

**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."*

## Christmas 2018: Mission Accomplished!

My Brother's Keeper served a record 3,207 families this Christmas— 13,330 children and adults!— living in 93 communities between Haverhill and Harwich.

In total, well over 4,000 volunteers walked through the doors of our facilities in Easton and Dartmouth to be a part of this massive effort of goodness.

Of note, we started "Santa's Workshop" in Dartmouth this year. We've always made Christmas deliveries to South Coast families from our Dartmouth location but this was the first year we provided a gift-wrapping volunteer opportunity there too.

324 unique volunteers wrapped gifts at the new Dartmouth building in December and 61% were first-time volunteers at My Brother's Keeper. We hope and expect this will create significant growth in our South Coast volunteer community in the coming years.

*It has been a rough 2 years for my family as our Creator has brought more barriers and lessons than the average person can handle but because my faith is so strong, it's always where I turn when I am burnt out.*

*I want to thank a community like yours for being such a huge support during these holidays. It's important for me to see my children smile and you all have made that possible. We can only keep the faith we have if we are willing to share, to give it away for someone else finally to believe!!*

*Many blessings and please keep our family in your prayers.*

*Marcy*

As impressive as these numbers are each year, the true measure of our success is whether we accomplished our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve." The answer to that question is clearly a resounding "Yes!" when we receive thank you's like the note to the left.

Marcy understands the help we delivered didn't come from us. It came from God, our Creator. This speaks to the value and true beauty of our Christmas Program. In just three weeks' time, we are given the privilege of lifting up thousands upon thousands of our brothers and sisters in need and affirming their faith. It's infinitely more important than the actual gifts themselves.

Please know how grateful we are to each and every one of you for your service and outpouring of generosity and support.

### My Brother's Keeper Heating Assistance Program

The nights are awfully cold during winters.  
Can you help provide heat to local families in need?  
**See special reply card.**





# A Ministry of Education

St. Philomena's 8th Grade Day of Service  
January 18

On Friday January 18th and January 25th, My Brother's Keeper hosted Days of Service at our Dartmouth facility for the 8th grade class at St. Philomena School in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

Over the course of two Fridays, 45 students accompanied by faculty and parents helped make furniture deliveries in Fall River and New Bedford. Afterwards, they participated in group reflections facilitated by our staff.

A St. Phil's parent felt moved to send school administrators and My Brother's Keeper the following note:

“ I just need to take a moment to say thank you. I am so very grateful for the experience my daughter, Faith, had last Friday at My Brother's Keeper. When I picked her up from school on Friday, she was beaming. She told me that her day was amazing. It was incredible to hear my 13 year old get into my car and not stop talking about her experience that involved helping others. She was moved and inspired like never before. She had tears in her eyes as she explained how she worked hard all day and felt such an incredible feeling of happiness. She went into detail explaining the homes they visited, the furniture they put together, the lives they touched. She explained how she was honored to present the cross to one family and how important the message was that she delivered. She said, “Mom, this is what I am meant to do. Nothing makes me happier.” Thank you ALL for offering this experience to our children. It was a very special day for Faith, and as a mom there was NO BETTER FEELING than hearing her talk about it. I am so very grateful. ”

Michelle Fonseca

## Tomorrow's Leaders

My Brother's Keeper places a very strong emphasis on student volunteering. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders and direct encounters with those we serve have a powerful effect on young people. Student volunteering is off to a strong start in 2019. Here are some of the groups we have hosted:



2018 Photo  
Exchange Students from China  
Easton Middle School, February 1



Archbishop Williams Junior Day of Service  
January 28



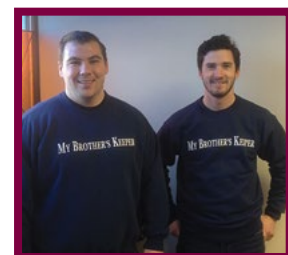
Exchange students from Argentina  
BC High, January 17



Cardinal Spellman Junior  
Day of Service  
January 30



Notre Dame, Stonehill and Salve Regina  
Urban Plunge Retreat  
January 8-11



Mike Lorello and Kevin Key  
Seminarians, Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
January 15 – February 15





To all the  
Volunteers at my Brother's  
Keeper ....

God Bless all of you!

I had some last minute bills  
pop up and ran out of oil 6  
days before X-mas. I thought I  
could wait until after X-mas  
and ran out of time. It forced  
me to spend everything I  
had saved up for the kids.

Thank-you for everything  
you do. You saved Christmas  
for the Willis Kids. They  
are such good kids, they both  
get straight A's, and also volunteer their time.



Wishing you  
all the jolly  
joys of  
Christmas

So when I didn't think  
I could afford a winter  
coat, it broke  
my heart.

Thank-you!

God  
Bless!

Love  
The Willis  
Family  
X-O-X-O

## Peace Washes Over

by Wayne Ogozaly, Volunteer, Brookline, New Hampshire

I knocked on the door of a small apartment in Lawrence and was greeted by an excited 4 year old girl who quickly ran to get her mom. Her mom, Anna, let me in and I presented 3 large bags of gifts that were selected and wrapped specifically for them from My Brother's Keeper.

The living room had moving boxes and a small Christmas tree lit in the corner. Anna told me their apartment in Lawrence was impacted by the gas explosions and the whole family had been living in

a hotel room for the last 2 months. They just moved into this apartment and were so thankful to have a new "temporary" place to live.

It was clear that the situation had taken a toll on Anna and her family. "I couldn't afford Christmas gifts or a proper Christmas meal for my little ones," she told me. She was overwhelmed with appreciation for the kindness that had been freely given to her.

Anna reached out and gave me a big hug. She began to cry and wouldn't let go. As we hugged, I noticed her

small children peaking around the corner, with smiles on their faces, as their eyes darted back and forth between us and the large bags on the floor.

At that moment, under the lights of their Christmas tree, there was finally a feeling of peace that washed over this beautiful family.

It was such a privilege to help deliver the message of My Brother's Keeper: Christ's Love and Hope. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve!

## Thoughts from a first-time volunteer at Santa's Workshop in Dartmouth

by Pat Barrett

Portsmouth, Rhode Island



I really enjoyed volunteering to wrap presents with my family at the new Dartmouth facility.

We made every attempt to match up the gifts to each recipient's "wish list."

It was humbling to read that the mother of one family gave no specifics for herself. She asked for "anything," but was very detailed in describing the wish lists for her two sons.

Once we were done selecting gifts, an experienced My Brother's Keeper volunteer took us back to the shelves to add even more gifts and build out our selections.

She took time to match jewelry pieces to the sweater we'd selected for the mom.

She helped us find hats and a pin to match the grandfather's sports sweatshirt that we'd picked for him. She helped us search high and low to find a Paw Patrol toy to round out one of the boy's gifts.

We've volunteered at similar events before—all were well planned and intended, but this experience was unrivaled.

Without ever meeting this family, it was still easy to imagine the magical day they would all have come Christmas morning. It was so very personalized. Our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters were all moved by it. We were grateful for the opportunity to work in service as a family for another family.



## New Board Roles

Left to right: Joyce Donadio, Brian Walsh, and Bill Suneson

My Brother's Keeper has grown tremendously over the last few years with the opening of our new Dartmouth facility. As a result, we are making changes at the board level to adapt to the needs of our growing ministry.

Since 1992, we have had a Development Board which has successfully supported the work of My Brother's Keeper by raising both funds and awareness.

Given that we now have two permanent facilities in different regions, the Board of Directors believes it makes sense to regionalize the activities of the Development Board by creating two separate Development Boards: an Easton Development Board and a South Coast Development Board. The members of each group will have strong ties to their particular geographic community which will help them be successful in their efforts.

As of February 1, the following changes have taken place: Joyce Donadio, chair of the Development Board since 2011, joined the Board of Directors and will oversee the actions of both Development Boards. Brian Walsh of Holbrook became chair of the Easton Development Board and Bill Suneson of Bridgewater became chair of the South Coast Development Board.

Development Board members are tasked with reaching out to their personal and professional contacts and inviting them to become part of the My Brother's Keeper family. They have also traditionally taken a leadership role in My Brother's Keeper fundraising events like the Family Walk, Hungry Men Dinner, and the South Coast Soiree.

The Development Boards will continue to work in collaboration with our Board of Directors which is tasked with oversight and governance. The Board of Directors will continue to be one entity overseeing the ministry.



Drainage system being installed.

## UPDATE: New Easton Parking Lot



As reported in our November newsletter, the Holy Cross Fathers generously leased My Brother's Keeper an additional acre of land adjacent to our Easton facility at no cost so we can build a new 29 space parking lot to accommodate our growing volunteer community.

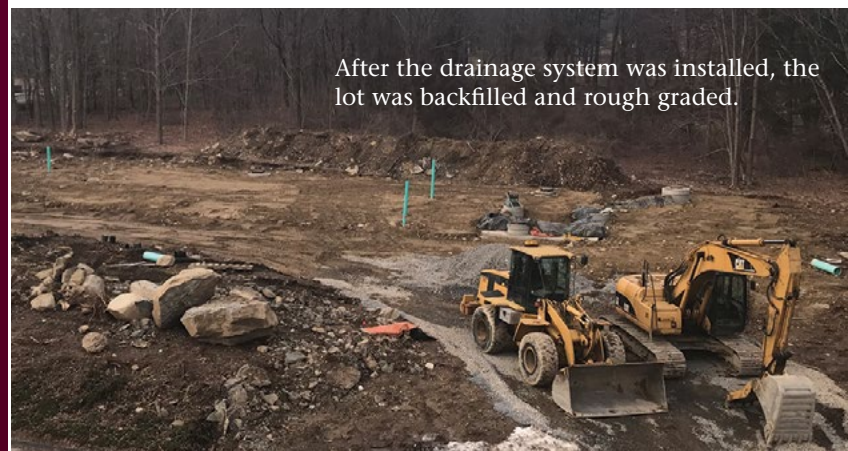
Construction of the new parking lot in Easton has progressed well despite the winter weather thanks to Kenny Kostka at KLK Enterprises who is generously managing the project 'at cost' for My Brother's Keeper.

The site has been fully cleared. Drainage structures were installed as required by Massachusetts Stormwater Management and then backfilled with gravel and soil.

The primary remaining works includes installation of the binder and top courses of asphalt as well as site lighting.

This work will begin after the ground warms up. We expect the project to be completed in late spring. The exact date will depend largely on our New England weather!

**If you would like to make a donation to support this important project, please contact Vin Shea at 508-238-7512 or [vshea@mybrotherskeeper.org](mailto:vshea@mybrotherskeeper.org)**



After the drainage system was installed, the lot was backfilled and rough graded.





## Stained Glass Window Installed in Dartmouth

One of the last and most important finishing touches to our Dartmouth facility is now complete thanks to the generosity of Jack Hurley of Custom Stained Glass.

On Thursday January 24th, Jack and his staff installed a 20-foot wide stained glass window in the Dartmouth prayer room. It is nearly identical to the one in Easton.

The stunning window beautifully depicts the mission of My Brother's Keeper. The face of Jesus (top center), represents our loving God. With hands outstretched, He hears the prayers and feels the pain of His child in need (right). God answers these prayers by touching the heart of another child who is willing to help (left). The Eucharist (bottom center) symbolizes the Love and Hope of Christ being passed from one to another.

"We are thrilled to have this window because it adds so much to the spirituality of the prayer room in Dartmouth," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper. "It's important to us that we give all new volunteers a meaningful tour on their first day and the window is a wonderful teaching tool for our mission."



Jack Hurley from Custom Stained Glass does a final inspection before installing the last window panel while Tom Lovett and Jonathan Nicholls (left to right) provide careful support.

6. Were the delivery people nice and respectful? ☒ YES ☐ NO

7. Were you happy with the quality of the furniture? ☒ YES ☐ NO

8. Was our final gift, the crucifix, meaningful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

9. Overall, how would you rate the service provided to you by My Brother's Keeper?

POOR FAIR GOOD VERY GOOD ☒ EXCELLENT

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS: *I was so happy when I got my furniture. The lady on the phone was awesome and they came the next day. I have a bedroom again. 😊 I cried when I got my crucifix. My first one ever. I'm so blessed*

NAME (Optional): *Jennifer* [redacted]

TOWN (Optional): *Braintree ma*

**"I cried when I got my crucifix. My first one ever."**

After every furniture delivery is completed, we mail out a short survey which invites recipients to give us feedback on the services we provide.

We frequently receive wonderful surveys like this one from Jennifer in Braintree.

Her words affirm that My Brother's Keeper is doing so much more than delivering furniture. We are truly accomplishing our mission 'To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.'

# Upcoming Events

## April

**Thursday, April 11th**  
Lovely Ladies Dinner  
Granite Links Golf Club

## June

**Saturday, June 8th**  
10th Annual My Brother's Keeper  
Family Walk  
Stonehill College

## July

**Monday, July 15th**  
13th 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.**

### 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

PO Box 338  
Easton, MA 02356-0338

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  
774.305.4577 Donations & Business  
774.305.4578 Fax

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