



**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."

JUNE 2021

## MAJOR MILESTONE!

### 25,000+ deliveries completed during COVID-19

My Brother's Keeper completed 25,146 deliveries serving 83,783 children and adults from March 16, 2020 to May 31, 2021, the approximate dates when COVID-19 restrictions began and ended in Massachusetts.

Remarkably, the estimated retail value of services delivered during the pandemic exceeds \$5.5 million despite a 90% reduction in volunteers for safety reasons.

Compared to a similar time period immediately before COVID, this represents a 140% increase in deliveries, a 120% increase in children and adults served, and an 85% increase in the total value of services delivered.

"By any measure, we can feel proud of what we accomplished as a ministry to respond to those most affected by the pandemic while keeping our staff and volunteers safe," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper.

"The inspiration for our work always comes back to our mission 'To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.' As a Christian ministry, we're called to shine our light even brighter during challenging times so others can see our good deeds and give thanks to God."

As the effects of COVID diminish, we are steadily adjusting to our "new normal" at My Brother's Keeper. Here are some examples:

- Calls to our Food Assistance Program remain very high so we will continue making food deliveries at 2½ to 3 times our pre-COVID levels.
- We are simultaneously scaling our Furniture Assistance Program back up. We will begin re-entering homes on furniture pick-ups and deliveries starting July 1.
- We are re-integrating pre-COVID volunteers into our work accordingly and beginning to allow a limited number of new volunteers to serve with us.

We are especially excited to renew our 11th Annual Family Walk on Saturday, August 7th at Stonehill College.

The Family Walk will be the first opportunity for our full community to come together again, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate all we have accomplished in Christ's name. Please join us!

## Words of Appreciation from a Volunteer

Josh,

I was driving home from the Dartmouth facility this afternoon and was thinking about the deliveries Faith, Kerry, and I had just completed. I just wanted to let you know how proud I feel to be part of My Brother's Keeper.

The job that you and the whole staff are doing is really hard to believe especially during COVID!

Without My Brother's Keeper, I am not sure some of the people we serve would be able to cope with daily living. Yet every day, My Brother's Keeper is there for them.

Janine and I are really blessed to be part of the My Brother's Keeper family. Thank you for all you do.

John Higgins  
Volunteer, Bridgewater



## Saturday August 7, 2021

NO registration fee. FREE T-shirts for all who register on-line by July 30, 2021. Pledges are encouraged and gratefully accepted.

Please visit the Family Walk Website at [www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org](http://www.MyBrothersKeeperFamilyWalk.org)

All are welcome. Register today!

# Words of Gratitude from Food and Furniture Recipients

**“Sarah” is a former South Coast volunteer who called for food assistance for herself and for a neighbor she is caring for. She was very grateful for our help and sent an email of thanks afterwards.**

Dear Friends at My Brother's Keeper,

Thank you for helping my friend, Brenda, get on the wait list for furniture. She is in desperate need since she recently moved into my housing complex in Dartmouth.

Brenda and I were also blessed yesterday to receive an abundance of boxed and bagged food products from My Brother's Keeper. I wanted to say thank you to everyone and to the staff member who did the initial intake over the telephone.

Brenda doesn't eat much and has multiple illness issues so she told me "not to call for any more food for now." I laughed when I saw just how much of a variety and quality we both got yesterday. We felt so very grateful there was enough to share with neighbors here who have no one to care about them.

Please extend our gratitude and thank you to the two men who carried those heavy boxes to our hallway door downstairs like it was a feather — such strength! — and also for the beautiful cross of our Lord Jesus Christ to remind us all, "He is still in full control over everything."

I am still hoping to find a used car I am able to afford; however, right now all the mileage and prices on older models are incredibly high. I can wait and see when the prices fall (probably in the colder months). It's all in God's capable timing and hands for my blessings.

Thank you so much for your dedication and leadership to serve God through our holy Christ Jesus for many people in great need.

In peace and blessings always,  
"Sarah"

**Theresa from Bridgewater received a furniture delivery from us. She sent this kind thank you note along with a generous donation, especially given her financial situation.**

To all the wonderful staff members and volunteers at  
My Brother's Keeper,

People like you deserve the absolute world but instead you are the ones who give it to those around you.

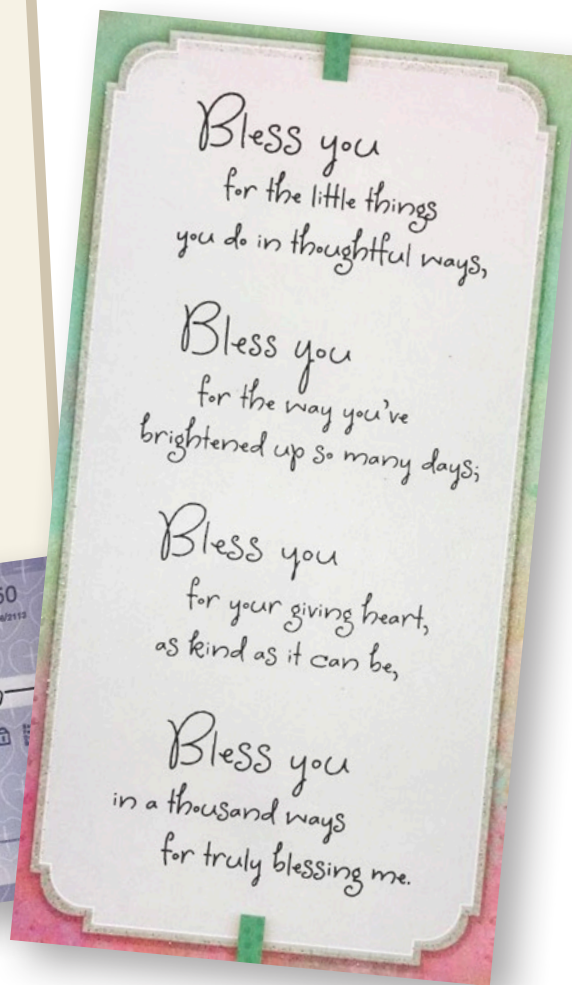
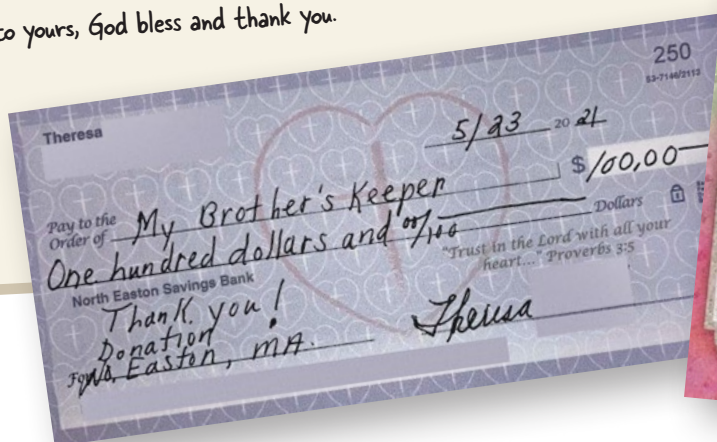
I was so humbled by your generosity and kindness and wanted to send a huge thank you to all who made the bed donation, sheet set, blanket, and toiletry articles possible.

I have enclosed a donation to thank you for your generosity of spirit and aid during a difficult time as we all struggled through the challenges of the pandemic.

Please accept my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for your selfless acts of kindness. I am deeply touched by your compassionate, caring hearts and service.

From my soul to yours, God bless and thank you.

Theresa,  
Bridgewater



# Passing the Reins of Leadership

## New Chair of the Board of Directors Starting in 2022

Effective January 1, 2022, Brian Concannon will step aside as Chair of the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors and pass the reins of leadership to a new board chair, Fr. Anthony Szakaly, CSC.

Brian Concannon has served as a board member at My Brother's Keeper for 16 years. He became Chair of the Board of Directors in 2011 and prior to that, was Chair of our Development Board since 2005.

"My time serving on our boards is one of the greatest privileges and highlights of my life," said Brian. "I'm as supportive and excited about My Brother's Keeper as ever. In the interests of good governance, though, I think it's important to give someone else the opportunity to share their gifts and talents as board chair. We could not hope to find a better, more accomplished leader than Fr. Tony Szakaly."

During his tenure as Board Chair, Brian effectively guided My Brother's Keeper through several major milestones such as our 20th Anniversary Gala honoring co-founders Jim and Terry Orcutt in 2008, the launch of our annual Family Walk in 2009, our 100,000th delivery and expansion of services to the South Coast in 2013, the building of our Dartmouth facility in 2017, and our effective COVID-19 response in 2020.

"One of our founding board members, Deacon John McDonough used to say, 'If you're doing God's work, He'll do more than just provide for you... He'll always send you the very best,'" said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper. "That's the case with Brian Concannon — God sent us the very best in terms of ability, integrity, and commitment — and He's doing so again with Fr. Tony Szakaly. Fr. Tony's nonprofit and board experience is expansive, he's deeply committed to our mission, and he's been a tremendous ambassador of our work for nearly a decade."

Fr. Tony came to Massachusetts in 2012 and joined the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors in 2019. He is originally from South Bend, Indiana, and was ordained a Holy Cross priest in 1992. He is a "triple Domer," someone with three degrees from the University of Notre Dame — a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Business of Administration, and a Master of Divinity.

Fr. Tony currently works as the Director of Campus Ministry and Alumni Chaplain at Stonehill College. In addition, he serves on the Senior Leadership Team, the Board of Fellows, and the Board of Incorporators of Stonehill College; on the Finance and Properties Committees of the Congregation of Holy Cross; on the Board of Directors of Kings College in Wilkes Barre, PA; and on the Cardinal Spellman High School Board of Trustees.

His past leadership roles include serving as Chair of the Board of Ave Maria Press; Assistant Provincial and Treasurer of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross; Superior of the Holy Cross priests and brothers in Easton, MA; pastor of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, IN; and chair of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocesan Endowment Trust as well as a member of the Diocesan School Board, Building Committee, and Capital Campaign Committee.



**Brian Concannon**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
2011 - 2021



**Rev. Anthony Szakaly, CSC**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Starting Jan. 1, 2022

## All in the Family...

## Laura Walsh joins Easton Development Board



New Easton Development Board member Laura Walsh and her late grandmother, Therese Doherty

Laura Walsh, a 3rd generation My Brother's Keeper volunteer, became a member of our Easton Development Board this spring. She follows in the footsteps of her father, Brian, who served on our Easton Development Board from 2011-2020 and was the former chair.

Laura lives in South Boston and works as a Nurse Practitioner at Mass General Hospital both on the inpatient hospital medicine team and in outpatient primary care. She is a graduate of Archbishop Williams High School, Providence College, Mass General Institute, and Regis College.

In sharing why board service at My Brother's Keeper interests her, Laura said, "I grew up in a home that subscribed to the notion 'To whom much is given, much is expected.' My grandmother, Therese, was a regular Thursday volunteer and she always praised the work of My Brother's Keeper. That influenced me, my parents Ellen and Brian, and many other family members to volunteer here too."

"Just like my grandmother did, I look forward to encouraging others to get involved at My Brother's Keeper — especially young professionals — and I'm excited to apply my time and talents to the mission of this great organization."



# Pop Your Trunk Drive

to support My Brother's Keeper

**June 26** New sheets, comforters, and towels

**October 9** Canned food (focusing on Thanksgiving staples )

**November 13** New toys for Christmas

More than \$7,500 in baby products and cleaning supplies were donated at the May 1st Pop Your Trunk Collection Drive held at My Brother's Keeper's Easton and Dartmouth facilities.

128 vehicles pulled into our parking lots between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on a sunny Saturday. With big smiles, drivers popped their trunks, revealing bags of baby products and cleaning supplies to be donated and included with future food deliveries.

Requests for baby diapers and wipes, as well as disinfectant and cleaning products, have increased significantly over the past year. These items are typically not included as part of large-scale donations received from our business partners. Through the generosity of individual donors, we are able to offer these much-needed items to local families.

While most made donations by visiting our facilities on May 1st, a number of other donors generously gave through My Brother's Keeper's Amazon Wishlist.

Based on past success, we are scheduling Pop Your Trunk Collection Drives periodically throughout the year.

Visit [www.MyBrothersKeeper.org](http://www.MyBrothersKeeper.org) for details.



## Sponsor Spotlight

For more than a decade, Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company has been one of our most important corporate supporters and in 2017, designated My Brother's Keeper as a signature partner in their Making An Impact Program.

Making An Impact, Boston Mutual's corporate citizenship program, supports the giving of the company's talents and resources to those that foster their core belief in community & family, education, and the environment.

Boston Mutual has partnered with My Brother's Keeper by being a leadership donor as a Platinum Annual Sponsor, through group volunteering at Christmas time, coordinating teams to participate in our annual Family Walk, attending other events, and providing leadership on our boards.



FAMILY MATTERS. NO MATTER WHAT.™

Paul Quaranto, President and CEO of Boston Mutual, served on our Easton Development Board from 2011 – 2017 and Nick Barishian, Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management, currently serves as a Development Board member.

"At Boston Mutual, our corporate tagline is 'Family Matters, No Matter What.' That aligns perfectly with My Brother's Keeper which cares so deeply about local families in need and our family of volunteers and supporters," said Nick.

For the past two years, Boston Mutual's Making An Impact corporate citizenship program has been recognized by the Boston Business Journal as a top charitable contributor in Massachusetts. My Brother's Keeper is proud to call Boston Mutual Life a key partner in our work and service throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

## New Associate Director of Development

### Kelsey Pandiani



The My Brother's Keeper Development team continues to expand. On May 3rd, Kelsey Pandiani joined the team as the new Associate Director of Development.

Kelsey started her fundraising career at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and

Health Sciences. For four years she coordinated fundraising events, developed new alumni engagement programs, and managed social media campaigns.

In addition to her technical skills, Kelsey brings a genuine passion for service to My Brother's Keeper. She is a volunteer advocate for the Connecticut Burns Care Foundation and a mentor to children at the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp.

Kelsey earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from High Point University and a Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University. She grew up in Old Saybrook, CT and currently lives in Allston with her husband, Evan.

Regarding her new role at My Brother's Keeper, Kelsey stated: "My passion for service and commitment to helping those who need it most comes from a place of deep understanding. During the darkest days of my life, it was a small nonprofit supported by an army of compassionate volunteers that helped me see the light. When I first heard about My Brother's Keeper, I knew it was this same kind of organization, and couldn't help but want to be a part of it!"

Welcome, Kelsey!



# Serving with Compassion and Without Red Tape

By Beth Collins, Manager, Food Assistance Program



The pandemic has been hard for everyone, but it's been particularly difficult for those we serve. I began taking assistance calls in 2007 and over the years there have been many sad (and sometimes heartbreaking) calls. Each call has made me grateful for our policy of "no pre-requisites for service": we're open to helping anyone from our service area.

I've learned our mission also calls us to be Christ-like by being flexible... not so rigid that we can't see the big picture when it comes to people's pain. This philosophy has been especially important during the pandemic. Needs have changed so we've been open to serving in new, creative ways as the Holy Spirit moves us.

One example is with our Heating Assistance Program. My Brother's Keeper formally began the program in 2007 and it's traditionally meant buying 150 gallons of heating oil per recipient. New this year, we also agreed to help families with past-due heating bills. COVID-19 has forced many people into deep holes. The stress and hopelessness they're experiencing is overwhelming.

Earlier this year, I fielded one of my most difficult calls over the last fifteen years. Maria is 71 years old, diabetic, lives alone in Brockton, and is struggling with her health and her finances. We regularly help her with food. This time she called for heating assistance, though, and broke down crying as she told me about her outstanding gas bill. She apologized for

crying so much but she shared, "I'm just having such a hard time with it all."

I told her, "No apology necessary, Maria. We're very happy to help." In that moment, I was so grateful My Brother's Keeper lives out its mission with compassion and without red tape. Noticing that she hadn't gotten food from us yet this month, I asked Maria, "Would you also like a food delivery tomorrow?"

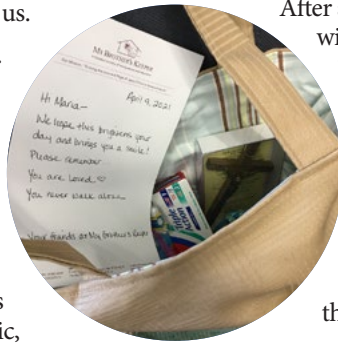
She answered "Yes — thank you very much!" She continued crying but also kept saying how appreciative she was. Still, I couldn't get her pain off my mind. Before taking my next caller, I took a deep breath and said to my colleague Michelle Byrne "that call was really tough."

After all the calls ended, I shared the rest of Maria's story with Michelle and another co-worker Maureen Strong.

They suggested we put some essentials together for Maria and tuck them into one of the beautiful tote bags our volunteers have been sewing at home. I was home with my kids the next day but Michelle texted me a picture of what she had prepared to accompany Maria's food delivery.

Staff members Erich Miller and Paul Key headed out to Maria's home with a volunteer. I was so glad that Maria would get to see their kind and masked-but-smiling faces — along with the food, the nice care package, and a self-addressed envelope so she could send us her gas bill.

I'm grateful to my co-workers for their thoughtfulness and to our generous supporters who give us the resources we need to say "yes" to our brothers and sisters like Maria in their time of need.



Special thanks to all who generously responded to our Heating Assistance Program Appeal. We raised \$23,967 this year, a 192% increase over last year. 100% of these donations went to help local families in need.

## The Love of Jesus Understood in Any Language

By Celia Dolan, Direct Service Associate



I was assigned the special task of making a delivery to a recipient that was having great difficulty contacting us. Isabel is 98 years old, hearing impaired, and

doesn't speak English. She had previously approached another staff member while they were making food deliveries at her apartment building. With the help of a neighbor that could translate, Isabel informed our staff of her great need for food. Given her age and unique situation, we made arrangements through the translator that we would bring a food delivery for Isabel the next day and meet her outside her apartment building at 3PM. Between the lack of a phone and the language barrier we were really praying that this was going to work!

I arrived at Isabel's address with her food delivery the next day as scheduled. I was

given the description of her as being a short, slender woman wearing a kerchief so I kept a lookout for someone fitting that description. Several minutes went by and there was no sign of her at the building. Just as we started to move onto our next delivery, Isabel walked outside. We were able to loosely communicate with gestures that she would need something like a cart to transport the food delivery inside to her apartment.

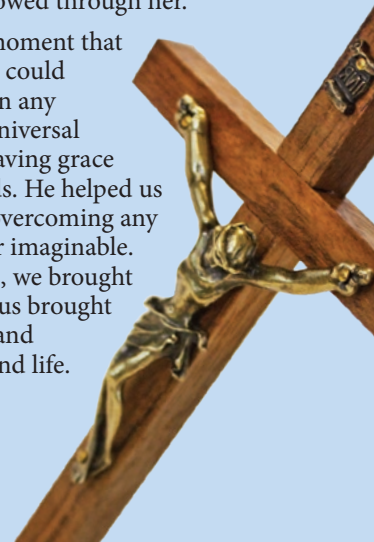
After a few moments of confused communication, she went back into the building and I feared she simply left in despair from the lack of understanding. A short while later, Isabel returned with a cart and her phone number written on a piece of paper. We placed her food in the cart; she seemed grateful, but not very animated and at a loss for words since neither party could understand the other.

After giving her the food, I handed her the Crucifix. Even before I could explain to her that the food was really from Him,

we were just the delivery people — words I knew she wouldn't understand — her whole face lit up.

She cradled Jesus to her chest, thanking us every way she knew how. She indicated she'd hang it in her apartment, and I couldn't remember seeing anyone so happy at the thought of finding the perfect spot for Jesus in her home. Joy and gratitude flowed through her.

I knew in that moment that the love of Jesus could be understood in any language. The universal symbol of His saving grace needed no words. He helped us communicate, overcoming any language barrier imaginable. Against all odds, we brought her food but Jesus brought her excitement and renewed hope and life.



# 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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Easton, MA 02356

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### Dartmouth Facility

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