

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."

"When will you start taking calls this year?"



Stores put out Christmas items earlier each year but it doesn't compare to how early we hear from families in need. In July and August, we typically field the first inquiries about our Christmas Assistance Program: *"When will you start taking calls this year?"*

Hearing this question when it's 90 degrees outside highlights the stress parents feel. They love their kids so much and want them to be happy on Christmas morning.

My Brother's Keeper will serve more than 3,000 families this Christmas— 12,000 children and parents! It's an extraordinary undertaking but in keeping with our mission, each family's request is a personal, loving conversation with our intake staff and volunteers.

Who are these parents who reach out to us for help? Here are just a few of their stories...

- Corinne from Brockton who's been in a shelter the last three years and recently got housing. She burst into tears when we answered the phone. "I feel so blessed to be getting this help. I really need it."
- Melinda, a first-time caller from Quincy. When we asked for a gift idea for her, she replied, "Oh! No one's ever asked me that before!" She didn't want a gift for herself but said OK when we pointed out that her kids would love to see her open a present.
- Laurie from Boston who we've helped before. She'd gotten back on her feet in recent years but there was a fire in her building. Thankfully, everyone was OK but it set her family back financially.
- Danielle and her husband Mike from Fall River who bought beds for their sons but they sleep on rented living room furniture. She said, "I'm so glad I got through to you today. My three boys are eating us out of house and home and money is so tight. This really made my day." (In addition to promising Christmas help, we also delivered furniture.)
- Marina from Chelsea, another first-time caller who cried when we said hello. She's a single mom with 4 kids and was thrilled to know all our Christmas

deliveries come with a \$50 supermarket gift card. As she hung up, she said, "Thank you, Jesus, thank you!"

These are just some of our sisters and brothers who call My Brother's Keeper in their time of need. It is our sincere privilege to serve them in Christ's name at this most holy time of the year. What better gift could we give our Savior to celebrate His birth?... He who said, "Whatever you do for the most humble of my people, you do for me."

This wonderful Christmas effort brings so much joy and goodness into the world. You can be a part of it by returning 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 7:00 pm.

My Brother's Keeper 26th Annual Gratitude Mass

Friday, November 25th 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: Fr. Tim Mouton, CSC
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.



Update: Dartmouth Building Project

Architecture and Design

Wessling Architects has provided leadership and coordination of final work by our engineers. The Wessling team also created a rendering of the new facility to help us envision what the building will look like when completed.



Site Work

Brian Barry and his staff at Atlantic Earthworks in Norwell built a stabilized construction entrance, installed erosion control, cleared the site, stripped the topsoil, excavated the foundation, and built the retention basin.



Foundation and Footings

To strengthen our ties to the South Coast business community, we're using local vendors as much as possible. Rebar was provided by Whaling City Iron Co. in New Bedford. The footings and foundation were installed by P&D Concrete Construction in Assonet using 275 cubic yards of concrete purchased from L&S Industries in New Bedford.



Pre-Engineered Steel Building

The steel was delivered by Barnes Building in mid-October and erection began on November 14th. Installation will take approximately 6-8 weeks. Weather permitting, the building should be closed in by the end of December or mid-January allowing interior work to continue during winter.



On September 15th, we held a joyous Groundbreaking Ceremony attended by 175 volunteers and supporters.

Jim Orcutt, as co-founder, offered remarks on how gratifying it is for he and Terry to see the mission of My Brother's Keeper grow and touch more lives in Christ's name— both those we serve and those who serve with us.

Erich Miller, president, provided details on the construction project and thanked the many supporters who have made this historic effort possible.

Josh Smith, director of the Dartmouth facility, talked about the

future impact of the facility when completed: we will be able to launch Food and Christmas Assistance Programs on the South Coast and deliveries there will triple within 3 years.

Most importantly, Deacon Brian Kean, co-chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, blessed the land and consecrated it for service to the poor in Christ's name.

Fundraising for the new facility continues to be strong: \$2,000,000 has been raised towards the total project cost of \$3,400,000— 60% of our goal. If you have not already done so, please consider making your gift today. Multi-year pledges are welcomed and deeply appreciated.

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 building 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. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
2. Comforter Sets (twin & queen)
3. Anything "Princess"
4. Winter Coats
5. Video Games
6. Legos
7. Cologne and Perfume Gift Sets
8. Art Supplies / Arts & Crafts
9. Ride-on toys / Infant toys
10. Action Figures



Questions? Call 508-238-7512

"What You Are Doing Is Truly Something Special"

The beauty of our Christmas Program is the way it touches the lives of those who serve with us too... even people from around the globe. Here's an email we recently received from Joe O'Connor from New Zealand.

He was in Massachusetts last year coaching field hockey at Holy Cross.



Hi Guys! Not sure if you will remember a New Zealand field hockey coach called Joe, but that's me! I helped out a little bit last year at the Keeper in Easton around early-mid December with the Christmas deliveries!

I'm back home now that my time in the States is over, and I suddenly realized that after all this time I had never got in touch to say what amazing work you guys do. Honestly it was an incredible experience to be a part of, even for just a week or so. The difference you make in other's lives is genuinely heartwarming. Seeing the faces of the kids when we delivered their Christmas parcels, and even more so, the faces and gratitude of the mothers and fathers was

something I've never really experienced before, and it showed the difference a person can make in someone's life with a few presents, a song, a hug and a smile.

There were too many amazing people I met to name, but guys like Erich and Ryan who ran things so smoothly and calmly, John who encouraged us to sing (haha!), Andrew who is roughly the same age as me but is doing so much good work, and Vin who was the first person who greeted me when I arrived and I had no idea what I was doing! All these people, and everyone else I met, what you are doing is something truly special. Thanks for making me feel so welcome!

Thanks for letting me be a part of the tremendous work you guys do. I hope someday I can find a way to help people the way you all do! God bless and hope you are all well!



Walmart Public Affairs Director Chris Buchanan presents a \$25,000 check to My Brother's Keeper from the Walmart Foundation to provide emergency food assistance to local families in need.

With the grant, My Brother's Keeper will be able to complete more than 1,200 food deliveries to 5,000 residents of Brockton and Easton.

In total, that's 25,000 meals to members of the community who are struggling to feed themselves and their families!

Dr. Margaret “Peg” Kenney Leaves a Legacy



Do you ever think about leaving a legacy and making your mark on something you care deeply about?

Dr. Margaret “Peg” Kenney did just that. She was a faithful friend of the ministry who passed away on July 5th at the age of 81. Peg kindly and generously remembered My Brother’s Keeper in her will by donating the balance of her TIAA-CREF retirement account. In addition, Peg’s

family requested that donations be made to My Brother’s Keeper to celebrate her life in lieu of flowers.

Between Peg’s estate gift and memorial donations, My Brother’s Keeper received more than \$46,000 in combined contributions!

These funds will be used, first and foremost, to help local families in need. A portion will also be directed to our Dartmouth Building Project which will have a lasting effect on generations

of families— both those we serve and those who serve with us.

In addition to leaving a legacy gift, Peg was a monthly donor to My Brother’s Keeper for nearly 20 years. Her commitment to and deep support of our work was an extension of her life of service. Peg was an innovative, passionate mathematics educator to thousands of Boston College students over her remarkable 60-year career. As you might imagine, she had a special fondness for the way we are a ‘ministry of education’ and include so many students in our work.

Thank you, Peg, and God bless you. You will always be remembered in our daily prayers.

For more information on making an estate gift to My Brother’s Keeper or to notify us of a bequest already in place, please contact Vin Shea at 508-238-7512.

“We are all givers & receivers of God’s love and hope...”

By Stephanie Ferreira, East Providence, RI



Stephanie Ferreira began volunteering in 2015 after learning about our ministry at her parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bristol, RI. Despite her busy schedule working full-time as a hair dresser and taking evening classes at Providence College, Stephanie makes time to volunteer at our Dartmouth facility on a weekly basis.

Wednesdays are my favorite day of the week because I have the pleasure of volunteering at My Brother’s Keeper. For me, this means keeping the spirit of Christmas alive throughout the year. This spirit is one of giving and receiving God’s Love and Hope. It is reflected in the staff, the volunteers, the donors, and especially those we serve.

A few weeks ago, I had yet another beautiful experience of this revolving circle of giving and receiving God’s love during our furniture delivery to a man named William.

As soon as we arrived at the apartment building run by the New Bedford Housing Authority, William greeted us warmly. He had been sitting outside in a folding camping chair waiting for us.

Although William was only in his early fifties, he leaned heavily on his cane as he led the way to his apartment. He was clearly in discomfort from walking, nevertheless, he continued to express his gratitude and excitement for our help.

Once we entered his apartment, a familiar scene greeted us: not a single item of furniture graced his apartment like I had seen on several previous deliveries. William explained that he had been homeless for the past five years. In 2011, he fell off scaffolding while installing vinyl siding and suffered a horrible leg injury which left him disabled. As a result, he could not

work and had to survive on just \$750 a month from SSI.

He was so happy to recently get a subsidized apartment. Although he had already paid his rent, he was unable to move in because he had no furniture. I felt all the more enthusiastic to start unloading the truck with his new belongings.

We quickly got to work. Out of his gratitude, William insisted on helping us bring the furniture up to his apartment. As we carried the items in, William would find a proper place for each. Soon we had the majority delivered, including a bed, dresser, kitchen set, couch, coffee table, and arm chair. William was exhausted and needed to rest his leg. He walked over to the chair and sat down with a sigh, closed his eyes and said, “I’m home!”

Just two simple words but in that moment, I realized how important this delivery was to him. For five years William did not have a place to call his own, something I have never been without. I can only imagine what those five years of homelessness were like. Finally, he had the peace of mind of once again coming home.

At the end of the delivery, we presented William with our last gift, the crucifix. It is a reminder that the furniture is not from us, the staff and volunteers, but from Jesus who works through people. When William received the crucifix, our simple act of bringing him furniture was transformed into a delivery of love and hope. He sincerely thanked us for this final gift and asked us to join him in a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing of his new home.

As we joined hands in a circle to pray, I could not help but be aware that my faith was being strengthened through William’s story. This prayer circle was symbolic of how we are all givers and receivers of God’s love and hope.

Laborers for the Harvest by Jim Orcutt, Co-Founder



Last Friday the “master of the harvest” sent a new “laborer,” George Dhionis, a first-time volunteer from Marblehead. We did four furniture deliveries from our Dartmouth facility, two in New Bedford and two in Fall River.

Three of the families had recently been in a homeless shelter and were now living in sparsely furnished apartments. We brought beds and kitchen tables, pans to cook their meals, and dishes to put their food on. Common, everyday items that we all take for granted. But for them, to be without these simple items is a constant reminder of their poverty.

Amazingly, we did not encounter any bitterness from the families about their circumstances, only gratitude that “we have a roof over our head” or “it’s so good just to have a place of our own.”

Our last delivery was to “Carlos.” The address indicated that he lived in a basement apartment in the rear of the house. Searching, we couldn’t find the entrance to his apartment. We then saw a cement ramp that went beneath the house. We had to bend at the waist to get under the low overhang.

Once inside what felt like a cave, we found a long passageway leading to a door. At our knock, a young man

opened the door and greeted us, “Hi, I’m Carlos.”

There were two rooms. The only furniture was a small couch. A sweet young girl, perhaps three years old, stared at us. She seemed to have some developmental issues and she was cross-eyed making it appear as if she were looking elsewhere. Carlos’ pregnant wife, Crystal was asleep on the floor among a pile of blankets.

Gospel LK 10: 1-9

The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.’”

Carlos immediately offered to help as we brought in a full bed for him and his wife and a twin bed for the little girl. By the time we brought a dresser, kitchen set and boxes of kitchen items and linens, Crystal was up and sitting on the couch. She was very quiet, clearly embarrassed by her meager circumstances.

I looked at George and knew he was thinking and feeling the same thing I felt. “These are nice people and their circumstances are so humble.

I wish we could do more.”

In Luke 10:9, Jesus instructs his disciples to “Say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.’” I said, “Carlos, may we offer a blessing for your home?” With that, Carlos’ face lit up. “Yes, please, that would be great!” Pointing up, he said, “We always depend on Jesus.”

On our drive back to My Brother’s Keeper, George said, “I have never seen anything like what I’ve experienced today. I will definitely be back.” And so he was... the very next Friday.

Words of Thanks

My Brother’s Keeper sends a follow up survey to all furniture recipients to ask for feedback on the help we provide. Wanda’s comments affirm that we are serving with dignity, respect, and love in keeping with our mission:

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 very grateful for the furniture that you have provided for me and my girls. With out your help I don't know where I would be. Your staff was so kind friendly and funny as well. When they presented me with the crucifix I was in tears full of love and kindness it made me feel so cared for. So Thank you so very much for your kindness keep up the great work.

NAME (Optional): Wanda

TOWN (Optional): Dorchester MASS

Upcoming Events



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

November

Monday, November 21st

Hungry Men Event
at Granite Links Golf Club,
Quincy

Friday, November 25th

25th Annual Gratitude Mass
7:00 PM, Easton Facility

December

Saturday, December 3rd

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 James Lane Sr. of Swamscott 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.

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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