

Our Mission:
*"To bring the Love and Hope
of Jesus Christ to those we serve."*

Along the Way

*We deliver furniture, food, and Christmas assistance
free of charge to local families in need
with no prerequisites for service.*

MAY 2020

*"We're just
the delivery
people. This is
the man who
sent you the
furniture."*

COVID-19 How My Brother's Keeper Has Responded in Christ's Name 3,450 Emergency Food Deliveries Completed Worth \$638,000



How the world has changed since our last newsletter in February!

My Brother's Keeper has worked hard to change too so that we can do the most good right now for our brothers and sisters in need.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, we took four important steps on March 16th:

- **We temporarily suspended our Furniture Assistance Program**
- **We devoted all our efforts to our Food Assistance Program**
- **We reduced volunteer involvement to 5-10% of normal levels**
- **We implemented contactless deliveries**

The task to safely scale up our food deliveries was less daunting at our Easton facility since we have operated a Food Assistance Program serving Brockton and Easton for 25 years. We reorganized the warehouse space, increased our food donation pickups from the Greater Boston Food Bank, and adjusted our intake and delivery processes.

In Dartmouth, we had to start a food program from ground zero. In addition to the steps taken at our Easton facility, we had to quickly obtain permission from the Town of Dartmouth's Board of Health and publicize a new program to residents of Fall River, New Bedford, Dartmouth, and Westport.

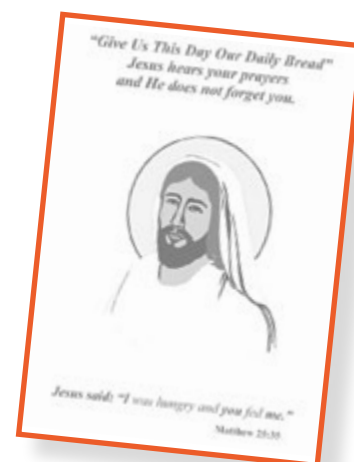
As a community, we can be proud of what our ministry has accomplished over the last two months.

- **We've completed 3,450 emergency food deliveries, a remarkable four-fold increase compared to normal operating times**
- **We've provided nutritious groceries to 14,608 local children and adults**
- **We've delivered food worth an estimated \$638,250**

Each food delivery is healthy, balanced and nutritious and includes a hefty box of non-perishables along with milk, juice, eggs, butter, meat, fresh fruits and vegetables plus toilet paper and paper towels. Average retail value per delivery is \$185.

In addition to the value of the food, families appreciate our no-contact deliveries which allow them to stay safely at home.

As always, our services are provided free of charge and without judgment in Christ's name. This flyer with a picture of Jesus is included in each food delivery as a reminder that Jesus hears our prayers and does not forget us.



Words of Thanks from Those We Serve

Thank you kindly for your help. It is a major role in what is happening in the world.

I am so blessed to have you wonderful people to help those in need, I can't thank you enough... God Bless.

Thank you soooooo much. I did not expect toilet paper and paper towels. I don't have a car and I'm under quarantine with my son he is the one who is sick... thanks again.

Wanted to say how appreciative I am for your service. I don't have a car so the delivery is a true blessing...I couldn't have received help if you did not deliver...Thank you so much. It shows how much you really care and the young lady and gentleman that carried the bags were so sweet...true heroes. Thank You again.

Thank you for providing. My girlfriend was praying last night at 3 am in the morning because I had no food to eat last night. that if she couldn't make it to my house because I have no car, that God could still send an Angel. You guys were the angel Jesus our Lord sent. Thank you again and the Lord bless y'all more.

I want to thank you for your help. May God bless you that you will never run out of food because you are doing something good for the nation.

It was very difficult for me to make the call asking for help. Thank you for being there in my time of need.

Keep up the amazing helpful service you guys provide. Every little bit helps so many families struggling during these difficult times. God bless you all.

We pray for you because in this time we are sick and we can't work to get food for us and our kids. We appreciate your help. God bless you all. You are doing the greatest work in Jesus' name. Keep up this job and may Jesus bless you all.

"Good Job, My Brother's Keeper"

A Letter from Mari Rhodes, Easton, MA

My Brother's Keeper calls itself "a Christian ministry of loving service and education." We serve people with dignity and respect in Christ's name and through experience, we teach young people about the importance of service. It's hard to include students in our day-to-day work right now but we can inspire them through our actions. This beautiful thank you note was written by a sixth-grade volunteer, Mari Rhodes of Easton. Thank you, Mari!

Dear My Brother's Keeper,

I know My Brother's Keeper has continued to help people in our community during this difficult time. Today, my assignment for school was to thank someone who is helping others during the coronavirus. We had to watch Alicia Keys' new video, "Good Job," think of someone who has been helping others and let them know how much we appreciate them. So, I wanted to thank you for supporting all of the families in our community that lost their jobs or otherwise can't put food on the table.

It makes me very sad that kids my age don't have enough food to eat and I am very grateful that you are helping them have nourishing meals and basic necessities. We are very lucky to have an organization like yours in our community. You make others feel calm, safe, happy, healthy, and feel like someone other than their family is doing something nice for them. You make them not forget that they are worth something and they matter. This will give them hope and help them get through this hard time. This will make them know that everything will return back to normal.

You are so inspiring. When Governor Baker said we had to stay home and social distance, you still figured out a way to help people. Help was needed more than ever. I know that you've been working very hard and delivering tons and tons of food each day. This verse from Alicia Keys' song reminded me of you.

Six in the morning
As soon as you walk through that door
Everyone needs you again,
The world's out of order
It's not as sound,
When you're not around

All day on your feet, hard to
Keep that energy, I know.
When it feels like the end of the road,
You don't let go
You just press forward.

For the families you help, their world is very scary right now. Your long days and nights have allowed them to worry less and feel more calm. You did not give up. And as a result, they will not give up either. Please know how thankful and inspired I am.

Love, Mari Rhodes, Easton, MA

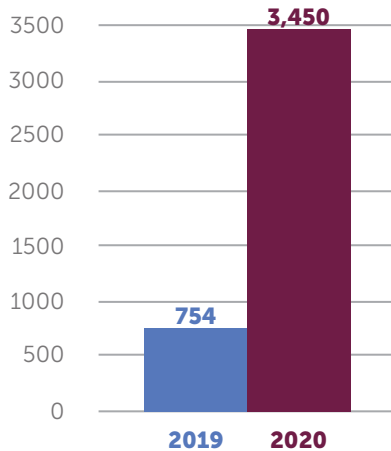


Snapshots of Our COVID-19 Response

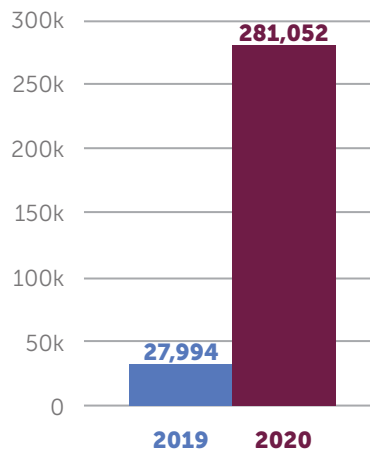
The charts below provide a clear picture of what we've been able to accomplish by focusing all our efforts on our Food Assistance Program. Right now, it's how we can do the most good for our neighbors in need.

All data relates to food deliveries completed from March 16 – May 15 in 2020 vs. 2019.

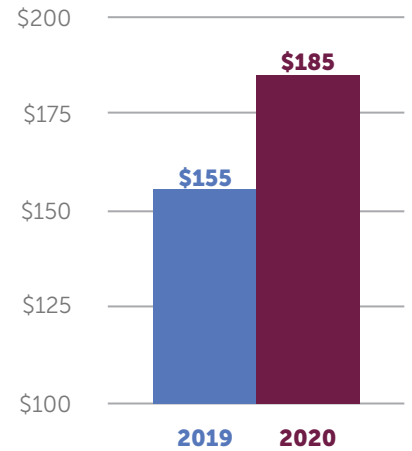
Emergency Food Deliveries



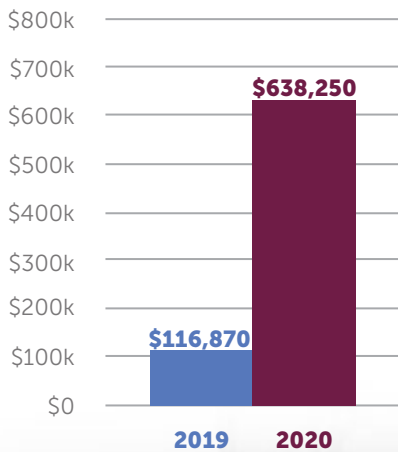
Pounds of Food from the Greater Boston Food Bank



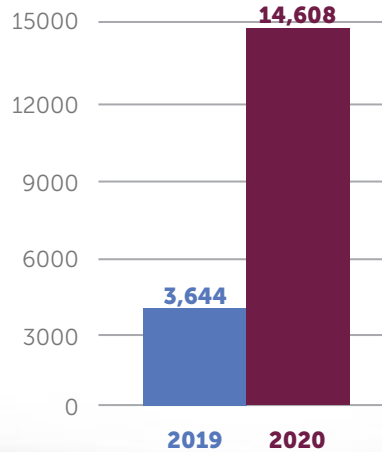
Average Value of Each Food Delivery



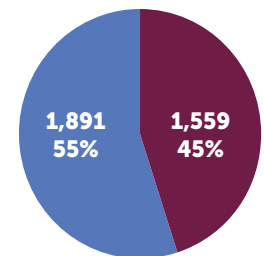
Estimated Total Value of Food Delivered



Number of People Served



First Time Recipients



3,450 Total Deliveries

Received Help Before

First Time Recipients



The "Non-Event" Event

Making Lemonade Out of Lemons

On May 1st, we had planned to host a function attended by 500-600 people at the Quincy Marriott, our 1st Annual Spring Together for Love & Hope event.

We could see in late February/early March, though, that a community gathering that size would not be possible so we pivoted to our first— and hopefully only!— "Non-Event" Event.

"Guests" were cordially invited to NOT attend and instead support the work of My Brother's Keeper from the comfort and safety of their home.

The "Non-Event" Event was a tremendous success with more than \$150,000 raised through sponsorships, ticket sales, and donations.

Ticket purchasers received a \$30 gift card to Home Chef meal delivery service, a chance to win a \$2,500 raffle prize, and a link to be among the very first to watch our new video, "A Day in the Life of My Brother's Keeper." The video is now available for all to see at www.MyBrothersKeeper.org

"Non-Event" supporters especially liked that they were given the option of donating their Home Chef gift cards to a local family in need. Thanks to their thoughtfulness and generosity, My Brother's Keeper will be giving away more than four hundred \$30 gift cards to our neighbors in need.

"This was an out-of-the-box request at an unprecedented time," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper. "We're very grateful to all who generously supported our "Non-Event" Event. The money raised has been instrumental to our effective COVID-19 response."



Thank You to Our Generous "Non-Event" Sponsors

 FAMILY MATTERS. NO MATTER WHAT.™			
			
			
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			 MY BROTHER'S KEEPER A Christian ministry of mercy, grace and education.

2020 FAMILY WALK CANCELED

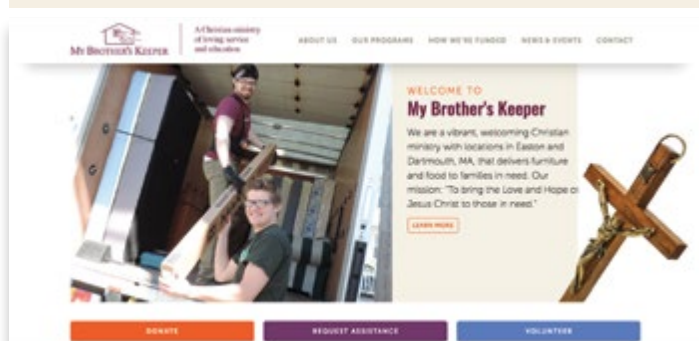


We are disappointed to announce that we will not be hosting our 11th Annual My Brother's Keeper Family Walk in 2020 as planned.

The day has always been about bringing the My Brother's Keeper family together but that isn't possible right now. We have made the decision to cancel rather than postpone given the uncertainty of the coming months and out of concern for the health and well-being of our community.

The tentative date for the 2021 Family Walk is Saturday, June 12th. Save the date on your calendar!

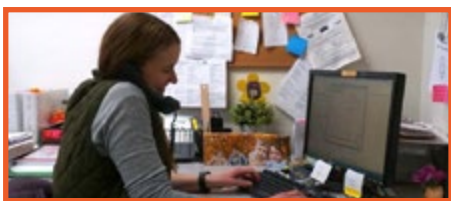
NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED



As busy as we've been with our COVID-19 response, we've still found time to get other important work done like launch our new website. It's simple, clean, attractive, and full of information.

Special thanks to Denis Concannon and his team at ICON Advertising & Design who designed the new website and handle all our digital and print materials. To help support our mission, they provide an extremely generous 70% discount on all our work.

"Denis Concannon and ICON have been as important to My Brother's Keeper as anyone over the past 10 years. We couldn't effectively tell our story without them," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper.



“We can all pray for those who are struggling—mentally, physically, financially”

By Beth Collins, Manager, Food Assistance Program

At My Brother's Keeper, we take all of our food assistance calls by phone and then we deliver to recipients the same day within just a few hours of the call. With so many people out of work and facing new challenges with the pandemic, our intake operators have noticed a sharp increase in anxiety among many callers during these difficult times.

I was answering the help line at the end of March and took a call from a woman who had never received food assistance from our program before. She lives in town and was referred to us during her time of need.

After I took down the information for the two adults and two kids in her household, she asked, “Do you have any referrals available for a situation our family is going through? One of my kids is struggling with stress and anxiety. He’s worried we won’t

have enough food.” It was affecting her whole family because as a result of his worries, he was eating everything they had.

It broke my heart to hear about a young teen being so concerned about not having food— such a basic need — but my heart hurt even more for the mom who was not only worried about her son's wellbeing but also about providing for all members of the household.

I could hear the relief in her voice when I told her, “We’ll be there in just a few hours with everything you need: milk, orange juice, eggs, fresh produce, meats, canned goods, toilet paper, paper towels, and enough food for your family.”

In the days and weeks to come, we can all pray for those who are struggling — mentally, physically, financially— and remember to look out for our neighbors in need however we can.

My Brother's Keeper— “A light in the darkness”

By Michelle Byrne, Administrative Program Associate

The Coronavirus has brought many changes to the work at My Brother's Keeper but our mission remains the same “To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.” The individuals and families we serve know where they can turn in their time of need. My Brother's Keeper is a light in the darkness for so many.

Last week we delivered food to 300 families in Brockton, three times our normal amount of deliveries. There were many new, first-time callers referred by a friend or family member. Some people had not reached out for help in five or even ten years. Others received gifts through our Christmas program and held on to our business card with the food/furniture help line number.



It was so uplifting to have children translating for their parents and folks asking if we could help their friend or their neighbor. One Mom explained that with her kids home from school and the fact that she doesn't drive, she was afraid to take them on the bus to try to get food. “Thank God for My Brother's Keeper!”

Let us all use this opportunity to focus on what is most important— take care of each other, stay connected to family, friends, and community, especially those who may be alone or afraid, and continue to be our brother's and sister's keeper.

From Box Springs to Face Masks

A special group of volunteers work together to sew box spring covers at My Brother's Keeper throughout the year. They've been “laid off” while our Furniture Assistance Program is suspended but through their own initiative, they made sure their gifts and talents didn't go to waste.

On March 25th, they began talking amongst themselves about the desperate need for facemasks. Within days,

12 volunteers started production at their homes cutting fabric, measuring elastic, and sewing masks. In total, they've made more than 3,000 facemasks and donated them to local facilities such as Spaulding Hospital, Boston; Brigham and Women's ER, Boston; Brockton Hospital Nursing; Southeastern Rehab, Easton; Life Care, West Bridgewater; The Residence, Easton; Heights Crossing, Brockton; Oak Hill Nursing, Middleboro; Father Bill's &

Mainspring, Brockton; the Easton Food Pantry; and of course, My Brother's Keeper. These volunteers are a shining example of what it means to be their brother's and sister's keeper!



Our Facilities



EASTON



DARTMOUTH

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

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