



**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

# Along The Way

January 2013



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

**Our Mission** To Bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.

We deliver furniture, food, and Christmas assistance free of charge to local families in need. We have no prerequisites for service.

## "YOU MAKE GOD SO PROUD FOR DOING HIS WORK"

God was truly present at My Brother's Keeper this December as we celebrated the birth of His Son by serving our more humble brothers and sisters.

As always, we kicked off our Christmas Program in prayer. A record crowd of 750 attended our 22nd Annual Gratitude Mass with one of our own volunteers delivering the homily, recently-ordained Deacon Brian Kean of West Roxbury. (see photo back page)

Then from December 7th to December 24th, nearly 3,000 children, parents and grandparents volunteered at My Brother's Keeper. Working together, we delivered gifts and food to 2,725 families—10,817 children and adults!—living in 76 towns between Haverhill and Harwich.

All these numbers represent records: more volunteers than ever served more families in more communities in less time... just 18 days, four fewer than last year.

These records are noteworthy because they speak to the passion and vibrancy of our growing community but at My Brother's Keeper, it always comes down to mission, not numbers: did we shine the light of Christ and bring His love and hope to those we serve?

The numerous thank you letters we received are a resounding 'Yes!' Here's one from a family in Whitman who received our help with furniture in November and presents in December:

My family cannot express our gratitude enough for all that you have done for us. Through Jesus and the staff and volunteers at My Brother's Keeper, we have furniture for our apartment and Christmas gifts for our daughter. You make God so proud for doing His work and graciously helping families in need like ours. Thank you, thank you, thank you! You make so many lives so much brighter. God bless you all.

Love, Deb & Family

Thank you for being part of the My Brother's Keeper family and thank you for helping us bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to so many in 2012. We wish you all the best in 2013, our 25th Anniversary.



The Landrys from Waltham and the Collins from Natick: one of the many extended families who make volunteering at My Brother's Keeper a special part of their Christmas tradition.

### 2012 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS — A YEAR IN REVIEW

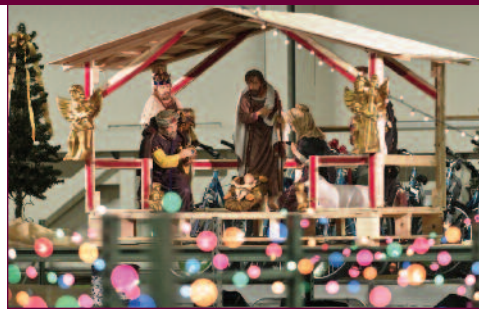
CHRISTMAS: 2,725 Deliveries ... 10,817 people served  
 FOOD: 3,647 Deliveries ... 14,636 people served  
 FURNITURE: 1,118 Deliveries ... 3,741 people served

### 76 TOWNS SERVED — CHRISTMAS 2012

Abington	Hanover	Peabody
Allston	Hanson	Plymouth
Attleboro	Harwich	Quincy
Avon	Haverhill	Randolph
Berkley	Holbrook	Raynham
Boston	Hyde Park	Revere
Braintree	Jamaica Plain	Rockland
Bridgewater	Kingston	Roslindale
Brighton	Lakeville	Roxbury
Brockton	Malden	Somerset
Brookline	Mansfield	South Boston
Buzzards Bay	Marshfield	South Yarmouth
Cambridge	Mashpee	Stoughton
Canton	Mattapan	Swansea
Charlestown	Medford	Taunton
Chelsea	Middleboro	Walpole
Dedham	Milford	West Bridgewater
Dighton	Milton	West Roxbury
Dorchester	New Bedford	Wareham
Duxbury	Newton	Westport
East Boston	Norfolk	Weymouth
East Bridgewater	North Attleboro	Whitman
Easton	North Dartmouth	Woburn
Everett	Norton	Wrentham
Fall River	Norwood	
Foxboro	Onset	

  
 Celebrating **25** years of service in Christ's name.  
 1988-2013 **MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

Look for more information about our 25th Anniversary in upcoming announcements, on our website, and at our special events throughout the year!



**THE BLESSINGS OF SERVICE...**  
a letter from a volunteer



"I brought my family last night to volunteer. My husband and youngest came too—which we knew was a risk!—but we took a chance.

As the lights went down for closing prayer, my three kids climbed up on a wrapping station and sat so still, not taking their eyes off the manager scene. Fiona who is 3 turned to me and said, "Mom, I love baby Jesus."

As we left, Owen who is 6 asked "When can we do this again? I love it here!" And Kiley my oldest who is 7 asked if she could use her piggy bank money to buy donations.

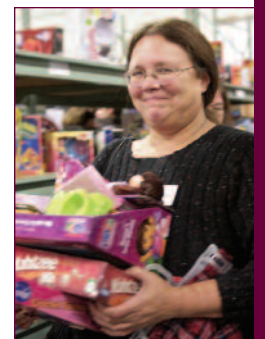
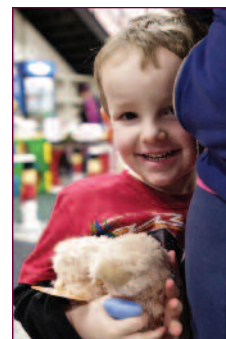
As a mother, I spend a great deal of time trying to bring Advent traditions into our home and focus my kids on waiting for Jesus... but My Brother's Keeper did more last night than I could accomplish in an entire season. Their little hearts saw Jesus at work and they knew what it meant to be a part of it in a way they could understand. What more could a mom ask for?



My Brother's Keeper is truly a special place. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Jeanne Cregan, Marshfield

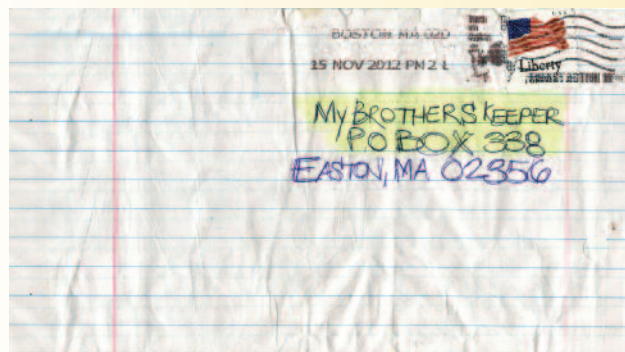
*(Jeanne and Owen are pictured in the top right photo)*



## “HALLMARK COULDN'T HAVE MADE A MOVIE BETTER THAN THIS!”

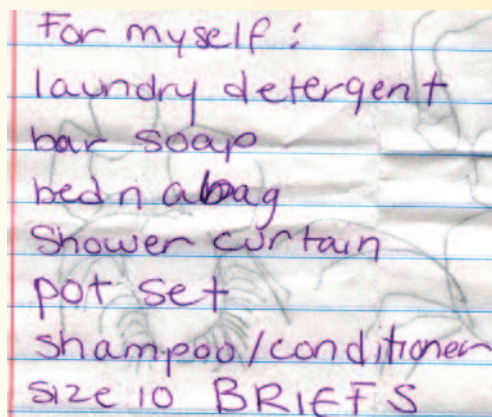
One of this year's most poignant Christmas requests came from “Sam,” a mom from Charlestown who made her envelope out of loose leaf paper underscoring her tight budget. Here's what she wrote:

“I'm a single mother of a 5 year-old daughter who never gets what she wants... she only gets what she needs. This year she begged me for a few things that I know I couldn't afford to get her. She asked for Baby Wanna Walk by Baby Alive, a Doctor Mommy doll and a Shockwave scooter.



Sam's own simple requests appear to the right. We shared her letter with our volunteers and a group of Stonehill students stepped forward to make Christmas possible for this special family. Afterwards, we received not one but **two** thank you notes! Here's an excerpt:

“My daughter and I received your gifts of love and I couldn't contain myself. Your organization has restored a lot of the faith I had lost. My daughter loved all her gifts and couldn't stop smiling: all she could say was, “This is the best Christmas ever!” Then I couldn't stop smiling in between the tears. I prayed and thanked God for His bountiful blessings that He provided through you. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the things you sent to a well-deserved 5 year old who only gets second hand items but never once complained.



PS: Your volunteer who delivered the gifts also came back with a very special gift for my daughter: a tree. Thanks because he didn't have to do that. This has been a blessed and magical Christmas. Hallmark couldn't have made a movie better than this!”

## WITNESS TO FAITH

By Josh Smith



Anyone who's made Christmas deliveries for My Brother's Keeper understands how special this experience can be. The gratitude and faith of the families we serve is positively inspiring.

I met one such family making deliveries in Fall River with two volunteers, Ellie from Norwood and Brian of Abington. Down a back alley and up a set of stairs above a bar, we found the six members of the 'Jacobs' family crowded into a tiny, two-bedroom apartment. We were greeted warmly by Aubrey, her husband Tom, and newborn Amy, just two weeks old. As we admired tiny Amy swaddled in blankets, Aubrey told us the youngest of their four kids had been a bit of a surprise. In the same breath, she spoke of the baby as “*God's decision*” and how He would always provide for the family.

I'm continually amazed at the willingness of those we serve to open up about their lives and spirituality so soon after meeting us. It's a tremendous compliment to My Brother's Keeper and the respectful way we serve.

You wouldn't know it by the kind smiles on their faces, but the past few months had been a serious financial struggle for the family. Tom, a construction worker, hadn't worked in awhile because of the cold weather. With an extra mouth to feed and money so tight, a friend urged them to call My Brother's Keeper for help. Aubrey and Tom faced these challenges with uncommon grace, dignity, and trust. “*It is all in God's hands,*” Aubrey said confidently. “*He's always watched out for us and He'll do so again.*”

After a round of emotional hugs, we were on our way to the next delivery. Aubrey and Tom could now provide a joyful Christmas for their children, but it was clear that our visit had more to do with God's love and hope than the four bulging bags of gifts. Witnessing their faith, we understood My Brother's Keeper was just God's way of taking care of the family in their time of need.



## FALL RIVER CHALLENGE GRANT

Our plans to open a Fall River facility in the summer of 2013 took a big step forward thanks to a very generous challenge grant: The Salah Foundation will donate \$50,000 annually for the next five years in support of our Fall River expansion—\$250,000 total — if we can raise matching funds for Fall River.

*“Our foundation does not typically make multi-year grants but after seeing the wonderful work of My Brother’s Keeper firsthand, our family feels this is one organization worth the exception,”* said Noreen Salah Burpee, Executive Director of The Salah Foundation. *“We are delighted to help My Brother’s Keeper grow, include more people in their work and, most importantly, serve a new community in great need.”*

*“The power of a matching grant is that it allows each individual donor to double the impact of his (or her) donation. We have seen this to be a very powerful tool in community fund raising efforts.”*

The Salah Foundation was made possible through the life-long hard work of James M. Salah, the son of two Lebanese immigrants who came to this country in 1919. The Salahs have always taken great pride in their family, a tradition that has been passed down through the generations. Part of the Foundation’s Mission Statement is to support nonprofits that strengthen families and communities.

Our Fall River expansion effort has also received generous commitments from The Flatley Foundation, The Yawkey Foundation and The Lynch Foundation, giving us a solid base of support.

If you would like to help us meet The Salah Foundation challenge, please return the enclosed reply card along with your donation. Thank you very much!

## BOSTON BOMA APPROVES GRANT FOR 3RD STRAIGHT YEAR



For the past 24 years, the Building Owners and Managers Association of Boston has conducted the BOMA Benefit to help support outstanding local nonprofits that fight homelessness.

For an unprecedented third straight year, My Brother’s Keeper has been designated as a beneficiary—an incredible affirmation of our work.

*“We were pleasantly surprised last year and absolutely stunned this year,”* said Erich Miller, president of My Brother’s Keeper. *“We are genuinely overwhelmed by BOMA’s trust in our work in addition to their generous financial support.”*

My Brother’s Keeper received \$20,000 from BOMA in 2010 and \$17,500 in 2011. As we requested, this year’s grant award will be directed to our Fall River expansion and will be matched by The Salah Foundation. (*see story left*)

This year’s BOMA event is on Saturday March 2nd. Visit [www.gbreb.com/boma](http://www.gbreb.com/boma) for more information. Special thanks to board member Steve Wessling of Wessling Architects who nominated My Brother’s Keeper for the award.



Co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt with Fr. Joe Callahan, CSC, Spiritual Director of the Holy Cross Retreat House.

## 2012 SPIRIT OF HOLY CROSS AWARD

On December 5th at Stonehill College, co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt received the prestigious Spirit of Holy Cross Award in recognition of their exemplary lives of service at My Brother’s Keeper and the Holy Cross Retreat House.

*“It’s an annual award that’s given by the U.S. Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross which encompasses the entire United States,”* said Fr. Joe Callahan CSC, who has worked with the Orcutts at the Retreat House since 1999.

*“Laypeople are chosen each year to receive the award and it’s quite a distinction. The award is one of hope and Divine providence and collaboration with laity and clergy—and Jim and Terry certainly exemplify all of that.”*

## A MODERN DAY MATTHEW 25:35

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, *“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”* Doesn't this thank you from Christina in Weymouth read like a modern-day Matthew 25:35?

My name is Christina and I just want to say thank you for all the assistance we have received over the years from My Brother's Keeper. When we were hungry, you gave us food, when we were tired, you gave us furniture and when we were out of money, you gave us gifts. My children, my husband and I can't express how grateful we are for such a charity. Happy holidays to you all and thank you again so much!!

As a community, we are truly living out Christ's words 2,000 years later: when we serve the most humble of His people, we do it for Him.

## MORE WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM THOSE WE SERVED

Dear Friends at My Brother's Keeper,

Thank you so much for your wonderful delivery to us from Jesus. Times are very tough and without our faith, I don't know what we would do. God does provide and we bless Him for it.

The W. Family, Raynham



I just wanted to say thank you for making my Christmas happen! I wouldn't be where I am in my life without your help. You are angels sent from above.

Sincerely, Jillian, Dorchester



Dear My Brother's Keeper,

I would like to thank all of you for the help you extended to me and my son during this Christmas season. You made a 15 year old mentally challenged boy very happy. I also must say I was astounded by the respect and courtesy extended to me by all the volunteers. Thank you and God bless. You are all in my prayers.

The S. Family, Quincy



Dear My Brother's Keeper.

Thank you for all the lovely gifts you delivered plus the turkey! I'm 14 years old and I loved all the gifts. My family enjoys all the gifts too!© Thank you so much. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas!!

Best wishes, Julia, Brockton

I would like to thank you for helping my children enjoy Christmas. I greatly appreciate it since I had to leave my job after being there almost 3 years due to my daughter being sick all the time with lung disease and helping care for my grandmother with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. You have no idea how scared I was thinking my 4 kids and teen brother and sister that I took in my care wouldn't have a Christmas. Everything is greatly appreciated.

Love, Roberta, Norwood



I would like to show my thanks for helping my family by volunteering somehow next Christmas. I could help out wrapping gifts or taking phone calls or whatever you need. I am very thankful for the gifts you provide and the meal we are able to eat on Christmas day. Please call me... I really want to give back my time to Brother's Keeper.

Cheryl, Fall River



# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>MARCH</b>	Sunday, March 10th – 1:30 to 5:00 pm Time to Pray With Your Family & Great Keynote! Family Rosary Lenten Retreat <a href="http://www.FamilyRosary.org/Retreat">www.FamilyRosary.org/Retreat</a>
<b>APRIL</b>	Thursday, April 4th – 6:00 pm Lovely Ladies Dinner – Thorny Lea Golf Club
<b>JUNE</b>	Saturday, June 15th 4th Annual My Brother's Keeper Family Walk <a href="http://www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org">www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org</a>
<b>JULY</b>	Monday, July 15th My Brother's Keeper Golf Tournament – Foxborough Country Club Call Vince Shea at (508) 238-7512 for more information



**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

P.O. Box 338, Easton, MA 02356-0338

Furniture Assistance . . . 508-238-4416

Donations / Business 508-238-7512 – Fax 508-238-3613

501(c)(3) tax-exempt

[www.mybrotherskeeper.org](http://www.mybrotherskeeper.org)

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**22ND ANNUAL GRATITUDE MASS – NOVEMBER 23RD, 2012**