



**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.

NOVEMBER 2021



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

Hello, my name is Alicia. I am a single mother of two children, my daughter age 13 and my son age 3. For the last 11 years I've been homeless and the holidays have always been tough. It's really difficult celebrating Christmas with us living from place to place and me not working.

This past year, I was selected for a voucher program that helps you obtain housing. This will be our first Christmas having a home. I heard about your organization and all the great work that you do. I would absolutely appreciate any assistance My Brother's Keeper can give to me and my family during this holiday season.

This note from Alicia is a poignant request we received this year for Christmas help. Homeless for 11 years! The pandemic has been tough on everyone the past year and a half but Alicia's words are a reminder that some people experience what seems like a lifetime of pain and hardship.

Every Christmas, My Brother's Keeper is contacted by thousands of parents like Alicia. Each struggles in their own way but there's always one thing in common: tremendous stress. Parents carry a heavy weight on their shoulders trying to provide for their beloved kids.

That's why our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve" is so important. Parents need help but they also need to be reminded that God loves them and that He hears their prayers.

This is our great privilege each Christmas: the opportunity to be our brother's and sister's keeper, remove their stress and anxiety, and replace it with joy, peace, and love in Christ's name. This is the true spirit of Christmas — loving one another as a sign of our love for Jesus.

My Brother's Keeper plans to serve more than 3,000 struggling families this Christmas living throughout eastern Massachusetts — 13,000 children and parents! To join us in this important effort, please return 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. **We will return to an in-person Gratitude Mass this year but please note the new location: the Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex at Stonehill College.**

The new location at Stonehill will provide more space for the Mass and reception and allow My Brother's Keeper to continue work in our facility throughout the month of November. Please join us!

## Santa's Workshop 2021 Updates

We are happy to welcome volunteers back to Santa's Workshop this Christmas. To safely share the experience with as many volunteers as possible, we will be implementing the following guidelines:

- Overall volunteer capacity will be reduced. There will be fewer wrapping stations and they will be more spaced out.
- We will likely limit the number of times volunteers can come in to shop & wrap in December.
- Volunteer shifts will be 2 hours 15 minutes.
- Volunteering by schedule only — no walk-ins.
- Children welcome (sorry, no play area!).
- Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask.

**To schedule a volunteer shift, please call us:**

**Easton:** 508-238-7512  
**Dartmouth:** 774-305-4577

Thank you in advance for your patience, flexibility, and understanding.

## 31st Annual Gratitude Mass In Person, New Location!

Sally Blair Ames Sports Complex  
Stonehill College

320 Washington St, North Easton, MA  
Friday, November 26th at 7:00PM



**Principal Celebrant:** Rev. James M. Mahoney, Pastor  
Burlington Collaborative  
**Homilist:** Deacon Brian Kean  
St. Theresa of Avila and St. John Chrysostom, West Roxbury  
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.

# Students Are Back!

A group of 8 students from the University of Notre Dame traveled to Massachusetts from South Bend, Indiana, to serve at My Brother's Keeper during their fall break.

The students were participating in a seminar called "Spirituality of Justice" which explores how Catholic Social Teaching calls us to engage in the work of justice.

The students slept at our Dartmouth facility, served together, prayed together, cooked meals for one another, and reflected on their experiences each night.



## Why Am I Here? By Ben Williams, Logistics Manager, Dartmouth Facility

During a particularly busy day not too long ago, I walked into one of our offices and stood completely still before asking myself, "Why did I come in here?"

While I desperately try to reassure myself that I am far too young for moments like this to become a pattern in my life, asking this question can actually be a good thing in the grand scheme of things. When we stop asking ourselves "Why am I here?" and instead ask this question of God, it can serve as a basis for reflection and even a call to action, something I had the privilege of seeing just a few weeks ago.

We were blessed to host a group of eight students from the University of Notre Dame for a week long service retreat as part of a class they are participating in. Coming to My Brother's Keeper was not actually their original planning destination but that's life in the time of COVID. Nevertheless, the students embraced our work without skipping a beat, bonding with volunteers and recipients alike, and taking on whatever the week held in store for them.

That week we met a woman named Jordan. She and her four children had just lost everything in a fire and were starting over from scratch. Fortunately, she was able to get in touch with us for Christmas. When the generous benefactor who was assigned as her take-home sponsor learned about Jordan's situation, they immediately sent nine overstuffed boxes of brand new clothing



and household goods to make sure Jordan and her family could start to rebuild their lives right away.

Two of the ND students, Tara and Madison, along with myself and Jenica, a regular weekday volunteer, were the fortunate crew who brought the boxes to Jordan. With each box that came off our van, her words of gratitude failed and her tears of joy took over. Jordan may have been overwhelmed with the recent events of her life, but in that moment she was overcome with hope.

On that delivery, the Notre Dame students received their answer to the question, "Why am I here?": to be Christ's hands when Jordan needed them the most.

They may not have been able to serve where and how they expected at the start of their semester, but they were certainly brought to the place where they were needed the most. Without them, Jordan would not have felt the Love and Hope of Christ in such a special and powerful way, and so many other families would still be anxiously awaiting the delivery of their furniture.

Their example will always remind me to turn my own questions into prayers whenever possible, and to always open my heart and mind to God. "Why am I here, Lord? What purpose may I serve here? Open my eyes that I may see your plan; guide my hands that I may best serve Your Will in this moment and in all moments."

# Erich Miller Receives Honorary Degree from Providence College



On Sunday, October 3, Providence College awarded Erich Miller an honorary degree, a Doctorate in Public Service, as part of the Class of 2020 Commencement.

“It’s a tremendous honor to be recognized by Providence College, a truly special school with a distinctive mission as a Catholic and Dominican college. I was privileged to receive the degree but I really see this as an award for My Brother’s Keeper,” said Erich. “PC students make a huge impact at our Dartmouth facility so it is a strong affirmation of our partnership and the good work we’re doing together in Christ’s name.”

Since My Brother’s Keeper began working on the South Coast, Providence College has been one of our most important educational partners. More than 400 PC students have served at our Dartmouth facility, with students often helping out five days per week during the academic year.


Providence College also fully funded summer internships at My Brother’s Keeper for three consecutive years through their Veritas Distinguished Scholars Program, very unusual for such a highly competitive program.

The Providence College Class of 2020 Commencement was originally scheduled for May 2020 but had to be postponed twice because of the pandemic. In the end, graduation was celebrated before more than 2,000 parents, faculty, staff, and administrators in Peterson Recreation Center on Providence College’s campus.

Dr. Mae C. Jemison, M.D. was the keynote speaker and received an honorary doctor of humanities degree. In 1992, she served as a science mission specialist aboard the USS Endeavor and became the first woman of color to travel into space.

Honorary degrees were also awarded to Val Ackerman, commissioner of the Big East Conference; Sister Jane Gerety, R.S.M., former president of Salve Regina University; Dr. Hugh F. Lena III, Providence College’s first provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Two honorary degrees were awarded posthumously to J. Peter Benzie, an emeritus trustee of the college and a financial services senior executive and Dr. Francis Patrick MacKay, a chemistry professor and co-founder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Program.



Everyone I came into contact with at My Brother’s Keeper was beyond helpful & nice. Your organization really came thru for me and supplied me with a HOUSE FULL of furniture as well as dishes & cleaning supplies! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! ♥

Eugenia,  
Brockton

## Feedback from our Furniture Delivery Surveys

The service was amazing. I absolutely love the final gift, the crucifix. Everyone from My Brother’s Keeper was awesome. Thanks again!

Claudia,  
Stoughton

You were there when I had nothing. I was blessed so I’ll pay it forward. Thank you.

Mike,  
Attleboro

When I was told my furniture was coming, I cried. I was so grateful, you see, I was moving with nothing so My Brother’s Keeper saved me.

Cynthia,  
Brockton

My Brother’s Keeper is absolutely incredible. Beyond words! They are extremely helpful from the first call to the delivery of furniture and food. Angels on Earth!

Kerry,  
Fall River

# Ignatian Volunteer Corps

## Making a Difference at My Brother's Keeper

Since 2016, My Brother's Keeper has partnered with Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC), a volunteer program for talented, experienced, mission-focused individuals, many of whom are retirees. We are blessed to have 6 Ignatian volunteers currently serving at My Brother's Keeper. They are a special gift to our work and truly make a difference!



**Leslie McCarthy** from Duxbury, MA is the longest tenured Ignatian Volunteer at My Brother's Keeper having served with us since 2019. She works in the Food Assistance Program at our Easton facility supervising volunteers and driving food delivery routes. In particular, Leslie has been a key contributor to our increased food deliveries in response to COVID-19. Her professional work focused on billing and accounts payable in the health care and property management industries.



**Carol Armstrong** is from Duxbury, MA and provides administrative support at our Easton facility. Carol is originally from Portland, ME, and had a 50-year career as a Registered Nurse. She worked as a Clinical Leader in the Emergency Department of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth and also coordinated the clinical education of paramedics to strengthen their skills and interactions with patients. Carol joined Ignatian Volunteer Corps in 2014 and previously served six years at Father Bill's & Mainspring in Brockton.



**Kathy Conroy** lives in Canton, MA. Interestingly, she is a long-time My Brother's Keeper volunteer who chose to join IVC because of her conversations with volunteers like Leslie McCarthy and Carol Armstrong. Professionally, Kathy is a certified perioperative RN with 40 years of surgical experience. She volunteered with Healing the Children for 16 years travelling with medical teams to Colombia to perform cleft lip & palate repairs on children who would not have received treatment. Kathy serves in the Food Assistance Program at our Easton facility.



**Larry Loh** lives in Hingham, MA. He started at My Brother's Keeper in September and serves in the Food Assistance Program at our Easton facility. Larry was an important contributor in the semiconductor industry for more than 30 years and most recently worked as Chief Information Officer for Draper Laboratory in Cambridge. Larry is a long-time IVC volunteer who previously served at Genesis Center in Providence and Father Bill's & Mainspring in Brockton.



**Tom Lucci** lives in Foxborough, MA and serves in the Food Assistance Program at our Easton facility. Tom's career included roles as Chief Financial Officer of Davis Publications and General Manager of WICN, an NPR station in Worcester. From 2012-2021, Tom served as an IVC at Matthew 25 Inc., a nonprofit which specializes in low-income housing. He is a music-lover who hosts a weekly radio show playing jazz standards.



**Dennis Kay** of Westborough volunteers in a direct service role two days per week at our Dartmouth facility. He supervises volunteers and drives food delivery routes in Fall River and New Bedford. Dennis is coming from a career in management at the Massachusetts Port Authority. This is his first year with Ignatian Volunteer Corps. His wife Helen is also an IVC volunteer running a tutoring program at Sophia Academy in Providence.



## About Ignatian Volunteer Corps

New England Ignatian Volunteers are mature men and women seeking to share their time and talents in service to their community, and open to participation in a year-long spiritual development program, including prayer and reflection in the Jesuit tradition.

Ignatian Volunteers commit to one to two days per week of service in a parish, school or non-profit working directly with people experiencing poverty or marginalization or in the pursuit of social justice. The service commitment takes place over a ten-month period.

During the period of service, the volunteer engages in spiritual reflection and journaling with the assistance of a "reflector" whom he or she meets monthly. All volunteers take part in two days of reflection, one overnight retreat, and monthly meetings of the entire group of volunteers. Volunteers share their reflection and service experiences in these gatherings and together probe their deeper meaning.

Each year the Ignatian Volunteer Corps selects a book for monthly reflection and discussion. Themes have alternated among the topics of Ignatian Spirituality, Catholic Social Teaching, and Contemporary Theology.

Learn more at [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org).

# Back Together Again



## 3rd Annual South Coast Soiree

We were excited to welcome members of our South Coast community to our Dartmouth facility in early October to enjoy an evening of music, food, and friendship under the stars for the 3rd Annual South Coast Soiree to benefit My Brother's Keeper.

Friends, new and old, gathered together on the patio, under the tent, and around the fire to enjoy the night together. Many stepped inside to take a tour of the facility

and were greeted with displays showcasing items donated in support of our Food, Furniture, and Christmas Assistance Programs.

Paul Key, Chief Development Officer, who recently celebrated his one-year anniversary of working at My Brother's Keeper, shared a heartfelt mission moment with the crowd, "In a way, many of us here have something in common with the prophet, Samuel. Maybe we didn't actually hear a voice calling our name, but through God's grace we were led here to support the efforts of this tremendous ministry, to lend our help in accomplishing something very important during one of the most trying times of our generation."

Despite a chill in the air, guests were reluctant to leave at the end of the night, a great sign of the evening's success! We are so grateful everyone who attended and supported the Soiree. Together, we raised over \$103,000 to help our neighbors in need.

Special thanks to our lead sponsors John and Janine Higgins, North Easton Savings Bank, The Dropkick Murphy's Claddagh Fund, Mass Drive, HarborOne Bank, Stop & Shop, Brian and Grace Concannon, Arbella Insurance, and the Payson Family.

## 15th ANNUAL MY BROTHER'S KEEPER GOLF OUTING 2021

My Brother's Keeper was blessed with a perfect Fall day — 70 degrees and sunny skies! — for the 15th Annual My Brother's Keeper Golf Tournament. A sold-out

"Good food and plenty of it" is a standard at all My Brother's Keeper events! After a great day of golf, our guests gathered in the banquet hall to "break bread" and enjoy a prime rib dinner. Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper, offered an address to the crowd followed by a live auction which included Pats vs. Bucs tickets featuring the return of Tom Brady.

field of 133 golfers representing over 30 local businesses arrived at Foxborough Country Club early in the morning, fueled up on a complimentary breakfast, purchased raffle tickets and a few mulligans, and headed out onto the course.

Unquestionably, the highlight of the day was the standing ovation given to Bill Lane Sr. of Superior Plumbing, the founder and chair emeritus of the My Brother's Keeper Golf Outing.

Along the way, golfers stopped at Hole 10 to enjoy ice cream from Hilliard's and lively conversation with My Brother's Keeper staff and Golf Committee members. Throughout the day, golfers reported their scores live and competed in longest drive and closest to the pin challenges.

The 2021 event raised more than \$120,000. Over the years, the golf tourney has raised more than \$1.5 million to serve local families in need.

Special thanks to our lead sponsors Superior Plumbing, Plumb House, Keith Construction, Atlantis Comfort Systems, Emerson Swan, Schlager Company, FW Webb, FIA / Lochinvar, Northeast Distributors, AAA Northeast, and 84 Lumber.



# 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.*



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A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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## Easton Facility

PO Box 338  
Easton, MA 02356

**508.238.4416** Furniture & Food Assistance

**508.238.7512** Donations & Business

## Dartmouth Facility

PO Box 70273  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

**774.305.4590** Furniture Assistance

**774.305.4577** Donations & Business