

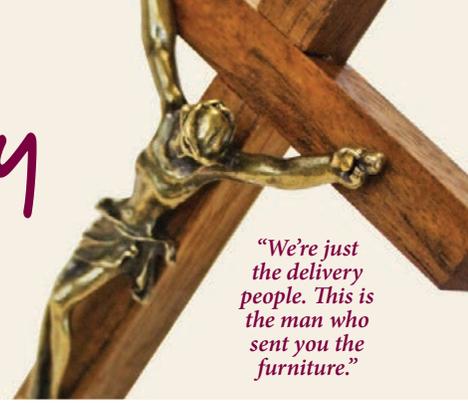


MY BROTHER'S KEEPER
A Christian ministry of loving service and education

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."

FEBRUARY 2022

A Message from Our President:

A Look Back and a Look Ahead



The change in the calendar year is a great time to take a look back and also look ahead.

Looking back at 2021, our volunteers, supporters, and staff can feel a tremendous sense of pride in all that we accomplished together:

- **We served more people in Christ's name than any other year in the history of My Brother's Keeper: 19,145 deliveries serving 62,750 children and adults.** This includes re-entering homes on furniture deliveries, critically important to those without the means to lift heavy items.
- We safely re-engaged with our volunteer community, highlighted by our Christmas Program when more than 3,000 volunteers came through the doors of our facilities in December. (see pages 2 and 3)
- We successfully hosted five in-person events to reconnect as a community — our Family Walk, Golf Tourney, South Coast Soirée, Hungry Men Dinner, and Gratitude Mass.
- We welcomed student volunteer groups from the local area and from as far away as the University of Notre Dame.
- We strengthened our staff with great new hires and added talented new board members. (see page 5)
- Most importantly, we accomplished our mission on a daily basis as the quotes below convey.

Looking ahead in 2022, we have great reason to be optimistic:

- We plan to sustain our higher level of food deliveries and return furniture deliveries back near pre-COVID levels.
- We will complete an important technology upgrade to modernize the database which tracks our Furniture, Food, and Christmas Assistance Programs.
- We plan to kick off two new community events, Strikes for Hope on March 20th and Spring Together for Love & Hope on April 29th. Mark your calendars! Both were originally planned for 2020 but had to be re-scheduled due to COVID.
- **Most exciting, it's highly likely that we will start major renovations to our Easton facility which will position us for even greater success in the future. (see page 4)**

I can say with great confidence that My Brother's Keeper is a stronger ministry today than when the pandemic began in March 2020.

Thank you for being part of the My Brother's Keeper family and for believing so deeply in the goodness of our work and mission. Please keep our ministry and those we serve in your prayers in 2022.

Yours in Christ,

Erich Miller, President
My Brother's Keeper

FACT

Since COVID first affected Massachusetts in March 2020, My Brother's Keeper has made 36,000 deliveries worth \$8.5 million to 121,000 children and adults.

I am so thankful for all the help you gave me. No one made me feel bad for asking for help. My crucifix is hanging right next to my bed. I feel so blessed for all your help.

Thank you so much for helping my daughter and me. I have happy tears of relief and appreciation after the Christmas present drop off this evening. Thank you so much.

Sending a very special and big thank you to My Brother's Keeper for doing God's work during such a critical time in the world. Peace and Blessings to you all.

My fiancé and I experienced a fire at our last home and we lost everything. Your organization was very helpful. The people that showed up were very kind and they transformed our empty apartment into a home. Everything we received was above & beyond our expectations. Thank you very much.

I am very grateful for the generous people who work at My Brother's Keeper and deliver the food. It has helped my family in many ways. They are always kind and with love. This program is one of the best programs for families. Thank you and God bless your families with abundance and prosperity.

Fostering Empathy By Deacon Paul Key

“Would it be okay if we prayed for you right now?” With a compassionate tone in his voice, volunteer Paul Martin asked this question to a woman we just met – the mother of three we had just delivered Christmas gifts to.

As we stood on her front steps the mom thanked us repeatedly, telling us that it had been an especially difficult year for her and her family. She told Paul, “Yes, I would love prayers right now.”

If Paul’s vocation was a professional evangelist this might have been considered a career moment. But Paul isn’t a professional evangelist, he is a state trooper.

Every year, for the past 8 years, Paul has taken the two weeks leading up to Christmas off from work. For those two weeks he volunteers at My Brother’s Keeper, delivering Christmas gifts to local families.

Paul does this so he can engage in a different way with the same community he serves as a state trooper. “As a police officer, you often arrive at a scene and need to react quickly. Getting to know the people in the community and the challenges they face helps me enter into those situations with a balanced perspective.”

This thought process has been echoed by criminal justice students from Stonehill College and Bristol Community College who have recently volunteered at My Brother’s Keeper. Empathy has become an important part of their curriculum.

Bringing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve is our mission at My Brother’s Keeper. Witnessing that mission carried out with such loving enthusiasm as demonstrated by Paul Martin has been a blessing indeed.



Christmas at My Brother’s Keeper through the Eyes of a 1st Time Volunteer

The heart that gives thanks is a happy one, for we cannot feel thankful and unhappy at the same time. The more we say thanks, the more we find to be thankful for. And the more we find to be thankful for, the happier we become. We don’t give thanks because we’re happy. We are happy because we give thanks.

– Douglas Wood, *The Secret of Saying Thanks*



I will attempt to recount my happiness and thankfulness for the many gifts bestowed upon me by My Brother’s Keeper on Christmas Eve.

Through the lens of a very special friend, I had heard of the work of My Brother’s Keeper and the year-long mission. Upon hearing many accounts, I was struck by the dignity, hope, and new beginnings given to so many. In visiting the area before Christmas, I was graciously invited to visit the “warehouse” and join some deliveries. It was shared that as Thanksgiving passed, the space was magically transformed to absorb the hopes of the Christmas season.

On December 24th, I walked into the most efficient, relevant Santa’s Workshop. There were labeled, organized aisles with clothing, toys, household products; everything one could find in a department store. Happy individuals, couples, and families were busy “shopping” the aisles with a list in hand. The gifts were brought to several workbenches equipped as wrapping areas where the gifts were lovingly wrapped and tagged. Lists, wrapped items, etc. were checked more than twice before moving to a loading and delivery area. More volunteers loaded the many bags into vehicles and handed the drivers tickets with pertinent information.

I was allowed to help with the delivery of tangible gifts to several families. But selfishly, I soaked up the biggest, most meaningful gifts. I received countless hugs— warm, tight, grateful; smiles— shy, prideful, spreading from ear to ear; and words of thanks— soul touching, life altering, unforgettable. The day is a dream-like movie in my memory. Yet there was a definite leading star and feature film: *A beautiful six-year-old girl in pj’s, shyly snuggled under blankets on the couch of her new home. Her stolen glances noting the Christmas tree, numerous bags, and indescribable emotions on her mother’s face. Her large smile with newly lost front teeth as she jumped from the couch to put on a Santa hat and jingle bell necklaces. Her dancing and hopping from foot to foot, clapping, and giving hugs. In that moment she was allowed what all six year olds deserve. In that moment, her mother was allowed safety, happiness, and hope.*

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of the magnitude of My Brother’s Keeper. It would be an honor to participate again, in any capacity.

With gratitude,
Simone Austin, Sunapee, NH



2021 Christmas Assistance Program: Different Challenges, Same Great Results!

The 2021 Christmas Assistance Program presented unique challenges as a hybrid program which welcomed volunteers back to our facilities in a measured way.

We reduced the number of wrapping stations in Santa's Workshop which allowed volunteers to spread out more than in past years. Volunteering was by appointment with shifts lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Mask wearing was optional for vaccinated volunteers at the start of December but as COVID numbers increased throughout Massachusetts, we shifted in mid-December to masks required at our facilities regardless of vaccination status.

With these safety protocols in place, My Brother's Keeper safely welcomed more than 3,000 volunteers to our facilities in December. With their help, we served 3,053 families in Christ's name this Christmas— more than 12,000 children and adults —living in 100 communities throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Our Adopt-a-Family Program was once again a key factor in the success of this year's Christmas Program. 1,651 families were adopted this Christmas vs. 690 families sponsored pre-COVID in 2019, a 139% increase.

2021 Christmas Program by the Numbers

3,053 deliveries to
12,000 children & adults in
100 Massachusetts communities using
3,000 volunteers

Photo Note: Our mask policy shifted in mid-December from mask-optional for vaccinated to mask-required for all. Pictures reflect both time frames.



My Brother's Keeper,
From the bottom of our heart we are grateful for people like you. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. It is very much appreciated.
God Bless you all!

To everyone involved during this 2021 MBK Christmas team.
From the donors, to the answering service, to the delivery elves.
I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. It feels completely blessed and honored of your support.
Times are hard for us right now. But through our faith for Jesus Christ and people like you, we made it through.
Thank you,
May God Bless You
♥ Wilson Family

Major Easton Facility Renovations Likely in 2022



In our October 2021 newsletter, we announced we are exploring the possibility of major capital improvements to our Easton facility. Our feasibility study has proceeded extremely well and it is highly likely that My Brother's Keeper will be in a position to begin major renovations in 2022.

The proposed renovation will be an important investment in the future of My Brother's Keeper and will primarily address the two most important components of our ministry: our programs and our community.

PROGRAMS:

The cornerstone of the proposed renovation is expanding the existing mezzanine by building out a full second floor. This will add 9,000 square feet of floor space which will, in effect, double our volunteer work space and storage area in support of our programs.

Second floor accessibility will be very important long-term. The plan calls for a passenger elevator on one side of the building to meet ADA requirements and a 10' x 6' VRC lift on the other side of the building near the loading docks for pallets and large materials.

An improved loading dock will be key to future program logistics. The new loading dock will be five times larger, allow us to load five vehicles simultaneously, and properly accommodate several different types of vehicles: semis, smaller box trucks, cargo vans, and personal vehicles.

In support of our Food Assistance Program, our walk-in refrigerator and freezer will nearly triple in size and will be built with doors large enough for pallets. The new walk-ins will be moved to the exterior of the building, freeing up more space inside the building while also improving traffic flow.



COMMUNITY:

The additional space created on the second floor will allow us to convert some of the current first-floor warehouse into valuable community space.

Visitors to our Easton facility will immediately find themselves in a larger, more welcoming lobby. The extra space will be especially important when hosting student and corporate volunteer groups which frequently exceed 20 guests.

The new Prayer Room will more than double in size and will have a second entry / exit doorway to better accommodate our large and growing community.

The importance of the Prayer Room cannot be overstated to help us remain focused on our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve."

The size of the Kitchen will increase by about 40%. The expansion plus an improved layout will double seating capacity so our volunteers and staff can "break bread" together. We also envision a small patio on the front of the building accessible from the Kitchen. This will add overflow dining space during summer months when student volunteer numbers sharply increase.

Total bathroom occupancy will triple, mainly due to the addition of bathrooms on the second floor. A new east-west hallway on the first floor would make the restrooms directly accessible from the warehouse.

We are currently working with an architect, civil engineer, and construction manager on the documents we will need to apply to the Town of Easton for permits. Construction will likely require 9-12 months to complete and total project costs are still being estimated.

If we are able to move forward with construction, we will need to vacate the facility during renovations for the safety of our community.

Ideally, our work serving local families in need will take place out of a temporary location in the area. Finding the right facility will be a challenge given the current high demand for commercial warehouse space.

Leads and suggestions on a temporary location around the Brockton / Easton area are welcome!
Please contact Erich Miller at 508-238-7512 or emiller@mybrotherskeeper.org

New Roles & New Faces at My Brother's Keeper

The pandemic hasn't stopped My Brother's Keeper from continuing to change and grow. We are delighted to announce new staff, new board members, and changing roles. We're grateful to these individuals for saying "yes" to My Brother's Keeper. Their time, talent, and hard work will most certainly strengthen our work and mission.



Fr. Tony Szakaly, CSC
Chair, Board of Directors

Effective January 1, 2022, Fr. Tony Szakaly became chair of the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors. He has served on our board since 2019 and currently works as the Director of Campus Ministry and Alumni Chaplain at Stonehill College.

Fr. Tony was ordained a Holy Cross priest in 1992 and has three degrees from the University of Notre Dame — a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Divinity.

Fr. Tony is past Chair of the Board of Ave Maria Press in South Bend, Indiana, and also serves on the Finance and Properties Committees of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Board of Fellows and the Board of Incorporators of Stonehill College, and the Cardinal Spellman High School Board of Trustees.



Deacon Brian Kean
Board of Directors

Deacon Brian Kean became a member of the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors effective January 1, 2022.

Deacon Brian is a long-time volunteer who serves weekly with his wife Marcia making food deliveries. He is a frequent team member on Cursillo retreats at the Holy Cross Retreat House and he was ordained a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Boston in 2012.

Professionally, Brian is Senior Vice President at Wingate Management. He is a CPA and attorney and his duties include client relations, financial analysis, budgeting, reporting, capital projects, and asset management.

Brian served as co-chair of the Capital Campaign Committee for our Dartmouth Building Project in 2017.



Rich Kendall
Easton
Development Board

Rich Kendall joined the Easton Development Board in November 2021.

He has been volunteering weekly at My Brother's Keeper since June 2021, primarily driving food deliveries and supervising volunteers.

Rich had a twenty-six year career in telecommunications, leading growth and strategic direction of three early stage companies to maturity. Most recently, he was President & CEO of Sovernet Communications.

Rich is originally from Maine and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1989, where he met his wife of twenty-nine years, Beth. They currently live in Westwood and have three children, who have also all volunteered at My Brother's Keeper.



Julie Carchedi
Program Support
Associate, Dartmouth

Julie Carchedi joined our staff in July 2021 in the ministry's first full-time administrative support position at our Dartmouth facility.

Julie and her extended family, The Pagliucas, have been a part of the My Brother's Keeper community for more than two decades. Julie worked in fundraising and events for 15 years at St. Mary's Catholic School in Mansfield and Bryant University and welcomed the opportunity to help strengthen the ministry's service programs on the South Coast.

Julie lives in Mansfield with her husband, Paul, and they have two children, David and Linnea.



George DuCasse
Direct Service Associate,
Dartmouth

George DuCasse joined our staff in November 2021 as a direct service staff member in Dartmouth.

George comes to My Brother's Keeper after an accomplished career in financial services and is also a former Marine.

George has volunteered extensively over the past ten years after being inspired on a Cursillo retreat at Saint Basil's in Methuen. He has worked with organizations such as Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity, the medical mission Team Heart, and the Greater Boston Food Bank.

George and his fiancé Suzanne Fetky live in Easton.



Jenn Murphy
Event Coordinator &
Development Associate

Jenn Murphy joined our staff in November 2021 as our first-ever Event Coordinator & Development Associate.

Jenn most recently worked as Director of Faith Formation at St. Ann's Parish in Raynham. Prior to that she worked in the Health and Human Services Department at the Archdiocese of Boston and has also worked as an elementary school teacher.

Jenn lives in Raynham with her husband, Jim, and their three children.

She is a Stonehill grad and also received her Master's degree in Education from Bridgewater State University.

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

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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Joyce M. Donadio | Program Manager, Home Base

Ryan J. Gelly | Student, Harvard University

Deacon Brian Kean | Senior Vice President, Wingate Management

Donna B. Lane, CPA | Controller, Bentley University

Erich E. Miller | President

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

Martin A. Reynolds | Volunteer, My Brother's Keeper

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

Easton Facility

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508.238.7512 Donations & Business

Dartmouth Facility

PO Box 70273
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774.305.4590 Furniture Assistance

774.305.4577 Donations & Business