



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER
A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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.

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

NOVEMBER 2020

Christmas at My Brother's Keeper will certainly be different in 2020. Unfortunately with COVID-19 numbers on the rise, we will not be able to host volunteers at our facilities to select and wrap gifts. Our goal remains the same, though: to serve more than 3,000 struggling families in Christ's name this Christmas. The need is as great as ever, highlighted by this story from Terry Orcutt and a Letter Requesting Christmas Help on page 3.

Away In a Manger - No Crib for a Bed By Terry Orcutt, Co-Founder



I have wonderful childhood memories of singing "Away in a Manger" at Saint Lucy's grammar school as Christmas approached. The good Sisters would remind all the children how fortunate we were to have our own bed.

As children we didn't spend much time dwelling on Jesus' lack of a bed. We were caught up in the excitement of the Christmas season. The most important question in every child's mind was, "What am I going to get for Christmas?"

Now, many years later, as Christmas draws near, little boys and girls are still dreaming of dolls and trucks... and electronic games, of course.

But, not all!

Answering the Christmas line at My Brother's Keeper each year is a "reality check." It's difficult to take life's blessings for granted when talking to parents who are worried that their children may wake up on Christmas morning with nothing under the tree... or without a tree at all.

When I answered "My Brother's Keeper," I heard a gasp. "Lucia" said, "Oh my God, I can't believe I got through. I've been sitting here hitting re-dial. Thank you, God."

After entering Lucia's address I asked for the name, age, and sizes of each of her children and, of course, what each child was hoping to receive for Christmas. Lucia struggled with her English as we attempted to find the perfect gift for her middle child, seven-year old, Katrina.

Lucia asked, "My daughter can talk to you?" "Of course," I answered, "that would be fine." Seven-year old Katrina's voice was soft, as she shyly said, "Hello."

"Hello Katrina, do you know what you would like for Christmas?"

"Yes," she answered, "A bed."

At first I didn't quite understand. So I said, "Katrina, do you mean bed linens, like sheets and a comforter for your bed?"

Katrina hesitated for just a moment and then she said, "No... I

mean I would like to have a real bed. One that I can sleep on. I'm sleeping on a couch right now."

Katrina got her bed the next day and sheets and a comforter to go with it.

The other presents that Katrina asked for were not typical "little girls" things like toys or games... (although I put those on her list). She mostly asked for clothes and a new coat.

I think it's best to finish Katrina's story with the last verse of "Away in a Manger"

Bless all the dear children, In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven, To live with Thee there

My Brother's Keeper Virtual 30th Annual Gratitude Mass

Live Streamed from the Easton facility
Friday, November 27th at 7PM
Sorry, no in-person guests allowed this year due to COVID-19



Keep the tradition going!

Visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org for the livestream link

Celebrant: Fr. Jim Mahoney, Pastor
St. Veronica Parish, Burlington, MA

Homilist: Deacon Paul Key
Sts. Mary & Joseph Collaborative, Plymouth/Kingston

Musicians: Deacon Mattie Henry and Erin Henry-Verona

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

— Luke 6:38 —

Thanksgiving Program

My Brother’s Keeper has traditionally provided a wonderful Thanksgiving spread for 350 families out of our Easton facility. Some peer organizations have had to cancel their holiday programs given COVID so we are doubling this year’s Thanksgiving Program. We’re making deliveries from our Dartmouth building as well. In total, we will be serving 700 families this Thanksgiving living in 18 communities. Extra freezer space for the additional turkeys was a big challenge this year. Special thanks to Atlantic Capes Fisheries in Fall River for helping with cold storage!

Christmas Update

Since 2015, My Brother’s Keeper has served more than 3,000 struggling families and that remains our goal this year despite the pandemic. COVID is requiring us to be flexible and creative. As an example, instead of wrapping gifts at our facilities, we will be delivering unwrapped gifts this year and giving out rolls of wrapping paper and tape. Here’s an update on our progress:

START EARLY! Our over-arching strategy for this year’s Christmas Assistance Program is starting everything earlier.

- We started taking calls in August and have already processed more than 2,000 requests through November 18th vs. 1,495 requests last year, a 33% increase.
- We set up a modified Santa’s Workshop in early November to begin fulfilling gift requests. This is one month earlier than normal!
- We partnered with Roonga, a gift collection website, to host Online Giving Trees for the churches we partner with each Christmas. This is an important step since congregations have largely eliminated physical touch points inside their churches.
- We ran no-contact “Pop Your Trunk” Toy Drives at our Easton and Dartmouth facilities on Saturday, November 14th. Since fewer people are attending in-person church services, we are working on new ways to generate toy donations. Special thanks to the Corey C. Griffin Foundation for issuing a generous challenge grant. They donated \$10 for every toy donated up to \$10,000, (www.coreycgriffinfoundation.org)
- We purchased \$100,000 worth of bulk merchandise in October and November to help get an early start and manage supply chain risks.

Dear Brother’s Keeper,
I was referred to you for possible holiday help. My children are 16, 12, and 9, grades 10, 7, and 5. They are the lights of my life and we love Jesus with all our hearts. Three years ago, we lost everything due to an ongoing domestic violence environment and we still can’t get on our feet. I now receive SNAP which really helps, but being a single mom to 3 kids is very difficult. My youngest has complex medical needs. COVID has destroyed any gains we’d made.
If you could help us in any way with a meal, a tree, or gifts, we would be so grateful. Thank you for your consideration and God bless you.

Erin, Newton, MA



Visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org to see our Amazon Wishlist and ship high-need items directly to us. It’s a safe, easy way to help this Christmas!

- Since volunteers cannot come in to wrap gifts this year, we strongly encouraged our Adopt-a-Family program and started enrolling sponsors in October, one month ahead of schedule. The response has been **OUTSTANDING!** In 2019, 572 families were sponsored by individuals, families, and businesses in the community. To date in 2020, more than 1,000 families have been sponsored this year, a 75% increase! No contact / “pop your trunk” drop offs are being conducted at our buildings.
- We made our first Christmas deliveries in October! Parents were thrilled to receive their gifts so early. The stress and anxiety of providing a good Christmas has been lifted from them.

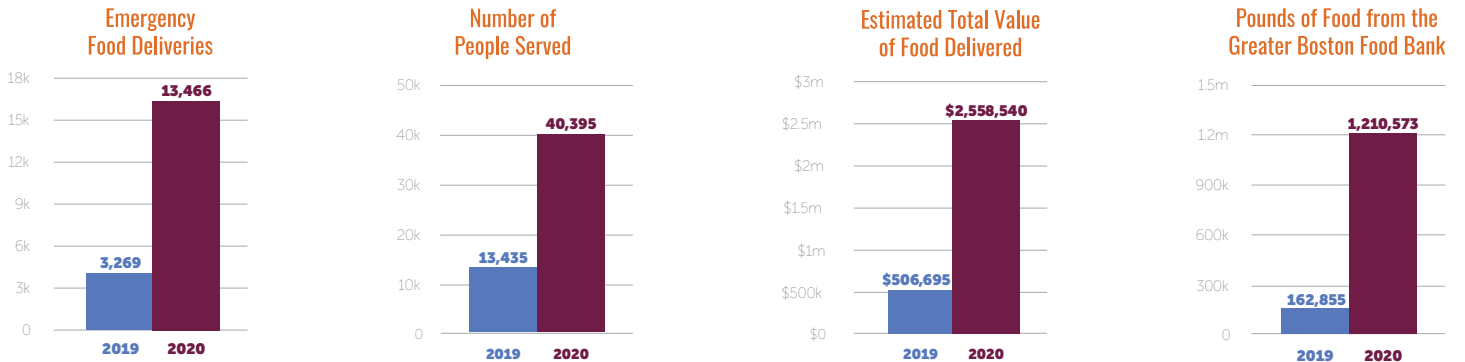
A Letter Requesting Christmas Help...

Why our Christmas Program is so important to those we serve.

COVID-19 Food Deliveries

On March 16th, My Brother's Keeper pivoted to focus our efforts primarily on our Food Assistance Program. It's how we felt we could do the most good during the pandemic. Over the past 8 months, we've completed more than 13,000 food deliveries serving 40,000 children and adults with groceries valued at \$2.5 million.

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



We've been working hard making food deliveries and getting an early start on our Christmas Program, but we've also made time for furniture deliveries because people need beds, blankets, and kitchen tables too.

A Visit to Michael & Friends: More than just a delivery

By Marty Reynolds, Volunteer, Mansfield, MA



We often have to remind ourselves that God is in control, and when we let Him take charge, beautiful things usually happen.

A furniture delivery I recently participated in was a perfect case in point. God brought 60 year old Michael to My Brother's Keeper through Fr. Tom of Saint Ambrose Church in Dorchester and longtime community member Ed Casey. Michael hasn't had an easy life. A recovering addict with a gentle nature, he had recently suffered homelessness and mental health issues leading to hospitalization.

After release from the hospital, with God's help, Michael was able to secure a small 3rd floor apartment in Dorchester. But he was badly lacking the essential needs of daily living. So on a bright October morning, Jim Orcutt Sr., Ed, and I left Easton to visit Michael with a truckload of love and hope!

Parking in Dorchester is never easy and this day was no exception. On the third trip around the block, a spot opened just steps from Michael's building. Upon arrival we were met by several VERY enthusiastic young men who are neighbors and friends of Michael's. They recently befriended him and were eager to help with the delivery.

This unexpected reception was a pleasant surprise and knowing that God had arranged it, we just went along with it! Later, Michael explained, "I have a special connection with these young guys. They look up to me and seek me out to discuss their problems. It makes me happy to provide a listening ear and share the wisdom I've gained through years of living through my own struggles."

Jim, Ed, and I immediately hit it off with this energetic crew. When they realized we were there doing God's work, it seemed to draw us all together. After a good amount of time getting to know everybody (and plenty of good natured ribbing!) this spirited team of ours got to work.

Michael had a rooftop deck outside his apartment door where we brought everything: a bed and bed linens, dresser, end table, night stand, lamps, kitchen table, microwave oven, and many miscellaneous

but ever-important items that make up a comfortable and functional home.

Michael expressed awe with each and every item brought up to him. When it became clear that we were just about done, Michael stood back and somewhat self-consciously mentioned something he had forgotten to ask for: a set of pots and pans because he LOVES cooking.

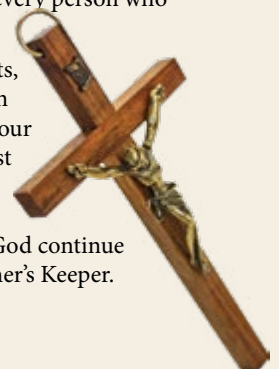
With this, Ed quietly exited only to reappear a minute later with a beautiful brand new box of shiny pots and pans that we had accidentally left in the truck. Well, you have never seen a bigger smile on a man's face in all your life! What a great moment! Jim then handed him an envelope saying, "And here's a gift card to Stop and Shop so you can buy something to put in those new pots! So, what's for dinner tonight?!" to loud laughter all around.

We then arrived at the highpoint of the delivery. Jim quieted the group and in the most heartfelt way, presented the final gift of the crucifix to Michael. "We're just the delivery people. This is who brought you the furniture. God never forgot you Michael. He has always loved you, and always will."

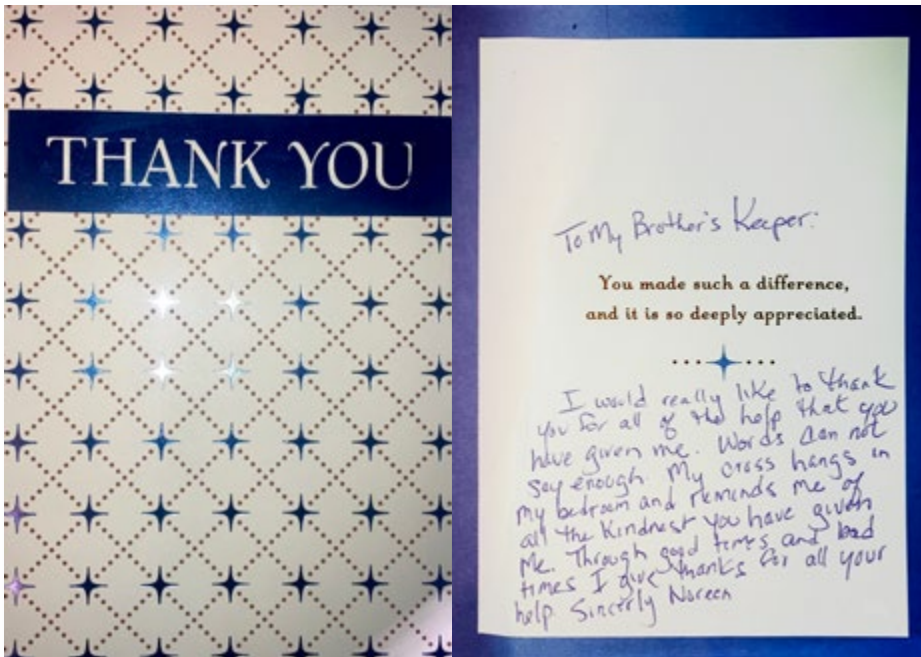
Michael stood gazing at the crucifix in his hands. With deep gratitude in his voice and tears in his eyes he said, "Thank you guys. Thank you so much. I'm going to find just the right place to put this so I can look at Him as often as possible. I owe everything to Him."

We also gave crucifixes that day to Michael's group of young friends, gifts symbolizing the love Jesus has for each and every person who teamed up that day to do God's work.

We departed the neighborhood with waves, shouts, and a few loud honks on the horn! But more than that, we departed with a sense of fellowship with our Dorchester brothers and confident we did our best delivering the love and hope of Jesus Christ to a small part of a neighborhood that needs all the love and hope it can get. Thank you Lord. May God continue to bless Michael, his young friends, and My Brother's Keeper.



Touching the Lives of Those We Serve and Those Who Serve With Us



TRANSCRIPTION

To My Brother's Keeper:

I would really like to thank you for all of the help that you have given me. Words can not say enough. My cross hangs in my bedroom and reminds me of all the kindness you have given me. Through good times and bad times I give thanks for all your help.

Sincerely Noreen



A God Moment at My Brother's Keeper By Amanda Gately, Volunteer, Pembroke

I wanted to share the amazing God moment I had at My Brother's Keeper. I came back from doing food deliveries in the afternoon as the sun was beginning to set and the prayer room door happened to be open. I LOVE stained glass and saw all the glowing colors and took a minute to admire its beauty, say a prayer, and take a picture as well.

I went home feeling so at peace and filled with God's grace. I continued to admire the picture at home and decided to show my family. It was then that I noticed Jesus' face reflecting on the wall but if you look at the window itself His face is completely blank. I literally was in awe of God's presence and beauty in this moment, especially since it was All Souls' Day and this day holds a lot of

meaning in my heart as it's the anniversary of my nana's passing.

This moment truly revealed that God is ever present and always with us if we just take a second to look, shift our perspective, and take our eyes off of ourselves. I could have very easily ignored His calling to me and walked right past the room or not taken a second look at the picture to show my parents and share His beauty with them. But when you take that extra second to slow down, show praise, and glorify Him, He gives amazing gifts and reveals how He's truly working in our lives.



2020 Community Spirit Hero Award



Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

The employees of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care have selected My Brother's Keeper to receive their 2020 Community Spirit Hero Award.

The award annually recognizes a community nonprofit that shows extraordinary dedication to providing impactful and inspiring services to its local community.

My Brother's Keeper was nominated by long-time volunteer Vickie Pagliuca who works at Harvard Pilgrim.

"I'm very excited and proud of the work that My Brother's Keeper does and thrilled my colleagues agree!" said Vickie.

Thank you, Vickie, for your love of My Brother's Keeper and our thanks to the Pagliuca family for your decades of service.

The award ceremony was originally scheduled as a live event on May 20th but has been rescheduled to a virtual event on December 2nd.



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

The Honorary Degree Committee of Providence College selected Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper, to receive an honorary degree at this year's commencement.

As a Catholic liberal arts college, Providence College maintains that service is an integral component of a well-rounded student experience. Student representatives that serve on the Committee made the nomination along with the Vice President for Mission and Ministry.

In a typical academic year, 50-75 PC students volunteer at My Brother's Keeper. For the last four summers, PC students have completed fully-funded internships with us through the school's Veritas Distinguished Internship Program.

"I'm very honored to accept an honorary degree from such a prestigious, well-respected institution," said Erich Miller. "I'm also very aware that this award recognizes the entire My Brother's Keeper community and everyone who contributed to the success of our work on the South Coast... our Dartmouth staff like Josh Smith and PC grad Ben Williams and our Dartmouth volunteers, especially the PC students that have built this special partnership."

Graduation was originally scheduled for May 17th but will be rescheduled in 2021.

Mary Keough-Anderson Named Chair of the Easton Development Board



Mary Keough Anderson has been named the new chair of the Easton Development Board. She has taken on this leadership role following the retirement of Brian Walsh who has served on the Development Board since 2011.

"I am grateful to Brian Walsh for his decade of hard work on the Development Board and I'm grateful to the Board of Directors for their trust and confidence in me. I have been blessed with the privilege of being part of the My Brother's Keeper family and bringing the love and hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve. I'm humbled and grateful to be named Chair of the Easton Development Board and I'm looking forward to continuing the fine work that Brian was able to accomplish with our amazing Development Board."

Mary is an industry expert in meetings and events highlighted by 34 years' experience at Liberty Mutual Insurance. She launched Liberty Mutual's Meeting Management and Event Strategy Department in 1984. Starting as a one-person department, she developed and expanded the department to meet the company's steadily increasing demand for meeting planning assistance where she served as Global Director of Meeting Management and Event Strategy.

Mary joined the Easton Development Board in 2016 and has provided invaluable leadership to My Brother's Keeper events including the Lovely Ladies and Hungry Men Dinners, South Coast Soiree, Golf Tourney, Gratitude Mass, and our dedication ceremonies in Dartmouth.

In addition to her service as a board member, Mary has always especially enjoyed her time on the My Brother's Keeper trucks. Starting in June of 2014, she and her husband, Gary, helped deliver furniture to local families in need every Friday afternoon. Sadly, Gary passed away in June 2015 after a courageous battle with cancer.

My Brother's Keeper has an Easton Development Board and a South Coast Development Board. The two boards work closely together to help raise funds, raise awareness, and expand the number of individuals and business involved in our work.

Our Facilities



EASTON



DARTMOUTH

Congratulations to Maureen Alcott of Scituate, MA, winner of our "2020 NO Cruise, Just 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

CO-FOUNDERS

James H. Orcutt, Sr. | President Emeritus

Theresa Orcutt | Secretary

OFFICERS

Erich E. Miller | President

Theresa Orcutt | Secretary, Co-Founder, My Brother's Keeper

James Philbin, CPA | Treasurer, Partner, Marcum LLP

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Erich E. Miller | President

Mary McDonough Milligan | Executive Administrator, Lan-Tel Communications, Inc.

Luzann Noonan | Volunteer, My Brother's Keeper

William H. Ohrenberger, III, Esq. | Ohrenberger, De Lisi & Harris, LLP

Theresa Orcutt | Secretary, Co-Founder, My Brother's Keeper

James Philbin, CPA | Treasurer, Partner, Marcum LLP

Brendan M. Sullivan | Owner, Sullivan's at Castle Island

Deacon Daniel F. Sullivan | St. Agatha Parish

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Josh Smith | Director, Dartmouth Facility, My Brother's Keeper

James Witkowski, MD | Southcoast Physicians Group

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