



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Along The Way

June 2016

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.

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

"All stand in awe in the presence of a new born child."

By Jim Orcutt, Co-Founder & President Emeritus



"Board Volunteer Day" is an important day on the My Brother's Keeper calendar. Every year, members of our Board of Directors and Development Board put on their jeans and sneakers. Along with other volunteers, they climb aboard our trucks and head into the neighborhoods to deliver furniture and food to those who reach out to My Brother's Keeper for help.

Our board members experience first-hand the living conditions and difficulties faced by the people God entrusts to our care. They have the invaluable opportunity to interact directly with the people we serve. They see their reaction to the quality furniture we provide and their response to the presentation of the crucifix with the words, "This is the man who sent you the furniture."

This interaction with the people we serve provides our Board members with valuable insight and perspective when they make decisions at Board meetings.

On this year's Board Volunteer Day in April, I was on a delivery vehicle along with staffmember Andrew Staiti, Joyce Donadio, chair of the Development Board, and volunteers Rich Gordon and Chet Johnson.

Our second delivery was to a woman named "Abby" who was in the hospital giving birth. Abby and her four year old son had just moved back into her parent's home.

As we walked into the small house on the east side of Brockton, the first thing to hit me was the delicious smell of Caribbean food. Abby's mom was at the stove. Her English was limited but she smiled and nodded at us.

We carried a twin bed, a dresser, and crib into the room Abby's parents had prepared for her and her new baby.

When we finished setting up the furniture, we returned to the kitchen to say goodbye and present the crucifix to Abby's parents. Just then a car pulled in the driveway. It was Abby's uncle bringing her home from the hospital with her newborn daughter.

Walking very slowly, Abby came into the kitchen and gingerly sat down. Her uncle placed the baby carrier on the kitchen table. Then, along with the family, we gathered around. There lay, "Angela," the most beautiful little two-day old girl anyone could ever imagine.

With her family watching, we presented Abby with the crucifix telling her that we only delivered the furniture; it was Jesus who sent her the crib and the bed. Weak, but smiling, Abby thanked us.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Family Walk

Please join us!
Saturday, June 18, 2016



If you have not registered on-line, walk-up registration is available the morning of the event. For details, please visit:

www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

But, in that moment, there seemed to be something left undone. I asked Abby, "May we give Angela a blessing?" Smiling broadly, she replied, "Of course."

I have often said that the crucifix is the great equalizer. At the presentation of the crucifix, the giver and the receiver become equal, for Christ is above all.

A newborn baby is like that too. In the presence of a newborn child, there are no rich or poor. All stand alike in awe.

It is experiences such as these that allow our Board members to fully understand and to internalize the wisdom of the My Brother's Keeper policy of "no prerequisites for service."



The 2016 Board Volunteer Day begins in prayer with Mass celebrated by Fr. John Denning, president of Stonehill College and a My Brother's Keeper board member since 2003.



My Brother's Keeper Adds Two New Board Members

My Brother's Keeper has two separate boards: a Board of Directors which provides governance and oversight and a Development Board which helps our 100% privately-funded ministry generate the funds we need to carry out our mission. We are delighted to welcome the newest members of each board.

William Ohrenberger, III



Attorney Bill Ohrenberger is the newest member of our Board of Directors. He is the managing partner of the law firm Ohrenberger, De Lisi & Harris, LLP in Scituate.

Bill's practice focuses on real estate development and land use, zoning, commercial and residential real estate transactions, general business representation,

as well as estate planning.

Though he is new to our board, Bill has generously donated his legal services to My Brother's Keeper since 2012. His expertise in zoning and land use is a special blessing to My Brother's Keeper as we work to construct our new Dartmouth facility.

Bill and his wife Gretchen are long-time monthly supporters and Adopt-A-Family sponsors at Christmas. Their son, Kurt, volunteered with us extensively in 2014.

Bill is also very involved at the Holy Cross Retreat House, having lived Cursillo in 1985. "I was looking for an opportunity to live out my faith in ever greater ways. I'm delighted to be able to use my gifts and talents in support of Christ's work at My Brother's Keeper."

Mary Keough-Anderson



Mary Keough-Anderson is the newest member of our Development Board. She is an industry expert in meetings and events highlighted by 34 years' experience at Liberty Mutual Insurance where she served as Global Director of Meeting Management and Event Strategy.

After retiring, Mary looked for ways to give back and heard about My Brother's Keeper at her church, Immaculate Conception in Easton. Starting in June of 2014, she and her husband, Gary, helped deliver furniture every Friday afternoon.

"Seeing the hope on the people's faces when we give them the gift of the crucifix is the best part of volunteering at My Brother's Keeper. I get emotional every time. I also love the community and that we end each day with a prayer of thanks and the Our Father. I always leave my Brother's Keeper with a smile on my face."

Sadly, Mary's husband, Gary Anderson, passed away in June 2015 after a courageous battle with cancer. Though no longer with us physically, his memory and spirit remain very present at My Brother's Keeper. Keep an eye out for Team Gary at the Family Walk!

Dartmouth Building Update

Design Completed & Capital Campaign Launched!



Thanks to the hard work and generosity of Steve Wessling and Wessling Architects, we have completed the architectural design of our new Dartmouth facility.

To promote a sense of 'oneness' among the My Brother's Keeper community, the building will closely resemble the Easton facility's interior and exterior. If you've volunteered for years in Easton, you'll feel right at home in Dartmouth!

With the architectural complete, we have moved on to hard engineering and the total cost of the project is becoming more defined. We estimate a total market cost of \$3,400,000 for land acquisition, building design, construction, and landscaping including the Rosary Walk.

Our actual cost will be significantly less, however, because supporters in the construction industry have already committed hundreds of thousands of dollars in donated services. Two examples: Superior Plumbing in Dedham will provide a \$100,000 donation towards plumbing and HVAC work and Plumb House in Milford will construct the offices at cost, a savings of approximately \$50,000.

The initial stages of fundraising for the project are underway and we have already raised more than \$700,000 in donations of cash and in-kind professional services.

In addition, we have assembled a Capital Campaign Committee with two community members stepping

forward to lead the effort. Deacon Brian Kean of West Roxbury will co-chair the committee along with Jim Orcutt, co-founder & President Emeritus.

Deacon Brian serves at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Brookline and is an Executive Vice President at Winn Residential, the largest manager of affordable housing and privatized military housing in the United States. Deacon Brian has volunteered at My Brother's Keeper since 2002 along with his wife, Marcia, and their kids, Catie, Brian and Mairead.



"In large part, I credit my service at My Brother's Keeper with my call to the diaconate," said Deacon Brian. "The ministry has profoundly touched my life and my family's life. I am delighted to help lead this important fundraising effort along with Jim Orcutt."

Deacon Brian participated in our very first Deacon Plunge in 2010, was ordained in 2012, and was the homilist at our 22nd Annual Gratitude Mass.

To give our entire community an opportunity to support the building project, we will mail our Capital Campaign appeal "Shining Our Light Brighter" in September.

If you would like more information on the building project or on making a donation now, please contact Vin Shea at 508-238-7512 or vshea@mybrotherskeeper.org

Metta Students Foundation Honors Dartmouth Volunteer, Delilah Johnson

Bishop Stang junior Delilah Johnson was recently honored by The Metta Students Foundation for her outstanding service at My Brother's Keeper. Delilah has personally volunteered more than 500 hours at our Dartmouth facility and she also acts as our Student Service Coordinator for her Bishop Stang peers.

"My Brother's Keeper has become so much more than just an organization to me, but rather, a family that works together for a greater good," said Delilah. "It's such an important part of my daily life and has given me so much joy along the way. I always encourage other students to get involved for the sake of experiencing the mission and living out their faith. I hope they love it as much as I do!"



Left to right, Norm Kelly, founder of Metta Students Foundation, presents a \$1,000 grant award to Delilah Johnson along with Nicole Dias, Director of Guidance at Bishop Stang, and Josh Smith, Director of our Dartmouth Facility.

A Ministry of Education 7th Annual Deacon Plunge



Every May, My Brother's Keeper hosts 'Deacon Plunge,' a 3 day service retreat for men in the Diaconate Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Boston.

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.

Below is a thank you letter we received from one of the men in formation, Alan Amaral from Middleboro (back row, center, black shirt)



To all at My Brother's Keeper,

I wish to thank you for an unforgettable experience during the Deacon Plunge. I went into the weekend thinking it was just one more thing I had to do to finish out my first year of formation. At the end, I couldn't believe how much I had learned and how much my heart had changed.

I am ashamed to say I came to My Brother's Keeper with a very different view in my mind of poor and homeless people. I now realize they are not poor and homeless people, they are just people. But for the grace of God, I or anyone in my family could be in the same situation.

As I sat and talked to many of the volunteers at lunch which you lovingly prepared, or accompanied you on deliveries, I couldn't help but think of Matthew 5:15 "No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

Believe me when I tell you, your lamps are burning bright at My Brother's Keeper and all anyone has to do to see the light of Christ is look into your eyes. The other Bible quote I kept thinking of was Matthew 25:31-40, I don't need to quote it because you all live it every day, but I know you will all hear The Son of Man say to you someday, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Thank you so much for all your love and for opening my eyes. I pray that, if it be God's will that I be a Deacon, He will allow me to serve others in His name as well as all of you do everyday.

I would like end by sharing a story with you. I am the sacristan at my parish and the day after the retreat I showed up like I do every Monday at 7:00 A.M. to open the church. I noticed a car in the parking lot which is unusual that early. When I got out of my car, a woman got out of that car and said, "Excuse me but do you work here?" I said, "Yes. How can I help you?"

As I walked toward her, I saw bags and bags of all kinds of things in her car. She noticed that I looked in her car and with her eyes down she said, "As you can see, I'm homeless. I'm looking for Saint Vincent de Paul's and I don't have the gas to drive around looking for it."

My first thought was, How merciful and loving God is! He not only gave me a wonderful experience with all of you and opened my eyes, but now He was giving me a second chance to do better. I don't want to go into all the details of the story, but let me tell you it was a great encounter.

I know it is God who does all things through you at My Brother's Keeper, but I want to thank you all for being open to God and saying yes.

Your brother in Jesus and Mary,
Alan Amaral

Lovely Ladies 2016 Spring Social 10th Anniversary

10th Anniversary Lovely Ladies Spring Social

The 10th Annual Lovely Ladies Spring Social was another tremendous success... sold-out with 340 local women in attendance at Granite Links Country Club in Quincy.

The theme of the night was "The Light We Share" and the highlight of the evening was guest speaker Sr. Bridget Haase, OSU. She is a dynamic storyteller who was once featured on the popular NBC Nightly News 'Making a Difference' segment.

Sr. Bridget encouraged all the guests to consider what kind of light they are based on their personality: perhaps a candle offering peace and comfort, a lighthouse which is a beacon in times of trouble, a stoplight giving guidance and direction, or even a disco ball... flashy, fun, and the life of the party!

Whatever kind of light we may be, Sr. Bridget inspired us to shine our light brightly for Christ and touch the lives of those around us in His name.

No one who attended the Lovely Ladies will forget how Sr. Bridget wrapped up the night. All guests received a small pink personalized flashlight as a favor. Granite Links then turned the lights down and turned up a rendition of "This Little Light of Mine." All 340 guests danced and sang along, shining their flashlights at the ceiling. It was a sight to behold!

Special thanks to the event's lead sponsors for their generosity, Wessling Architects and State Street Corporation, and to the Lovely Ladies Committee for their hard work and tremendous dedication: Patti Boucher, Stephanie Coose, Erica Donadio, Lori Grant, Justine Harrington, Kathy Jones, Miriam Keen, Mary Keough-Anderson, Donna Lane, Kathy McDevitt and Deb Murray.

Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper, said, "It would be impossible for me to overstate what the Lovely Ladies event has done to build community and advance the mission of My Brother's Keeper over the last 10 years. It's raised more than \$300,000 and helped us provide thousands of beds and thousands of meals for local families in need. The greatest value of this event, though, is the way that it's inspired so many women and their families to be involved at My Brother's Keeper. That's truly priceless!"



My Brother's Keeper Honored by Jack Conway Realtors with Citizens of the Year Award

My Brother's Keeper was honored this spring as Jack Conway, Realtor's "Conway Country Citizens of the Year" at the company's 29th annual convention held at the Boston Marriott Quincy.

"We could not think of a more worthy recipient of our Citizen of the Year Award than My Brother's Keeper," said Conway CEO and President Carol Bulman. "This ministry, which started in the basement of Jim and Terry's home, has made 120,000 deliveries of furniture, food and Christmas gifts to struggling families throughout Southeastern Massachusetts since 1988."

In accepting the award on the ministry's behalf, Jim Orcutt said, "Terry and I don't take any credit for the wonderful things that go on through My Brother's Keeper. It's the team made up of our staff and our thousands of dedicated volunteers who make it happen."

It's wonderful people like those at Jack Conway & Company and other corporate and individual supporters who have made our mission possible for the last 27 years. We are very humbled to be honored by the Conway organization, which shares our own sense of family and the desire to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters."



My Brother's Keeper volunteers, board members, staff, and co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt accept the Jack Conway Realtors Citizens of the Year Award from Conway CEO and President, Carol Bulman.

Upcoming Events

June

Saturday, June 18th

7th Annual My Brother's Keeper
Family Walk
Stonehill College

July

Monday, July 18th

10th Annual My Brother's Keeper
Golf Outing
Foxborough Country Club

**Have a question about one of our events?
Please call Vin Shea at 508-238-7512.**



Charity Navigator, the nation's premiere evaluator of charities, has awarded My Brother's Keeper its highest accountability rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to transparency.

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

EASTON FACILITY

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508.238.4416 Furniture & Food Assistance
508.238.7512 Donations & Business
508.238.3613 Fax

DARTMOUTH FACILITY

PO Box 70273
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747-0273

774.305.4590 Furniture Assistance
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774.305.4578 Fax

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