

**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.*

APRIL 2026

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

## A Christian Ministry of Loving Service & Education By Erich Miller, President

My Brother's Keeper calls itself 'a Christian ministry of loving service and education.' The 'loving service' part was always intended from the beginning. Jim and Terry Orcutt founded My Brother's Keeper to bring help and God's Love and Hope to our neighbors in need. They never could have dreamed that hundreds of thousands of people would join them along the way. They never could have imagined the impact it would have on our volunteers, especially students. Young people who serve at My Brother's Keeper learn lessons about life, people, and God that often can't be learned in classrooms. That's part of what makes My Brother's Keeper so special.

On a recent afternoon, I went on food deliveries with Joe Crowley and Vianney Murlon, young men in formation with the Congregation of Holy Cross who spent a month serving at My Brother's Keeper. Joe is originally from Lansing, Michigan and Vianney grew up near Versailles, France. What a joy it is to welcome men from around the country and the world into our work and to play a role in their faith journey!



Erich Miller, center, with Holy Cross seminarians Vianney Murlon and Joe Crowley. Vianney and Joe spent four weeks serving at My Brother's Keeper as part of their formation for the priesthood.

My Brother's Keeper did 60 food deliveries in Brockton that afternoon—4 vans with 15 stops each—so the routes were very tight. Our vehicle's deliveries were all within 1 square mile. Every stop was a minute or two from the one before it and Joe beautifully described it as "a constant outpouring of grace and goodness."

Some volunteers prefer furniture deliveries because it takes more time to deliver things like beds, couches, and kitchen tables and that gives us more time to get to know the people we're serving. Very true, but one of the things I love about food deliveries is that we get to encounter so many people in so many different situations in such a short period of time.

Along our route that afternoon, we visited the young and the old—men, women, and children—living in single family homes, three-deckers, and apartments in public housing. Their homes were on busy streets, quiet neighborhoods, and hidden dead-ends.

Every route offers tremendous variety but some things are remarkably constant: the gratitude, the positive attitude, and the deep faith of the people we serve despite their challenges.

One delivery stood out that day. We delivered groceries to Rosalind, a married mother of 3 children ages 8, 7, and 1, who welcomed us into her humble apartment with a big, warm smile. I could tell from her accent that she was Haitian. I let her know Vianney was from France and they enjoyed speaking French with each other.

I went on to share, "These young men are studying to be priests." Rosalind was overjoyed. "That is the best decision you can make! God is EVERYTHING to me!" she said.

As she shared her faith journey, two of her children were in my line of sight: her 1-year old on the floor in a playpen and her 7-year old who had major developmental delays. He was large for his age. He looked closer to 10 years old, but he was wearing a diaper and he was running around in a bedroom closed off with a baby gate.

Rosalind owned very little and she clearly had her hands full. If I were in her shoes, I might feel sorry for myself and I might ask, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" yet she spoke joyfully about the strength and peace God gives her.

Faith like Rosalind's can't be taught in a classroom. It can only be marveled at and be a source of inspiration. What a gift her witness was to me and to the two young men in formation!

And that is why we call My Brother's Keeper 'a Christian ministry of loving service and education.' My Brother's Keeper is constantly bringing goodness into the world in Jesus' name and, in turn, we are always learning from those we are privileged to serve.



**We are proud to be recognized as a 2025 Healthy Pantry by The Greater Boston Food Bank,** reflecting our commitment to providing nutritious food and promoting the dignity of those we serve.

# Above... and Beyond

By Josh Smith, Director – Dartmouth

This past December, My Brother's Keeper staff came in contact with Lydia for the first time. Lydia was a grandmother from Fall River who had lost her apartment and been living in her car with her two teenage grandsons the past month and a half. Lydia had stepped in to raise her grandsons ten years earlier when her son was unable to raise them as a single dad. Thankfully, there was also good news on this call: the three of them had just been accepted into a family shelter program.

Once they moved in, My Brother's Keeper volunteers quickly brought a food delivery out to Lydia's scattered site shelter apartment. They were taken aback to find the family sleeping on cots but with very little other furniture. The program wasn't set up for the family to bring in additional furniture, but Lydia promised to call My Brother's Keeper once she secured a place of her own.

Mary, one of the volunteers who participated in this delivery, couldn't stop thinking about this grandmother and the boys spending Christmas in a largely empty apartment. Upon getting back to the building, she asked My Brother's Keeper staff to register the family for Christmas help which we did. The next day, Mary went out to spend her own money on a shopping spree for the family.

As a result, when the family's Christmas delivery was made a week later, there was at least as many household items packed as there were presents. Everything had been thought of to make this family more comfortable: a microwave, dishes, pots and pans, a can opener, a colander, cleaning products, detergent, clothing, pillows, linens, towels, and last but not least, bags of candy for the boys! Lydia would later tell me how these items indeed made for a much more comfortable, joyful Christmas.

By mid-February, Lydia had secured her own apartment and was finally able to call our Helpline for furniture. The timing was great. We scheduled her delivery right away as the entire Bishop Stang High School hockey team was about to come in for their annual day of service. The day of the delivery, I was equally grateful for the six hockey players on my truck because we pulled up to Lydia's apartment on the first of three furniture deliveries. It was the fullest truck I had ever driven in my 20+ years at My Brother's Keeper!



Bishop Stang High School Hockey Team, Dartmouth, Massachusetts

One of the My Brother's Keeper volunteers who participated in this delivery couldn't stop thinking about this grandmother and the boys spending Christmas in a largely empty apartment.

Up the stairs went beds, dressers, nightstands, a kitchen set, and finally the living room furniture. Lydia's grandsons were the same age as our student volunteers and they jumped right in by taking the beds and dressers from our crew at the top of the stairs, carrying it into the proper bedroom. And as soon as the couch made it up the stairs, the students worked on setting up the living room just so, with all the seats able to view the new television.

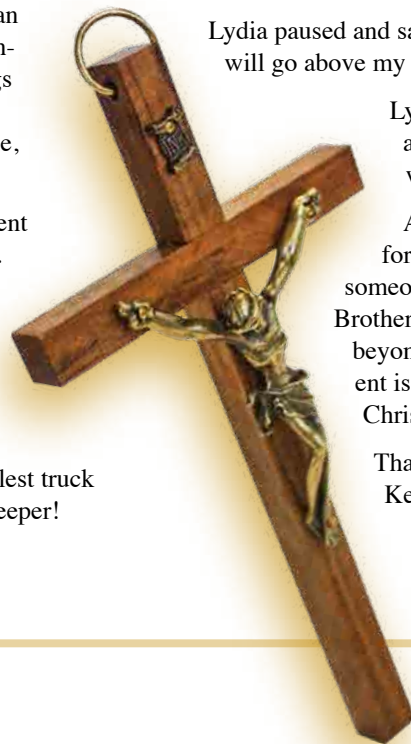
Then it was time to present the family with the crucifix and closing message, "We're just the delivery people... This is the man who sent you the furniture."

Lydia paused and said softly, "Oh, thank you." And then, "This will go above my front door."

Lydia thanked each of the students one by one and then waited to wave from the window as we pulled away.

Amazingly, this is not an atypical delivery for My Brother's Keeper. On a daily basis, someone with almost nothing calls for help. My Brother's Keeper's volunteers then go above-and-beyond to provide that help and a grateful recipient is left with a physical reminder of the love Christ has for them.

That is the accomplishment of My Brother's Keeper's mission and what a privilege it is!





# Recapping the 2025 Christmas Assistance Program Mission Accomplished!

The beauty of our Christmas Program is that it allows My Brother's Keeper to accomplish its mission in such a big and powerful way in such a short period of time. The 2025 Christmas Program served a record 3,441 families with 13,253 children and adults. The

families lived in 115 cities and towns throughout eastern Massachusetts ranging from Lawrence and Lowell south to Fall River, New Bedford, and the Cape.

In the month of December, nearly 6,000 volunteers came to our facilities in Easton and Dartmouth to experience the joy of service, select and wrap gifts, and soak up the Christmas spirit. In addition, 1,082 sponsors—individuals, families, businesses, schools, and churches—"adopted" 1,360 families.

Thank you to all those who were part of the 2025 Christmas Program in your own special way. We couldn't serve so many families with excellence without you.



Members of the Corey C. Griffin Foundation's Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) joined us in Santa's Workshop in December. The Foundation's ELC program is for young, Boston-area professionals who are committed to shaping the future of philanthropy.

## Recipient Survey Validates the Excellence of our Christmas Program

We think our Christmas Program does a good job but you never really know until you ask. New this year, My Brother's Keeper sent a text to parents thanking them for the privilege of serving their families for Christmas plus a link to an online survey. The response rate was very strong—44%. The survey asked 5 basic questions and here were the results.

Q1. Was the person on the phone kind and respectful?	Yes	99.5%
Q2. Were you happy with the number of gifts?	Yes	99.9%
Q3. Were you happy with the quality of the gifts?	Yes	97.7%

Q4. Were the delivery people kind and respectful?	Yes	99.9%
Q5. Did the help you received from My Brother's Keeper reflect the spirit of Christmas and the love of Jesus?	Yes	99.7%

As much as we'd like to be perfect, we know that's not realistic. The results were very affirming given the size and scope of the program, the short timeline, and our reliance on about 6,000 volunteers. Santa himself would be proud of these numbers, not to mention any parent of a teenager!!!

In addition to the questions above, the survey included a free-form comments section. This generated more than 1,200 unsolicited expressions of thanks. The sheer magnitude of gratitude was overwhelming! Here are just a handful of the words of thanks we received.

Words cannot describe the love, care and joy that went into wrapping these gifts, labeling these gifts & delivering these gifts. You could feel it throughout the entire process. The smiles that radiated through my children's hearts was beyond words. This organization is not just a pillar in the community but a reflection of the Lord's goodness, faithfulness and love. You all are a light unto others in places I didn't even know were dark. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I truly appreciate the help. My kids loved the gifts. The fact that you guys even thought about the adults made me feel like a child again. I haven't had a gift for myself in over 8 years. I'm so grateful for making these holidays extra special for me and my family. God bless.

For a single mother who works countless hours to try to make ends meet, you guys helped me a lot and it was very much appreciated. God bless you all. Hope one day in the future I can make some donations.

I truly appreciate the amount of time, effort, thoughtfulness, love, kindness, and money that went into the donation of our gifts. My children and I had an amazing Christmas and it was such a heavy weight taken off my shoulders receiving the amount of gifts that we did knowing that I couldn't afford it this year. I felt guilty, ashamed, and like a failure. This was truly a magical Christmas and we are so blessed and thankful for everyone who helped donate to make this such an unforgettable Christmas for us!! Thank you for this program and thank you to everyone who contributed to such an amazing cause!! God bless!!

Thank you. Your generosity helped us to give our grandchildren we are raising a beautiful Christmas. They are 15 and 11. My husband and myself are 76. We receive Social Security for ourselves. We hadn't planned on supporting two children in our retirement years. These two children are remarkable and we are very proud of them. They take a lot of hard work but they are our reason to get up each day. You are true Christians and provided lovely presents for the kids to find under the tree. You also have taken some of the stress of Christmas from my husband and myself. You have reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you.

# A Ministry of Education

Here are some of the student-volunteer groups My Brother's Keeper was privileged to host this spring and winter. Having so many young students from local schools, from out of state, and even from another country (!) is an extraordinary affirmation of our ministry founded 38 years ago by Jim and Terry Orcutt in the quiet of their home in Taunton, Massachusetts.



Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



Portsmouth, Rhode Island



PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL



Portsmouth, Rhode Island



SAINT PHILOMENA SCHOOL



Braintree, Massachusetts



Boston, Massachusetts



Westwood, Massachusetts



COLEGIO DEL SALVADOR



Buenos Aires, Argentina



STONEHILL COLLEGE



It may sound cliché to say that my internship at My Brother's Keeper was life-changing, but it truly was because I spent every day learning about the importance of the work nonprofits do. Each day at My Brother's Keeper revealed a new aspect of the impact the organization had on someone's life, whether it was going from home to home delivering food, furniture, or both, or spending time talking with individuals and families to understand their stories. The entire experience opened my eyes to what so many people are going through and how volunteering or donating to a nonprofit can change countless lives. It is painful to know that food insecurity and homelessness continue to rise in the U.S. Although we may never fully eliminate these issues, we can support nonprofits so they can continue to impact the lives of people not only across the country but also within arm's reach of us.

— Emily Murphy, Senior, Stonehill College



Brockton, Massachusetts



CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL



Austin Prep



Reading, Massachusetts





# My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program Update

My Brother's Keeper is successfully piloting the first year of our new Mentoring Program, a career-focused program designed to help first-generation college students begin successful careers aligned with their major.

The inspiration for our 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 wide spectrum of industries. If a young person can dream it, one of our volunteers has likely excelled in it!

The first year's Mentoring Program started with four mentor-mentee matches with the intent to grow to scale in future years. Here are this year's participants:

**Chris Flaherty:** volunteer from Franklin with a 30+ year career in tech sales



**Huy Ho:** junior from Quincy studying Computer Science and Data Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute



**Kayla Valente:** volunteer living in Boston who is an assistant nursing director at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



**Aissatou Sall:** junior from Boston studying nursing at Boston College



**Kim Molloy:** volunteer from Marshfield with a 30+ year career in electrical engineering



**Hebat Elkacemi:** junior from Revere studying Electrical and Computer Engineering at Northeastern University



**Heidi Kostin:** South Coast attorney with a practice in Rochester, MA who specializes in mental health and guardianship litigation



**Aysia Crawford:** senior from Boston majoring in Philosophy and Legal Studies at UMass-Dartmouth



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

**“I feel as though I have learned a lot through this process and the program isn't even over yet. I'm excited to see how much more I can grow over the next few months.”**

— Huy Ho

# 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.



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A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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**508.238.7512** Donations & Business

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N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

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