

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."

The true spirit of Christmas— loving one another as a sign of our love for Him.



"There but for the grace of God, go I."

It's a proverb we've all heard... an expression of humility acknowledging that any success we enjoy in life is not wholly our own.

It's also an expression of empathy... an understanding that any of us could face serious challenges around the corner such as finances, poor health, or helplessly watching a spouse or child suffer with an addiction.

Each Christmas season, we are contacted by thousands of people in need like Susan (see top right). In their own way, each family is struggling to pay their bills and to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. When Christmas rolls around, there's just no room in the budget.

"There but for the grace of God, go I."

Though the reason behind each family's struggle may be unique, there's always one thing in common: tremendous stress. Parents carry the weight of the world on their shoulders trying to provide for their kids.

That's why our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve" is so important. Parents need our help and they also need Hope. They need to be reminded that God loves them and that He hears and answers their prayers.

This is the great privilege God affords us as a ministry each Christmas: the opportunity to be our brother's and sister's keeper, to remove this stress and anxiety from those who reach out to us for help, and to replace it with joy, excitement, peace and love in His name. This is the true spirit of Christmas...loving one another as a sign of our love for Him.

My Brother's Keeper will again serve more than 3,000 struggling families this Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts—12,000 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 at 7:00pm. Please join us!

The My Brother's Keeper Christmas Program is such a big help. Now I have one less thing to worry about. I'm a single mom who went back to college and got my degree. I had a good job, got laid off, and have been struggling to get back on my feet. I used to sponsor families for Christmas and now I need help. I hope to be the helper again some day.

— Susan

My Brother's Keeper 27th Annual Gratitude Mass

Friday, November 24th 7:00 PM
My Brother's Keeper, Easton Facility



Principal Celebrant: Rev. James M. Mahoney
Pastor, St. Bridget's and Holy Ghost Collaborative,
Abington and Whitman

Homilist: Rev. Tony Szakaly, CSC
Director of Campus Ministry, Stonehill College

Reception following Mass
Priests, please bring alb & stole to concelebrate

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



A Celebration & Mass of Dedication

On Sunday afternoon, October 8th, My Brother's Keeper welcomed hundreds of volunteers and supporters for a celebration and Mass of Dedication at our newly constructed Dartmouth facility.

Doors opened one hour before Mass so attendees could view the Divine Servant statue and the recently-completed 23,000 square foot building. Volunteers greeted guests and provided a tour of the Prayer Room dedicated to Steve and Mary Wessling (photo #1), the kitchen, offices, operations center and mezzanine, highlighting the in-kind donations of construction services received from more than 50 companies.

Prior to Mass, Brian Concannon, Chair of the Board of Directors, offered words of welcome and invited leaders of the Dartmouth Building Project to come up for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting (photo #2). Representatives included members of the Capital Campaign and Construction Committees, key funders, our board chairs, staff and our co-founders.

We were deeply honored to have Bishop Edgar da Cunha of the Diocese of Fall River serve as the principal celebrant for the Mass of Dedication (photos #3 and 4), along with 16 concelebrants from South Coast and South Shore communities.

"Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do it for me," said Bishop da Cunha in his homily. "Isn't that what Jesus asks of us? And isn't that what My Brother's Keeper does? But to do it with joy, with love, with

generosity and faith, knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of other people. If you love God, you have to show it by loving one another."

Students from area schools participated in key roles throughout the liturgy in recognition of the crucial role student-volunteers play in our work. Lindsay Berube (Bishop Stang High School), Jay Luisi (Stonehill College), Meghan O'Connor (Providence College) were readers and Eben Orcutt (Bridgewater State University) acted as an altar server. Music for the Mass was provided by 20 members of the Bishop Stang High School choir including a keyboardist and string trio. (photo #5)

In his closing remarks, Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper noted, "Now is when the real work begins! This building is not the end itself but only a means to accomplish our mission and to shine our light brighter for Christ. Its purpose is to help us serve local families in need in Christ's name and nurture each other's faith as we serve together along the way."

Every My Brother's Keeper event includes community and good food, of course! To help celebrate the historic occasion, Montillio's Bakery provided a cake which was a replica of the new Dartmouth facility. (photo #6)

With the new Dartmouth building fully operational, we extend our sincerest of thanks to the countless hearts and hands that have brought us to this exciting new chapter for our ministry!

1



2



3



4



5



6



Be Your Brother's Keeper This Christmas!

Looking for ways to help this Christmas?
Here are a number of things you can do:

- Help with facility set up (early December) and breakdown (late December)
- Sponsor a family in need
- Wrap gifts with friends & family
- Help make deliveries
- Make a financial donation
- Make cookies or soup for our volunteers
- Help with kitchen clean-up (3-6pm) or building cleanup (8-10pm)
- Buy high-need gifts off our Amazon Wish List which you can access from our website www.MyBrothersKeeper.org
- If you shop on Amazon, start at AmazonSmile and name My Brother's Keeper as your charity of choice. Amazon donates .5% of your purchases.
- Run a gift collection drive at your church, school, office or gym (see sign to the right)
- Donate \$50 supermarket gift cards to be given to families in need along with their Christmas gifts
- Pray for no snow in December!

Top 10 Gift Needs:

1. Legos
2. Comforter Sets (Queen and Twin)
3. Winter Coats
4. Video Games
5. Anything "Boston Sports"
6. Dolls
7. Cologne and Perfume Gift Sets
8. Action Figures
9. Art Supplies/ Arts & Crafts
10. Ride-on Toys/ Infant Toys



Questions? Call 508-238-7512

A Mother's Selflessness By Maureen Strong



This is my fourth year answering our Christmas Assistance Line and even though I have taken over a thousand calls

in that time, I am still amazed by the people I speak with, especially the mothers.

Over the years, I have developed a little routine. With each call, I ask for some basic information, let the caller know that I will be putting them on hold while I open a new record in the computer, and that when I come back I will

be asking for clothing sizes and gift ideas for each person in the household.

At My Brother's Keeper, we think it's important for everyone in the family to receive something and be lifted up in Christ's name. It's equally important for kids to see their parents open something on Christmas morning.

When I return to the call, I'll say, "Ok, let's start with you, Mom! What would you like for Christmas?"

This question is frequently met with a stunned silence, followed by a response of "For me?!!!" or

"I don't know, I was only calling for my kids..." or "Wow! No one has ever asked me that!"

It is a privilege and a joy to help these women think about what they would like to receive. I encourage them to choose something for themselves, but more often than not they will select something which will make life better for the family – pots and pans, bath towels, silverware.

This clear example of a Mother's Selflessness is a beautiful and powerful thing to witness... a special gift to me each Christmas!

(Hand) Made with Love

In keeping with our mission, My Brother's Keeper provides Christmas gifts for all members of the family... not just the young children but teens and parents too. Everyone needs a lift and to be reminded they are special. It's also important for kids to see their parents and older siblings open gifts on Christmas morning.

Gift collection drives typically focus on toys for young children so as you might expect, My Brother's Keeper always runs short on gifts for mothers.

This annual challenge has been a great opportunity for our volunteers to shine.

For years, several groups of women have taken the initiative to create wonderful hand-made gifts which will lift moms up and make them feel special. The picture to the right shows just a few examples: fleece wraps, knitted throws, and hand-sewn tote bags filled with soaps and lotions.

It's just one more example of Christian community in action. We each contribute our own special gifts, talents, and resources. Together we bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.



These gifts for mothers are hand-made by our volunteers and the packaging includes a thoughtful poem like this:

"May you always see God's love unfold
In simple kindness every day,
And find the grace within your heart,
To share His love along your way."

The Yawkey Foundation Makes Another Special Gift

Each year since 2010, The Yawkey Foundation has awarded My Brother's Keeper a \$75,000 grant in support of our Christmas Assistance Program...an extremely generous annual gift which helps us serve 3,000 families living throughout eastern Massachusetts each Christmas.

This year, the trustees of The Yawkey Foundation made an unprompted and unexpected decision: they chose to increase their Christmas grant to \$100,000 in light of our new Dartmouth facility which will enable us to serve more families now and in the coming years.

"We could not be more grateful to The



The Yawkey Foundation continues the philanthropic work begun by Tom and Jean Yawkey during their lifetimes. To date, the foundation has awarded more than 4,600 grants totaling \$430 million to nonprofits.

Yawkey Foundation for their incredible thoughtfulness and generosity," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper.

"We deeply appreciate their keen understanding that future growth requires additional support. It is not an exaggeration to say that My Brother's Keeper would not be the ministry we are today without the Yawkey Foundation's incredible support and partnership.

Since 1996, The Yawkey Foundation has donated and pledged more than \$2 million to My Brother's Keeper, including \$500,000 to our original 5-year Dartmouth expansion plan in 2012 and \$500,000 to the Dartmouth Building Project in 2017.

My Brother's Keeper Adds Two New Board Members

Two talented volunteers recently joined the My Brother's Keeper Development Board, a leadership group which helps our 100% privately-funded ministry generate the income we need to make 9,000 deliveries a year to local families in need.



Bill Suneson

Bill is co-founder of Next Generation Insurance Group and CEO of MyLifeProtected.

He grew up in Fall River and now lives in Bridgewater with his wife,

Joanne, and sons, Gus and Luke, both freshman at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. The Sunesons are part of St. Thomas Parish and have been long-time volunteers at My Brother's Keeper.

"The My Brother's Keeper community has been an important part of our family's spiritual growth and we've enjoyed volunteering with each other and many of our friends over the years," said Bill.

"We've always felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in the work being done and serving in this capacity is a real privilege."

In addition to his work of the My Brother's Keeper Development Board, Bill currently serves as President of the Professional Insurance Marketing Association (PIMA), the leading national industry group for affinity marketers.

He and Joanne are both graduates of Marquette, where Bill competed as an NCAA Division I tennis player.



John Higgins

John has more than 30 years of experience in finance and operations with companies servicing the high-tech, industrial, and analytical markets.

In 2012, John chose to transition into the nonprofit sector. He currently works as Director of Finance and Human Resources at Quincy After School Child Care and also as Controller for Innovative Engineering Solutions, Inc. in Walpole.

John and his wife, Janine, live in Bridgewater and are parishioners at St. Ann Parish in Raynham. They are also both active at the Holy Cross Retreat House in Easton.

John has volunteered at My Brother's Keeper for the last five years during Christmas and doing weekly furniture and food deliveries.

When asked about his interest in joining our Development Board, John said, "It's simple. I believe deeply in the mission of My Brother's Keeper and I want to use my God given talents to make a difference in other people's lives."

John is originally from West Virginia where he attended Wheeling Jesuit College.

“What can make a beautiful New England autumn day even more beautiful?” by Marty Reynolds



What can make a beautiful autumn day in New England even more beautiful?

Easy: bringing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to a young couple in need!

Mike and Stephanie recently had to move from their native

Midwest so that Stephanie could receive needed medical treatment in the Boston area. Mike is a disabled military veteran who suffered a bullet wound to his back while serving our country on active duty. The bullet that struck Mike is precariously lodged next to his spine in such a way that it could not be operated on and is still embedded in his back. As a result of his injury, Mike has difficulty walking, lifting, and climbing stairs.

Mike and Stephanie were able to secure an apartment in Norwood but had no living room or bedroom furniture and limited means to acquire these items for themselves. The couple was understandably overwhelmed. In addition to their medical needs, they lacked the basic necessities of a comfortable home and were all alone in a new area with no friends and relatives.

When Ryan Thorley, Director of the Easton facility, and I arrived for the delivery on a recent beautiful crisp fall day, we were immediately received with many warm and heartfelt thanks and we hadn't even started the delivery yet!

We got to work right away bringing in everything needed to create a warm cozy home including a sofa, recliner, end tables, desk and chair, dining room hutch with dimmable lights, bedroom dresser and mirror, nightstands, and of course a new bed and clean linens!

Despite Mike's disability, he offered as much assistance as possible, carrying pillows, drawers and cushions. He

was so excited he couldn't keep himself from joining in on the delivery in any way that he could.

We took the time to work with Mike and Stephanie to get everything set up just the way they wanted it. It was such a joy for them and for us as well. In the end, the once bare apartment looked great. The furniture pieces all matched nicely in color and texture, and the recliner was a big hit as Mike often experiences great discomfort sleeping at night in bed. He looked forward to that comfortable chair bringing him much needed relief.

Once everything was all set up, we all had a deep sense of satisfaction in “the final product.” Mike and Stephanie looked very relieved and couldn't thank us enough. At that moment we presented our customary final gift of the crucifix with the words, “We're just the delivery people, this is the man who sent you the furniture.” It was a very touching moment.

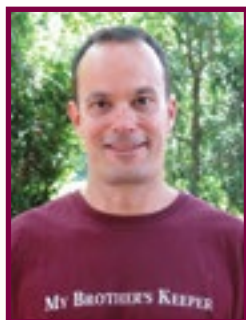
Mike said in a very quiet voice: “Wow. Thank you so much. Thank you so, so much.” Fighting back tears, Stephanie told us how much the crucifix reminded her of one she had been given by her grandfather but was lost somewhere in storage. What a wonderful moment of peace, and joy!

We said our final goodbyes and well-wishes, and received big hugs from the grateful couple. On our ride back to Easton we couldn't help but feel that we had left a beautiful couple in need with more hope than they had before we arrived. A beautiful autumn day just became more beautiful!



Marty Reynolds recently retired from Johnson & Johnson and volunteers weekly at My Brother's Keeper. He and his wife, Katherine, live in Mansfield.

Welcome Back, Jimmy Doulos!



Jimmy Doulos rejoined the My Brother's Keeper staff this fall after completing a two-year service project in Nicaragua as a member of the Peace Corps. His placement focused on helping to develop the small business sector on Ometepe Island, including teaching an entrepreneurial business course to high school seniors.

Jimmy worked as a member of our Easton staff from 2013 – 2015 in a direct service capacity leading furniture and food deliveries to local families in need. He was born in Milton and graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont.

Jimmy grew up in the restaurant business and was a chef in both Boston and San Francisco. His love of community volunteer work grew during his five years living abroad in Costa Rica where he helped organize many community education programs. Welcome home, Jimmy!

Upcoming Events

November

Monday, November 20th

Hungry Men Event
at Granite Links Golf Club,
Quincy **SOLD OUT!!!**

Friday, November 24th

27th Annual Gratitude Mass
7:00 PM, Easton Facility

December

Saturday, December 2nd

Christmas Volunteering Starts
Please call to schedule

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

Congratulations to Jean Comparetti of Canton, MA,
winner of our "Cruise or Cash" Raffle.



Special thanks to all who
participated and to our
Anonymous Prize Donor.

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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