

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 size and scope of the My Brother's Keeper Christmas Program is remarkable for a 100% privately-funded charity with just 14 staff.

Here are some interesting facts about our 2019 Christmas Assistance Program:

We served a record 3,209 families this past Christmas — 13,140 children and adults!

The families we served live in more than 100 communities all over eastern Massachusetts ranging from Haverhill, Lawrence, and Topsfield south to Fall River, New Bedford, Eastham, and Wellfleet.

A total of 6,700 'shoppers' wrapped gifts at our Easton and Dartmouth facilities. Several hundred more volunteers helped with tasks such as quality control, sorting donations, resupplying racks and shelves, answering phones, loading trucks, making deliveries, and providing hospitality.

We started taking calls for Christmas help on Tuesday, September 2nd, the day after Labor Day. Our last request was from a 24-year-old man who came to our Easton facility on Christmas Eve looking for help. His mom passed away from cancer in December and he asked for presents for his younger brothers and sisters. How could we not say 'yes'?

All this goodness was accomplished in just 20 days! Because Thanksgiving was so late, we began our Christmas effort on December 5th this year vs. December 2nd last year.

As impressive as these numbers are, our mission is accomplished one family, one delivery at a time. The words of this 60-year-old grandmother who has custody of her grandkids assures us we are getting the job done for our more humble brothers and sisters. There's no better way to celebrate Jesus' birth!

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! Your organization made sure my 2 grandsons had a great Christmas! You even provided gifts for me!! I'm really speechless. I hope next year I am in a position to help you help others!!

God bless you and have a wonderful New Year!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

-Denise



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 the special reply card attached.



The Joy of Service

In addition to serving families in need, My Brother's Keeper enriches the lives of our volunteers—those who come to be a part of our work and live out God's call to be our brother's and sister's keeper. It is our great privilege to be such an important part of many people's Christmas traditions.



Rachel Lynch and her fiancé, Paul Martin, each took a week of vacation to volunteer together this Christmas.

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

As my chapter of this Christmas program comes to an end, I'd like to share my experience with you. This is my second-year volunteering and delivering gifts. It's always so bittersweet having to say goodbye until next December. All of you at the keeper hold a very special place in my heart. Everyone here has a smile bright and early in the morning, ready to start their days, and give back to their community. It's such a pleasure watching everyone give their time to help strangers. I am so thankful that I can be part of this community.

When delivering gifts, I often hear "you all are amazing." I'm flattered to hear this and little do they know

they are amazing to me. I have cried (happy tears of course), laughed, heard personal stories, and was welcomed with open arms into these family's homes. Most have been through so much or were going through something personally. It's amazing to see that despite everything they were dealing with, they were so grateful and happy because of the love and hope My Brother's Keeper shared with them.

Growing up Christmas was always so magical. The tree, the lights, the decorations, and of course the presents. Knowing that these children will get to enjoy the same magic I did makes me incredibly happy. Thank you for opening your arms, letting me get to know you, and being able to call you my friends. Finally, one of my favorite quotes is by Audrey Hepburn. "As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, and one for helping others."

Rachel Lynch, Somerset

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

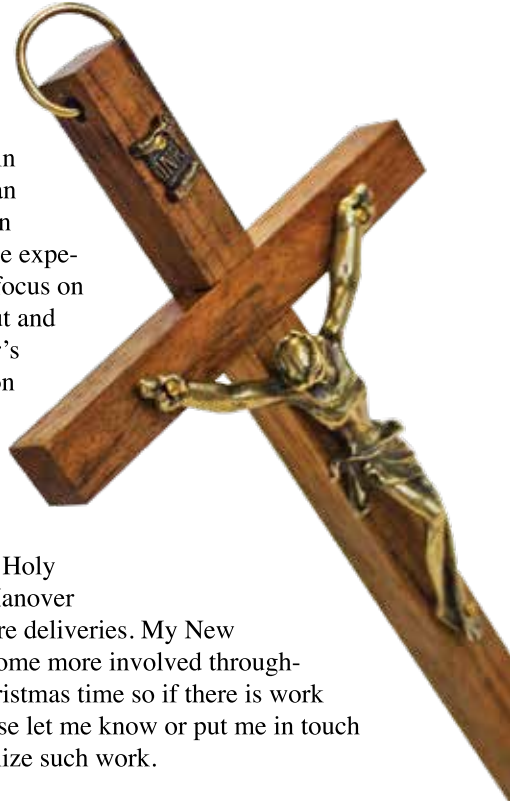
This Christmas season was very special for my wife Mary and I because for the first time we volunteered on several occasions at My Brother's Keeper. Our only regret is that we did not discover your organization until this year. Having attended the Gratitude Mass after Thanksgiving we committed to getting involved as much as we could. We adopted a family, wrapped presents on several occasions, helped in dispatch, joined in the clean up some evenings and even made deliveries. The whole experience really helped us to focus on what the season is all about and the mission of My Brother's Keeper certainly focuses on the work of Jesus being the reason for the season!

I first learned about your organization last spring as part of the Men's group at Holy Mother Collaborative in Hanover when we did some furniture deliveries. My New Year's resolution is to become more involved throughout the year not just at Christmas time so if there is work to be done in January please let me know or put me in touch with the people who organize such work.

In the meantime please accept our most sincere gratitude for the opportunities you provided for us this past season. Our very best wishes to you, your family and all at MBK for a very Merry Christmas and the happiest and most successful of New Years!

With grateful appreciation!

Joe and Mary Rull, Hanover



I wanted to say thank you again for having us to My Brother's Keeper today. This was our third year coming to volunteer and I can honestly say each year gets better and better. My boys have been looking forward to this day for weeks now, and I know that on Christmas morning they will be thinking of the families we wrapped for, wondering if they loved each toy we carefully picked out. It is hard to truly show kids what it means to be kind and to give them a chance to be cheerful givers, and this experience has become one of our favorite holiday traditions. We look forward to many more years at MBK. Merry Christmas and thank you.

Kerry, Patrick, and Jack O'Connor, Hingham





A Grandmother's Love

By Rebecca Merkel
Stonehill Service Corps

I met Carla while delivering Christmas gifts in Dorchester on a beautiful Tuesday morning. She was the last stop on our route and she welcomed us into her home with open arms. Her apartment was small; there appeared to be a modest living room, a kitchen without a table, and one bedroom off the kitchen. There were boxes and totes everywhere and she seemed embarrassed. She politely asked us to set the bags of gifts on the floor.

"We're moving in two days," she explained. "We" referred to herself and her five grandkids. Carla explained: "I raised all of them by myself because my children couldn't take care of them." She has put her life on hold ever since to provide for her family and she expressed her gratitude for the Christmas gifts.

"I was worried you wouldn't call before we moved and we would miss out on our gifts." When we asked where she was moving, Carla said, "My prayers have been answered!" The state found a house for her to raise her grandkids, two hours away from their current apartment and far outside our delivery zone. Her eyes lit up as she explained, "I no longer need to worry about transportation. The school is down the road from our home, the church is right across the street, and the grocery store is in walking distance." Carla continued: "I am happy I'll be able to raise my grandkids in a safer neighborhood."

God's love is showcased each and every day and on this particular Tuesday, He was present. He ensured Carla's gifts would arrive before the move and her radiance of love and hope for her grandkids and their future gave us goosebumps. With hugs and well-wishes, we left knowing good people with truly good intentions remain in the world. We had the privilege to serve one in Carla.



That's My Name Too

By Michelle Byrne
Administrative Program Associate

The call began like the dozens I had taken before it, "Good morning, My Brother's Keeper." I heard soft crying on the other end of the line. "Hello...this is My Brother's Keeper." The voice replied, "You answered. You really answered." I could hear the relief and desperation in her voice.

"I have been in recovery for three years and I just got custody of my children back. This is the first Christmas in three years that we will be back together. I just started a job, but won't get paid until after the holiday. I have nothing to give my children for Christmas..."

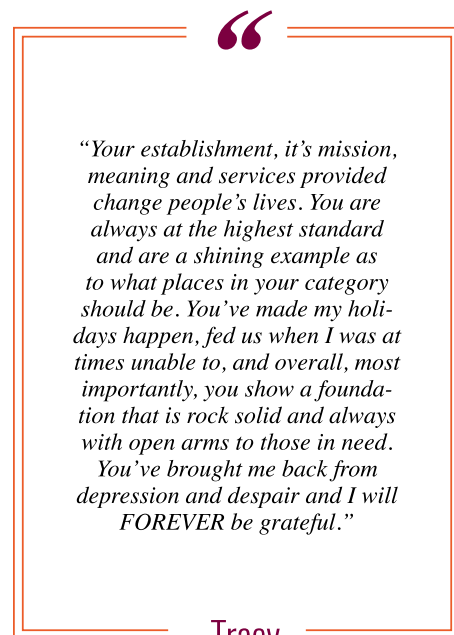
I felt a knot develop in my throat. She told me her name was Michelle and I felt the connection. "That's my name too," I replied. I knew that I was meant to answer her call that day.

I took down her full name and asked for her address. She told me that she lived in Dorchester when we helped her before, but now lives in Topsfield, a city well north of Boston. I was not sure if we would be able to deliver Christmas gifts that far away and get to her in time. I explained that I needed to check with our dispatch crew to see if this was possible. I checked her phone number again and promised that I would call her back within ten minutes.

As I anxiously walked back to the dispatch area I said a quick prayer. "Dear God, let us find a way to help Michelle and her children for Christmas." When I asked about the possibility of delivering these gifts, there wasn't the slightest hesitation. We have a volunteer willing to go the distance. Amazing! Someone was willing to travel to a family over 60 miles away from our Easton facility. My heart skipped a beat! I rushed back to the office to make the call.

"We can do it! We will be able to help your family with Christmas gifts this year!" By the time I got these last words out, we were both crying. I felt God at work during that phone call. This mom had been praying, calling, reaching out for help for her family. God heard her prayer, gave me the privilege to answer the call and sent a volunteer willing to make this long distance delivery. So blessed to witness this special Christmas moment!

..... Words of Thanks



-Tracy

LAUNCHING TWO NEW EVENTS THIS SPRING!!!

Strikes for Hope

Under the direction of our South Coast Development Board, My Brother's Keeper is proud to announce a new family-friendly bowling event, Strikes for Hope, on Sunday, March 22nd from 2:00– 5:00p.m.



To host the event, we'll be renting out Wonder Bowl in New Bedford, an impressive 40-lane bowling alley. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Costs will be \$25 per person with a special family rate of just \$75. Lane sponsorships are also available for \$250 and includes bowling for 5 people.

To add to the fun and excitement, a generous sponsor will donate \$100 for every strike bowled during the day, up to \$10,000 maximum!

"This family-friendly event in March will be a great compliment to our South Coast Soiree for adults in the fall," said Josh Smith, Director – Dartmouth Facility. "Families are looking for fun things to do during winter so we expect a great turnout."

For more information, contact Josh Smith at jsmith@mybrotherskeeper.org or 774-305-4577.

Spring Together for Love & Hope

In 2007, a committee of volunteers started the Lovely Ladies Spring Social with the goal of introducing local women to the good work of My Brother's Keeper. What began with 100 ladies coming together at a small Brockton restaurant grew to a crowd of more than 340 at Granite Links! Along the way, it inspired hundreds of new women to get personally involved in our work and raised more than \$500,000.



After thirteen wonderful years, the committee is starting something new and fresh. In the place of Lovely Ladies, we will be introducing an exciting new event called "Spring Together for Love & Hope" which will be held on Friday, May 1st, 2020 at the Quincy Marriott.

Its goal is to bring even more members of our community together— both women and men— for a fun, casual evening.

Instead of a seated dinner, we'll have food stations representing the various Boston neighborhoods. There will be plenty of opportunities to mingle with old friends and meet new ones. Dress will be casual and we'll have live music so don't forget your dancing shoes! Guests can come on their own, bring their better half, invite a friend, or get a group together for a fun night out.

More information and invitations will follow but in the meantime, please save the date. Have questions? Please contact Stephanie Coose at stephanie.coose@gmail.com.

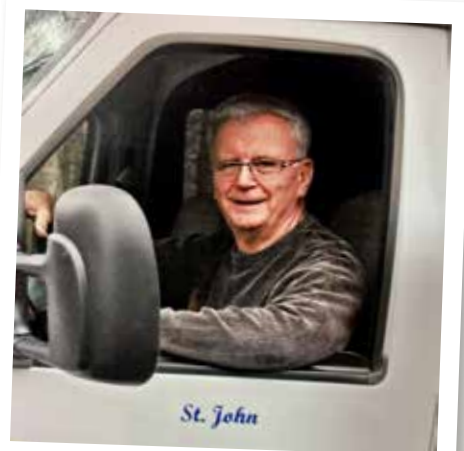
Celebrating 30 Years of Board Service

My Brother's Keeper was incorporated in 1990 and our first Board of Directors meeting was held at a small table in the foyer in front of the chapel at the Holy Cross Retreat House. Jim Orcutt has attended every board meeting since then for the past 30 years!

The February 2020 meeting will be the first board meeting he will not attend, though, as Jim has chosen not to renew his position on the board. "It's been my great privilege to serve on the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors but this decision is a continued example of my belief in the importance of leadership transition," said Jim Orcutt. "This makes room for others

to step forward in leadership roles so our mission can continue to flourish long into the future."

"We are so grateful to Jim for his thoughtful, faith-filled leadership which guided us so effectively at the board level for more than three decades," said Brian Concannon, chair of the Board of Directors. "My Brother's Keeper is as mission-focused as any organization I know and Jim is chiefly responsible for that along with Terry. I know Jim will still be just as present and available at the Keeper as always so we're grateful for the different ways he will help provide leadership in the future."





Urban Plunge 2020

Each January for the last 23 years, My Brother's Keeper has hosted a 3-day service retreat called "Urban Plunge." 10 college students joined us this year from 4 schools: Notre Dame, Providence College, Salve Regina, and UMass-Dartmouth. They slept on mattresses on the warehouse floor at our Easton facility, attended daily Mass, delivered furniture and food, volunteered at a homeless shelter, and reflected on their service each evening.



"God Is One"

by Brooke Douglass
Providence College, Class of 2021

To open our experience on the Urban Plunge, Jim explained to us that when Jesus sees one of His sons or daughters in need, He asks, "who will I send?" Jim told us that when Jesus sends us to help His sons and daughters in need, it is the greatest honor and privilege of our lives. However, Jesus cannot send us to be His hands and feet in the world unless we accept His call. This is what I reflected on throughout my week on the Urban Plunge.

My favorite delivery over the course of the week was a delivery to a young woman and her two year old daughter. This beautiful family had moved out of the homeless shelter and into their new apartment that very morning, and were very excited and grateful to fill their new home with furniture. This mother and her daughter were absolutely wonderful, and it was such a joy to get to know them better throughout the course of the delivery. When it came time to say goodbye, I had the privilege of presenting the crucifix. I explained, "We are just the delivery people. We believe it is Jesus who actually sent you the furniture." The young woman explained that she was Hindu, but graciously accepted the crucifix, explaining that she believed God is one. This moment was so simple, yet so profound.

Throughout the course of the week, this gesture of acceptance began to take a deeper meaning for me. During our reflections at night, we spoke a lot about being a receiver. We talked about how it is extremely difficult to be on the receiving end of an exchange, and how it takes a certain graciousness to accept help from a neighbor.

While these things are true, my experience with this mother and her daughter showed me that receiving is something much greater than a momentary exchange between two people. It is easy to view receiving in the context of a singular moment; an exchange between two people, where each person has something to offer. However, this delivery helped me to understand that receiving extends far beyond a singular moment in time; and that it has a much deeper meaning in the larger context of life. This mother's ability to graciously accept us into her home and to

accept our gift of the crucifix seemed Christ-like to me. Not only did she accept us kindly, but it was clear that she received the circumstances of her life with grace, faith, and strength. There was no question that this woman had remained open to receiving God in the face of adversity. Her acceptance of the crucifix, and her proclamation that God is one, was a beautiful example of how we should all receive God's love.

Through this woman, I learned an important lesson during the Urban Plunge. We all must learn to be receivers, because that is how we allow God to enter into our lives. As I thought about this delivery, I thought again about what Jim said at the start of the Urban Plunge: Jesus has called us to do His work, but we must respond to His call. When we choose to respond to whatever He is calling us to be, that is when we will receive Him in our lives.

Words of Thanks

*I was blown away by how kind,
courteous and understanding
everyone I spoke to and met was.
I expected to wait MONTHS for a
delivery but a delivery was coming to
my city two days from the day I called.
The delivery team was AMAZING!
And you all have inspired me to pay it
forward. God bless!*

—Amy

Upcoming Events

Mar

New Event! - Sunday, March 22
Strikes for Hope
Wonderbowl
New Bedford, MA

May

New Event! - Friday, May 1
Spring Together for Love & Hope
Quincy Marriott
Quincy, MA

Jun

Saturday, June 13
11th Annual Family Walk
Stonehill College
Easton, MA

**Have a question about one of our events?
Please call us 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

www.MyBrothersKeeper.org • 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

CO-FOUNDERS

James H. Orcutt, Sr.
President Emeritus

Theresa Orcutt

OFFICERS

Erich E. Miller, President

Theresa Orcutt, Secretary

James Philbin, CPA, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian P. Concannon, Chair

Joyce M. Donadio

Ryan J. Gelly

Donna B. Lane, CPA

Erich E. Miller

Mary McDonough Milligan

Luzann Noonan

William H. Ohrenberger, III, Esq.

Theresa Orcutt

James Philbin, CPA

Brendan M. Sullivan

Deacon Daniel F. Sullivan

Rev. Anthony V. Szakaly, C.S.C.

EASTON

DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Brian J. Walsh, Chair

Robert B. Barry

Julie Huggins-Lofton

Mary M. Keough-Anderson

John F. O'Donoghue, III

Alex W. Ogozaly, CPA

Mark H. Payson, Jr.

Stephen F. Sypek

Richard Wade

Stephen J. Wessling

SOUTH COAST

DEVELOPMENT BOARD

William A. Suneson, Chair

Christine Cavanaugh, CPA

Nicole Dias

John Higgins

William J. Morse

Josh Smith

James Witkowski, MD