-perspective to the Board, proudly calling Fall River his hometown.



Dr. James 'Jamie' Witkowski, MD, New Chair, South Coast Development Board

Dr. Jamie Witkowski was a founding member of the South Coast Development Board in 2019 and took on the role of Board Chair when Bill Suneson moved onto the Board of Directors. Jamie, his wife Karen, and their family live in Portsmouth, RI. They began volunteering at My Brother's Keeper – Easton in 2015 as Christmas volunteers in Santa's Workshop and as a family, they've taken on a leadership role in Dartmouth with our events and Christmas Program. Jamie is a physician at Southcoast Health, the largest employer in the southeastern Massachusetts region, and has helped build their strong corporate engagement.



Fr. Tim Mouton, CSC, Board of Directors

Fr. Tim Mouton, CSC began volunteering at My Brother's Keeper during the summer of 2013 as part of his formation for the priesthood with the Congregation of Holy Cross. He fell in love with the work of My Brother's Keeper and has stayed closely connected and personally involved since his ordination in 2015. Fr. Tim serves as the Director of Campus Ministry at Stonehill College and he also manages Stonehill's athletic chaplaincy program. Fr. Tim earned B.A. and M.Div. degrees from the University of Notre Dame and is currently pursuing a doctorate at Northeastern University. He is originally from Houston, Texas. It's noteworthy that his parents and aunt fly in from Texas each December to volunteer at My Brother's Keeper (and to see Fr. Tim!).



My Brother's Keeper Food Assistance Program Doing More, Doing It Better, Always in Keeping with our Mission

In the twelve months before COVID, My Brother's Keeper made 4,673 food deliveries serving 16,507 children and adults. The average value of each delivery was \$174 and the total estimated retail value of our Food Assistance Program was \$813,102.

Fast-forward to 2025. In the past twelve months, My Brother's Keeper completed 15,843 deliveries serving 51,185 children and adults. The average value of each delivery has risen to \$225 and the total estimated retail value of our Food Assistance Program has grown to \$3,564,675.

As a ministry, we can be proud that we've expanded the help we provide to our neighbors in need by a factor of four while improving the quality of each delivery.



As the comments below demonstrate, the beauty and impact of our mission also remains strong.

It's important to recognize two partners who have been key to the growth and success of our Food Assistance Program: the Greater Boston Food Bank which supplies My Brother's Keeper with 1.2 million pounds of food annually and Red Line Freight Systems in Taunton which donates transportation services to move this food from the Food Bank to both our Easton and Dartmouth locations.



I would like to thank My Brother's Keeper for their service and hospitality. I don't know what we would do without you. Genuinely, the best service! Really appreciate what you do. It's beyond amazing!

Thank you for always giving with a smile on your face and never judging the situation people might be in.

Same day or next day delivery! This help is really good because food is very expensive and life is really difficult.

The food you deliver is very important to me. God bless and protect all the people who help my family.

Expressions of **Gratitude**

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the help you have given me. The food helps me a lot. Thank you and congratulations on the beautiful work you do. May God bless you always.

From the phone person to the delivery people, all were amazing, very kind, and lovely. I really appreciate it and your help was an answered prayer. Thank you, Father. All Glory to the most High.

Thank you very much, My Brother's Keeper, for your support. We are going through some difficult times after my accident and I will need another surgery in eight months.

We're so thankful for My Brother's Keeper and your delivery service since we don't have a car right now and everyone is so pleasant and friendly.

Me and my husband are so grateful for the help we got from you amazing people. God bless you all!

Thank you so much for all the food and the hygiene products. The delivery was so helpful and the woman on the phone is very sweet and caring.

I am absolutely amazed by how much My Brother's Keeper provided for me. If you only know how much you helped me out for the next couple of weeks while I'm getting back on my feet. Much, much appreciated!

They gave me a cross with Jesus on it. They were kind, loving, compassionate, no judgment in their eyes at all...wonderful people! Thank you so much.

Extremely grateful for the kindness and generosity from the people who dedicate their time to help families through the love of God.

A Ministry of Education

My Brother's Keeper has always emphasized student volunteering. We believe direct Christian service experiences can have a profound impact on a young person's faith and life. We recently welcomed a group from Stonehill College who volunteered with us as part of their Theology of Service course. Here is an excerpt from one student's reflection.

LUX ET SPES



STONEHILL
COLLEGE

always full of fresh food and I never had to experience the struggle of not knowing when you might have your next meal.

A pattern that I noticed throughout the stops we made was that a lot of people ordering the food were young families with kids around infant and toddler age. Delivering food to these homes felt a little extra special as I felt as though I played a part in helping this child grow up. It's an extremely small part, but still a positive impact on a young child's life.

Throughout the day, there was one delivery that stood out a little bit more than the rest. We were delivering food to multiple families at the same address. As we arrived in the parking lot, one of the other volunteers handed me a crucifix and told me to hand it to one of the two families. She also told me to tell them, "The gifts aren't from us. They are from Jesus Christ." So, this is exactly what I did. Before

This past Friday, I went to My Brother's Keeper with a couple of classmates to take part in our first community service project of the semester. It was a very humbling experience for me. Going into homes to deliver food made me appreciate the upbringing that I had thanks to my parents' hard work and sacrifice. I guess I had taken for granted the fact that my house was



they got their food, I handed them the crucifix and said that exact line. The look on the man's face brightened and he said, "Thank you."

This encounter can best be described by Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth." I feel that this verse represents the moment because I felt the power of the Holy Spirit the second I was given the cross. When I passed it off to the family, it felt like I was handing His powers and gifts off to them. Just as the verse talks about spreading the word through Jerusalem, Judea, and eventually the rest of the world, I too, felt as though that throughout all my life as a Catholic, all the Masses and service events that I've attended all came together in that one moment.

One thing that surprised me is how the man reacted when I handed the cross to him. I didn't really know what to expect. I had no clue if he was Christian or even believed in any type of religion. The first thought in my mind was that he wasn't going to really care much for it. It was quite a surprise to see his face light up the way it did. He seemed overcome with happiness and I could imagine he felt as if the Holy Spirit had washed over him. His smile was contagious, and I couldn't resist smiling back myself.

By Jeff McGann, sophomore at Stonehill College from Wakefield, MA.

Providing a Lift

By Andrew Staiti



Andrew graduated from Stonehill College in 2014. He regularly volunteered at My Brother's Keeper as a student and it helped inspire his life of service. Andrew completed a year of service in Camden, New Jersey through the Franciscan

Volunteer Ministry, was on staff at My Brother's Keeper from 2015-2017, and currently works at Spoonfuls, a food recovery program in Boston feeding our neighbors in need. Andrew generously volunteers with us as much as he can!

The other day I was part of a group making some furniture pickups with one delivery mixed into the route as well. After speaking to Tracy on the phone, we arrived outside a small brick apartment building and met her, who enthusiastically pointed and said, "I saved my parking space for your truck!"

She greeted us with a warm smile and handshakes and showed us around her beautiful but empty apartment. She told us that she had moved from South Carolina to Taunton a few months ago with a roommate who abruptly left, taking all the furniture with them. Tracy had an air mattress and small

bookshelf with a portable fan on it in her bedroom, but that was it. Despite her circumstances, Tracy seemed upbeat and couldn't thank us enough for being there.

As the delivery got underway, we learned that she had another roommate who some of the furniture was intended for. Despite what she had experienced, Tracy was not going to let that prevent her from sharing her blessings with others and her good nature from shining through. With each item that came in, from the kitchen set, to a beautiful round coffee table and a matching couch and chair, her joy and words of gratitude increased. She was almost in disbelief at the quantity and quality of the furniture, and the sudden realization that in mere moments, her empty house was turning into a home.

We asked if she wanted help getting the bed set up or some of the furniture arranged, which she gladly accepted. As we were finishing up, she got quiet and I noticed tears in her eyes.

"I just can't believe how nice everything is. I can't believe you guys are actually here, and that this stuff is mine."

When we presented her with the crucifix, handshakes quickly turned into hugs, and she expressed her gratitude a final time before we left.

I remember when Jim Orcutt would give talks to groups of college students and men in the diaconate formation program, allowing me to "sit-in" and observe as a young staff member. Something that struck me was when he would share how folks in the early days of the Keeper— even to this very day— were skeptical at times.

"Think about it," Jim would say. "You call this number, some happy sounding person answers, they ask for virtually no information other than your name and address, and then promise to show up with a truck full of furniture? Sounds too good to be true. But it's not."

I couldn't help but think of this when we had our encounter with Tracy. She told us that her daughter-in-law had told her about us, and especially having come from out of state just months ago, I can imagine that Tracy had some serious skepticism about us even showing up.

But then there we were, carrying furniture just for her— and more importantly, when she got the crucifix— delivering a reminder that God always shows up in our time of need.

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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