



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

Along The Way

September 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."

A Father's Day By Richard Staiti, father of staff member Andrew Staiti



Richard Staiti of Canton proudly serving alongside his son, Andrew, a 2014 Stonehill grad. Andrew joined the My Brother's Keeper staff in 2015 after serving for one year as a Franciscan Volunteer in Camden, NJ.

When I reported to My Brother's Keeper on a Wednesday in June, I saw many new young faces: a dozen students from BC High and the University of Notre Dame, two summer interns, and two Holy Cross seminarians joining the assortment of regulars.

After the trucks were loaded, we said a morning prayer along with some introductions. It always makes me smile to be introduced simply as "Andrew's Dad." More so I guess during the week after Father's Day.

Our crew only had one delivery but it was a big one. As my son parked the box truck at a large complex in downtown Brockton, I spotted a man wearing a black Red Sox cap waiting with the enthusiasm of a kid on Christmas morning. His name was Dennis and he looked about 60 years old.

Dennis' apartment was clean but barren of furniture. There was a small stool in his kitchen and some sort of TV tray. He told us matter-of-factly that a used mattress on the floor had served as his bed for some time.

With the able help of the younger volunteers, we unloaded the truck and set up a complete kitchen set, a large living room sofa along with a coffee table, end table and TV table, as well as his brand new bed. By the time we were done, this quiet man was overcome by our gifts.

At one point during the delivery, Andrew pointed out to me a triangular wooden box on top of Dennis' fridge. Beside it was a small memorial card with the picture of a soldier on top of a tiny holder. There was nothing else around it.

I went out to the truck to make sure we did not leave any items behind and as I was coming back inside, our group was already filing out. Andrew had found just the right time to give Dennis the crucifix and our message, "We're just the delivery people. The furniture is from Him." He was very grateful and deeply touched.

I asked Andrew for a minute so I could go back to say good bye too. When I came around the corner, I saw Dennis looking up at the fridge, as if he was talking to the card. Our eyes met and I asked if the picture on the fridge was of his son. He nodded and allowed me to look at the tiny Mass card and to read the words etched on the wooden box containing the American Flag.

"Sgt. Dennis P. *** Jr., United States Army, died on March 22, 2012 saving the life of a young girl. He made the ultimate sacrifice to save the life of another during Operation Enduring Freedom."**

Dennis Jr. left behind a wife, two small children, and another on the way. I could only imagine Dennis Sr.'s grief.

"I told my son I would look after them but I couldn't even look after myself," he said to me in a low voice through water-filled eyes. "But today, with all these things, I feel like I have a chance now; a chance to start over and be like a father again."

After tearing up myself, I took a breath and told Dennis that God gives us all second chances. "I am honored to meet you and, in a small way, to be able to help a man whose son made the ultimate sacrifice." Then I shook his hand and gave him a hug. I told him I would pray for him and ask God to bless him. Then I just said to him, "You are always a father...that never ends."

What a special gift for me so close to Father's Day... to have the privilege of serving Dennis alongside my own son, Andrew.

[Note: Dennis Jr.'s last name omitted to protect Dennis Sr.'s confidentiality as a recipient of our services]



SPECIAL RAFFLE INSERT **Cruise or Cash!**

7-Day Boston-to-Bermuda Cruise, or \$3,000 Cash

It's your choice! Prize Donated in Full. 100% of Proceeds Benefit My Brother's Keeper



Technicians from Soil Exploration Corp. drill test borings on our Dartmouth site in preparation for the building's foundation.



Brian Barry from Atlantic Earthworks builds a stabilized construction entrance.



Dartmouth Building Project Update *Site Work Begins!!!*

We've made great progress on our building project in Dartmouth this summer and work preparing the site for construction has officially begun!

Since our last newsletter in June, we have:

- **Hired a construction manager to supervise the project,** Richard Troland from R. Troland Construction Management in East Freetown
- **Received permits from the Town of Dartmouth**
- **Made a \$25,000 deposit on the pre-engineered steel building to get on the manufacturer's production schedule and guarantee an October delivery date**
- **Hired a site contractor, Brian Barry of Atlantic Earthworks in Norwell**
- **Received additional commitments of in-kind donations such as commercial refrigeration from Northeast Distributors, the prayer room window from Custom Stained Glass, site work from Atlantic Earthworks, engineering services from Dubin Engineering, Morse Engineering, Rivermore Engineering, Wozny, Barbar, & Associates, and A&E Fire Protection**
- **Secured interim financing from Mutual Bank in Whitman to assist with project cash flow**

In terms of a construction timeline, our goal is to complete site preparation in early September, pour the foundation immediately afterwards, and erect the building in October and November so interior work can continue during the winter months.

As you may remember, the lease on our current Dartmouth facility ends on June 30, 2017. Our goal remains to complete construction by June 1, 2017.

On the fundraising front, we've also made strong progress. Our Capital Campaign Committee is up and running, helping to raise project awareness and solicit donations.

We recently received two donations of note: an anonymous local foundation pledged \$500,000 (\$100,000 for 5 years) and BayCoast Bank in Swansea pledged \$50,000 (\$10,000 for 5 years).

To date, we have raised \$1.5 million in financial and in-kind donations, 45% of our goal.

In late September, we will mail a Capital Campaign appeal to everyone in our community giving you the opportunity to support this historic project.

Many individuals and organizations have given us a great start through leadership gifts.

We hope you will support the effort too as generously as you are able.

Special Thanks to Our Capital Campaign Committee

Deacon Brian Kean, Co-Chair
Executive Vice President, WinnResidential

James Orcutt, Co-Chair
Co-Founder and President Emeritus

David Blumberg
Senior Vice President, WinnResidential

Edward Casey
Treasurer, Massa Products Corporation

Edward and Dawn D'Alelio
My Brother's Keeper volunteers

Greg and Katie Everett
Owner, Kenny's Lock and
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Stephen P. Gund
President, The Gund Company

Timothy and Judy Heffernan
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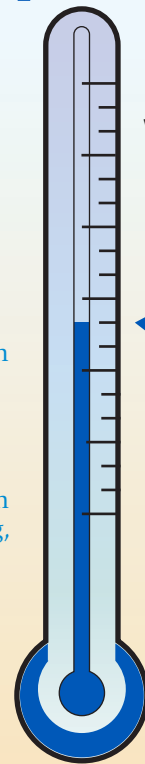
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Deloitte Consulting LLP

Goal
\$3.4 M



Raised
\$1.5 M



Official Groundbreaking Ceremony



Thursday, September 15th at 10:30am
Parking at 999 Reed Road, Dartmouth

If attending, please RSVP to Vin Shea at vshea@mybrotherskeeper.org
Visit website for more information

A Ministry of Service and Education *by Jim Orcutt*

My Brother's Keeper is a "teaching ministry." We provide students with insights into the daily challenges faced by those we serve for Christ and their faith that sustains them.

Recently, three Stonehill graduates on their way to the Dominican Republic, Marisa, Sofia and Haela approached me and said, "Jim, we're going on your van." Along with Brenda, one of our food pantry volunteers, we headed for Brockton to deliver groceries to the nine families on our route.

I explained the My Brother's Keeper motto as we headed for the first delivery, "We carry furniture and food, but we deliver Hope."

As we headed for Simone's apartment, I noticed a note on the delivery slip, "Please send laundry detergent, hand soap and extra food if possible. I am caring for my five grandkids."

When we arrived at the house, Simone was pulling her trash containers up the driveway to the curb. Piling out of the van, she greeted us with a big smile, "Hi Jim! I haven't seen you for a while. How's Beth? I love talking to her when I call for food."

Chatting as we went, we followed Simone up the narrow stairs to her 2nd floor apartment. Entering her kitchen, we were immediately impressed with the cleanliness and neatness of Simone's home. "You keep a beautiful home," I told her.

Simone responded with a big smile and replied, "Oh please, come and see how I've done my living room."

Standing in her living room, I noticed a small framed picture of the Blessed Mother and Jesus. I commented, "Simone, that's such a lovely picture."

"Oh, I'm so happy you like it too!" she replied. "I saw it in the store and fell in love with it. But, with all the things I needed, I didn't have enough money to purchase it. So, I put the toilet paper back on the shelf so I would be able to buy it."

After hugs all around, we headed back to the van.

Before moving on to the next delivery, I said to the students, "Can you believe Simone? Here's a grandmother caring for her grandchildren. She didn't have money for extra food or even soap for the kids to wash their hands. Yet, Simone put the toilet paper back on the shelf so she could buy a picture of Mary and Jesus."

Then, I asked, "What could we ever hope to teach Simone about faith? We can only learn about faith from her."

Left to right, Stonehill grads Marisa Adams, Haela Booth-Howe, and Sofia Przybylek spent an afternoon volunteering with Jim Orcutt before leaving for a year of service in the Dominican Republic through Stonehill Service Corps.



With all the food delivered, we stopped for ice cream on the way back to My Brother's Keeper.

Excited, these dedicated young women chatted about our afternoon in the community. They reminisced about how open and happy the children were as they peeked into the foods boxes and squealed in delight, "Cookies...and applesauce!"

They recalled the number of homes we visited that had a My Brother's Keeper crucifix on the wall or over the door.

Then Haela, the Stonehill College graduate from Scarborough, Maine, summed it up by saying what we were all feeling: "I was struck by how faith filled the people are..."

I reminded these dedicated, faith-filled Stonehill graduates that whether they were serving in Brockton, or in the Dominican Republic, the My Brother's Keeper reflection holds true.

"To the extent that is true that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive, it is equally true that it is more difficult to receive than it is to give. The gift that those we serve for Christ give to us is their humble acceptance of our help."

Once again we had learned that God will not be outdone in generosity. Whether we go into the neighborhoods or into the world, when we spread the love and hope of Christ, we are filled to overflowing with the love that we had planned to give away.

"When you find yourself in need of spiritual nourishment, it is in the opportunities to serve others that you will find the abundance you seek."
- Steve Maraboli

New England Patriots Charitable Foundation Honors Jim Orcutt & My Brother's Keeper



Jim Orcutt receives the 2016 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award from Patriots owner, Bob Kraft, at Gillette Stadium.

The New England Patriots Charitable Foundation named Jim Orcutt one of 26 recipients of the 2016 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award.

To honor Mrs. Kraft's life of service, the award celebrates people throughout New England who exemplify leadership, dedication, and commitment to volunteerism.

In conjunction with the award, My Brother's Keeper received a \$10,000 donation from the Patriots Foundation which will support our Dartmouth building project.

Jim was nominated for the award by the My Brother's Keeper staff who wrote: "One of Jim's greatest strengths has been his willingness to 'turn over the reins' of leadership to others as My Brother's Keeper has matured, helping to ensure the charity's continued success. As President Emeritus, Jim currently serves as a board member, gives talks at schools, churches and civic groups, helps with fundraising, lends a kind ear to volunteers who are struggling, and his favorite role: sharing the joy of service with student-volunteers out on deliveries."

The Ripple Effect of Goodness

My Brother's Keeper is about so much more than delivering furniture and food to local families in need. As a Christian ministry, God blesses us with countless opportunities to bring His Love and Hope to volunteers, visitors, and all we encounter. They, in turn, carry our mission near and far... sometimes even around the world!

We received this thank you note from Shannon Grady, a junior at Providence College who volunteers at our Dartmouth facility (wearing pink fleece below). She and Meghan O'Connor, another My Brother's Keeper volunteer, served at an orphanage in South Africa this summer through the Father Philip A Smith, O.P., Fellowship for Study and Service Abroad.



Dear Josh,

I cannot believe six weeks in South Africa has already come to an end. Thank you again for being such an integral part of my getting to Africa. Your very kind letter of recommendation helped me to ultimately be selected for the Smith Fellowship. You have really supplied me with so much more though. Without having spent the last 2 school years volunteering at My Brother's Keeper, I don't think I would have taken on the responsibility to carry the love and hope of Jesus Christ around the world.

As I was trying to think of something to get you to show my appreciation, I became stuck. There were many souvenirs I could have purchased for you in Durban but none of them felt right. Instead I did something different to show my gratitude. On one of our last days, I gave my "My Brother's Keeper crucifix" to the director of the orphanage that we volunteered at each afternoon. Along with the crucifix, Meghan and I gave him the extra \$300 (around 6000 rand) that he so desperately needed to pay the electricity bill at the children's home. We assured him that this gift was not from us but it was really from the man on the cross - He just used us as His delivery people.

I thought you would appreciate knowing the impact that My Brother's Keeper has on its volunteers is so strong that it makes its way across the world! I know this matters to you more than any little trinket I could pick out for you.

Thanks so much again,
Shannon

Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Visits My Brother's Keeper

In July, My Brother's Keeper hosted a tour and Q&A session for 25 men and women participating in the Mandela Washington Fellowship at Bridgewater State University. It's a six-week academic and leadership institute for young African leaders with established records of promoting positive change in their communities.

The impact of a short visit to our Easton facility was powerful. One participant, Pritee Auckllo from the island-nation of Mauritius, called it "a highlight of her time in the United States."

Another visitor, Hadja Seck from Senegal, told us, "I have been planning to start a program to help street children in my country but I've gotten cold feet. Visiting My Brother's Keeper has shown me what's possible and it's given me the courage to move forward."



Our Formula for Fundraising Success...

My Brother's Keeper hosted two fundraisers this summer exactly 30 days apart: our Family Walk on June 18th and our Golf Tourney on July 18th. Together, they raised more than \$300,000 to serve local families in need— incredible! — but that's just one part of our formula for fundraising success.

Even more important than raising money, our events build community by bringing people together and welcoming them to the My Brother's Keeper family. We always include a "mission moment" so guests feel inspired and more connected to our work. We hope they leave saying, "Wow! What a special place... I'm so happy to be involved!"



7th Annual Family Walk

God blessed us once again with perfect weather. 850 walkers and volunteers came together to celebrate faith, friendship, and family fun led by 'Team Gary' with 30 members. (top right)

The morning began with a prayer service led by Deacon Brian Kean, co-chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, and included a 'mission moment' by Steve Gund from St. Louis, Missouri. Steve attended the University of Notre Dame with Erich Miller and took a week's vacation in June to volunteer with two of his kids, 17-year old Caitlyn and 11-year old Luke.

At the prayer service, Luke Gund read from the Gospel of Matthew: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he sells all that he has and buys that field."

As a reflection, his father Steve shared a delivery they made to a woman named America. She escaped her

country's civil war and worked for two decades as a nanny in New York. When the children in her care grew up, she found herself without a job or a home and moved to Fall River to be near relatives.

Steve said, "That hour with America felt like the treasure had been found. We listened. We shared stories. We helped turn a cold floor into a warm and inviting home. We helped find a spot on her wall for the Crucifix we gave her and spent five minutes sharing one hug after another. This, I imagine, was the kingdom of heaven on earth. It was unconditional, selfless love filled with hope for a better tomorrow. Wow, what an experience. What a lifelong treasure! And even more incredibly, I got to experience this treasure with my family and several student-volunteers. These are lessons of a lifetime and may be the only lessons that really matter."



10th Annual Golf Tourney

The 10th Annual Golf Tourney at Foxborough Country Club was sold out, as always, and we celebrated an incredible accomplishment at this year's event: \$1,000,000 raised in total by the golf tourney!

For the 'mission moment,' Erich Miller gave an update on the Dartmouth building project and shared part of a thank you note from a woman named Karen: "When I got my first food delivery, I cried with joy. I was absolutely floored not just by the sheer volume but also the quality and the healthy choices. You have truly made a huge difference in my life and in the world. I can't tell you how much it means to me that you express your faith by helping those of us who need help. I believe that is what Jesus preached and wants from people."

The golf tourney is largely supported by members of the construction industry. Many attendees have generously pledged to support our Dartmouth building project, including Superior Plumbing & HVAC, Queally Plumbing, Plumb House, Northeast Distributors, Emerson Swan, FW Webb, Moen, and MacDonald Cabinet & Countertop. Collectively, their donations of materials and professional services will save My Brother's Keeper more than \$275,000.

Special thanks to our Golf Tourney committee: Bill Lane Sr. (Chair), John Anderson, Jack Carroll, Heather Gallagher, Bill Lane Jr., Eileen McDonough, Erich Miller, Frank Monroe, Jim and Terry Orcutt, Glen Schlager, and Vin Shea.





2016 Family Walk and Golf Tournament Sponsors

Thank you to our 2016 sponsors who helped make these events the most successful yet!

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My Brother's Keeper

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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