

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.

JULY 2022

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

Major Capital Improvements of Easton Facility on the Way!

My Brother's Keeper is poised to begin major capital improvements to our Easton facility later this year, most likely in the October time frame. The actual start date will be based on the permit approval process with the Town of Easton.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$3.5 million for architecture, engineering, construction, and the lease of a temporary facility in the greater Brockton area so we can continue providing services while renovations are underway.

Fundraising is still in the early stages but My Brother's Keeper has already received gifts and pledges totaling \$2.2 million including leadership gifts from The Yawkey Foundation, The Flatley Foundation, and The Lynch Foundation.

Our Easton facility next to Stonehill College was built in 2002 and at that time, we made 4,000 deliveries per year. Today, My Brother's Keeper makes 14,000 deliveries per year from the location.

"Without question, the building has served us exceptionally well for the past twenty years," said Erich Miller, president of My Brother's Keeper, "but we're very near maximum operational capacity at our Easton location. Anyone who's volunteered with us, especially at Christmas-time, knows we need more space to better serve local families in need in the future."

The central component of the project is building a full second floor which will add significant work and storage space within the current footprint and enable us to make many other important building improvements.

When completed, the results of our investment in the Easton facility will include:

More Space: Total gross square footage will increase from 15,000 SF to 28,000 SF.



Greater Accessibility and Safety:

A passenger elevator will be installed meeting ADA requirements along with a 10' x 6' VRC lift for pallets and large materials.

Improved Logistics: The loading dock will be 4 times bigger than our current one and will accommodate up to 5

vehicles at a time ranging from semis to personal vehicles.

Walk-In Refrigerator and Freezer: In support of our greatly expanded Food Assistance Program, the walk-ins will triple in size and the doors will be wide enough for pallets.

Prayer Room: The Prayer Room will double in size to accommodate our large, growing community and help us remain focused on our mission "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve."

Kitchen and Dining Space: "Breaking bread" is an important part of our culture — how we get to know one another and build community. Seating capacity will double.

Other: Additional improvements will include a designated furniture repair room, a larger lobby for group tours, second floor bathrooms, and one new office.

Early in the planning process, My Brother's Keeper performed a scenario analysis to project the expected results of these building improvements.

Under a moderate growth assumption, a \$3.5 million capital investment in My Brother's Keeper today will translate into 167,000 additional deliveries worth more than \$53,000,000 to local families in need over the next 20 years.

"We are grateful that God continues to bless and grow My Brother's Keeper as we bring His love and hope to those who cry out to Him for help. We are delighted to see My Brother's Keeper be proactive, invest in our future, and strengthen our work serving our more humble brothers and sisters in need," said co-founders, Jim and Terry Orcutt.

Bringing the My Brother's Keeper Family Together

In recent months, My Brother's Keeper safely hosted three fundraising events which brought the My Brother's Keeper family together in support of our work and mission.

Each event was a great opportunity for our community to have fun, reconnect, and invite new friends to join us as we serve our brothers and sisters in need in Christ's name.

On Sunday March 20th, we held our 1st Annual Strikes for Hope bowling event at Wonderbowl in New Bedford. It was sold out with all 40 lanes filled by families, friends, and corporate groups. A very generous challenge grant added to the excitement: John and Janine Higgins donated \$100 for each of the first 100 strikes. Bishop Stang volunteers raucously rang cowbells to announce each strike!

On Friday April 29th, we held our 1st Annual Spring Together for Love & Hope event at the Marriott in Quincy. 300 guests came together for a fun, casual night of food, conversation, and live music by Boston's #1 wedding band, Hot Mess. The band's lead singer, Jason Silverman, surprised the crowd by sharing that he and his family wrap gifts at My Brother's Keeper every Christmas.

On Saturday, June 11th we hosted our 12th Annual Family Walk. The weather looked hit-or-miss in the days leading up to the walk but in the end, God provided a sunny, beautiful day once again. Former staff member Celia Dolan offered the "mission moment" sharing how her time at My Brother's Keeper has shaped her life and perspective going forward. The Splash Bucket was a big hit at the family fun component!

Collectively, the three events raised \$350,000 for My Brother's Keeper and more importantly, brought more than 1,000 different community members back together again.

SPRING
TOGETHER
for
LOVE
&
HOPE



My Brother's Keeper
Family Walk

STRIKES FOR HOPE



Carrying Furniture...Delivering Christ's Love and Hope By Erich Miller

Deacon Plunge returns to My Brother's Keeper after 2 years

Diaconate candidates Dan Cerys, Dan O'Toole, and Matt Bensman and I drove to New Bedford to carry some furniture but most importantly, to deliver the Love and Hope of Christ to families in need on the South Coast.

Our first stop was to 'Mary,' her 2-year old daughter 'Abby,' and Mary's mother, 'Corinna.' Abby was wearing a mermaid dress and high heels. She was shy for half a moment, then took Dan O. by the hands as her new best friend and dance partner.

The apartment was filled with the family's love spanning three generations. Their total lack of furniture was a stark contrast: they were sleeping on air mattresses and the living room was empty except for two folding camping chairs. Shockingly, they had been in the apartment for 4 months.

Though the family had few material possessions, it was clear they weren't lacking faith: there was a cross on the wall along with a stenciled quote from the Book of Ephesians.

It took us a while to bring beds, dressers, a kitchen set, and living room furniture up to their 6th floor apartment using elevators but it gave us more time to talk and get to know one another. That's part of My Brother's Keeper being a ministry. We're there to connect as brothers and sisters — all children of God.

When the last of the furniture was moved in and set up, Mary offered her heartfelt thanks: "Thank you so much for turning our empty apartment into a home and for giving our family a fresh start." Dan C. offered her our final gift, a crucifix, and said, "You don't have to thank us. We're just the delivery people. The furniture is from Him."

Mary was deeply touched. She pointed to the cross on the wall and the Ephesians quote, and responded, "You can see our faith is important to us. I know He never forgets us." What a beautiful witness she was for us!

As we said our goodbyes and headed to the elevator, Mary asked, "Do you ever pray with people on deliveries?" "Absolutely!" we replied. We all circled up and Matt led us in a heartfelt prayer.

For me, it was a beautiful, hopeful experience not only to serve Mary, Abby, and Corinna but also to witness the three future deacons minister to her family in their own special way. God clearly uses My Brother's Keeper to do so much more than just deliver furniture and food.



In May, My Brother's Keeper hosted 'Deacon Plunge,' a 3-day service retreat for men in the Diaconate Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Each day began with Mass in our warehouse — the altar built from food and furniture — followed by direct service, prayer, and evening reflection. At night, the men slept on mattresses on the warehouse floor to live in solidarity with the poor and homeless.

Deacon John Barry from St. Mary Parish in Holliston participated in our 2013 Deacon Plunge retreat and since then, he's shared the joy of service at My Brother's Keeper with many parishioners. Here's a recent thank you from one mother who brought her family to serve with us.

Hi Deacon John,

We LOVED volunteering for My Brother's Keeper last week and hope to do it again in the future. When we do it again, I plan to reach out ahead of time to see if we can pick up bags of apples or clementines, etc. that can just be added to the give away's for each family. That way we can feel like we're part of the sharing a bit more.

Making the deliveries was fun and such a blessing to us as it was to them. We especially loved interacting with one single mom and her 2 little ones (3 and 2 years old). They were so thankful. As we left we said "God bless" to which the little ones started yelling "God bwess you! God bwess you!" over and over again in the adorable way that little kiddos pronounce their l's. They also blew so many sweet kisses. So cute!!

What a great joy it was to be a part of it and we can't wait to volunteer with My Brother's Keeper again.

—Heather



First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, based in Fairhaven, has quickly become one of our most active corporate partners. Since last September, team members from the credit union have volunteered every month making food deliveries out of our Dartmouth Facility.

First Citizens' also wrapped presents multiple times each week during Christmas and helped out at our Strikes For Hope fundraiser.

Best of all, First Citizens' team members can't stop talking about what a great time they have been having! One volunteer went out of his way to introduce My Brother's Keeper around to other local businesses at a networking event. Another keeps reminding us that she is really looking forward to volunteering on a weekly basis after retirement!

One regular volunteer, GERALYN MARCINKO, from First Citizens' corporate office, shared this about her initial experience at My Brother's Keeper:

I still remember delivering to a young mom in New Bedford my first day volunteering. And then out behind her peeked the cutest little boy who began yelling in excitement at seeing all the food. He was still waving at us as we drove away and I remember thinking, "This is as good as it gets!"

Notre Dame Club of Boston Service Retreat

By Deacon Paul Key, Chief Development Officer

On Saturday, April 9th, My Brother's Keeper hosted a Lenten service retreat for The Notre Dame Club of Boston.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Tony Szakaly, CSC, chair of the My Brother's Keeper Board of Directors and a holder of three degrees from Notre Dame.

Notre Dame alumni and their families then toured the building and helped make deliveries of groceries to families in need in Brockton.

Two young men, the sons of an alum, joined me on the road. The highlight of the day occurred on our last delivery. One of the young men volunteered to give the Crucifix, a gift offered to all first-time recipients, to the home owner, Bill.



Pretty impressive for a first-time volunteer, not to mention a teenager!

Once all the groceries had been delivered to Bill's doorstep, the young man pulled the Crucifix out of his jacket pocket, extended it with a smile and said, "We're just the delivery people. This is the person who sent you the food."

It was as if he had practiced the delivery of that message for weeks. It was perfect.

As we drove away, we looked back to see Bill standing in front of his doorstep, staring at the Crucifix he had just been handed by the young man — a lasting reminder of our mission.



Volunteer Spotlight: Kerry Payson, Mansfield, MA

The parable of the Sower is among the best known throughout the Gospels. As Christians, we long to be counted among the seed sown in the good soil that brings forth grain.

Some, however, take it upon themselves to join the Sower in spreading the seed, furthering the Kingdom of Heaven in their own community and throughout the world.

One such sower is Kerry Payson, a long-time volunteer and great friend of My Brother's Keeper.

Kerry has a passion for moving faith into action that she loves to share. For 20 years she worked as a youth minister at Our Lady of Sorrows in Sharon, bringing local youth and their families to volunteer at My Brother's Keeper and to serve on mission trips to some of the most impoverished cities in the United States.

Since then, Kerry has become an educator, currently teaching Theology at Bishop Feehan High School and introducing its students and community to service through My Brother's Keeper.

Among Kerry's key recruits is her husband, Mark, a weekly volunteer and member of the My Brother's Keeper Easton Development Board. Mark humbly told us: "Kerry is the reason I'm at My Brother's Keeper. She has been the seed planter for so many."

Through Kerry's tireless efforts, the mission of bringing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve is being introduced to a new generation of sowers at Bishop Feehan High

School. Students and their parents have come to My Brother's Keeper multiple times during the spring semester to help deliver healthy groceries to local families in need. In the process, they have shown genuine care and concern for their neighbors.

Of Kerry's work opening doors to service through My Brother's Keeper, Bishop Feehan High School President, Tim Sullivan, said: "Kerry's passion for connecting our students to our faith and faith-based service is infectious. And there is no better example than what she and Mark do when bringing our students to My Brother's Keeper. Prayer, direct service, connecting service to Jesus on the Cross, it's exactly what we want our students to experience at Feehan and bring with them when they leave here."

We at My Brother's Keeper are grateful for Kerry and her passion for sowing the seeds of Love and Hope.



Bless Me Again!

By Julie Carchedi, Program Support Associate



I've always been amazed by the people who call our Helpline for assistance. Calls often begin with a sincere greeting and introduction, setting a pleasant tone for the remainder of the conversation. Within the first few minutes of the call, details of one's life are shared effortlessly, as

if we have been best friends forever. This was the case the day Cara called My Brother's Keeper.

Cara called to inquire about how our furniture program works. She anxiously offered proof of need by saying she could text a picture of her license or stop by to show me the vouchers she received from the homeless shelter. I heard a sigh of relief when I told her she did not have to show me anything. "We offer assistance free of charge with no prerequisites for service," I said with a smile on my face, so grateful for this policy.

As we chatted, Cara shared she was in the local domestic violence shelter with two young children. Her one-year anniversary at the shelter was coming up and she wanted to move into an apartment to start fresh before that anniversary. We went through the list of items she needed which was basically everything. Not wanting to ask for too much, Cara shared that as a single mother, she was doing her best to manage children and work full time while coordinating all of the details of the move. She was grateful for whatever we could provide.

Delivery day was finally upon us! Cara called every hour, on the hour, to make sure we were still going to arrive at the promised time. These hourly calls reminded me of how much families are relying on us.

Upon arrival, the crew (George DuCasse, Ken Zurwaski, Sam Miller) and I entered the apartment. Cara and her children smiled with great anticipation. They stood at the door as the crew effortlessly made several trips up and down the stairs to bring in the next item.

The highlight of the delivery was when Cara's 5-year-old daughter, Nevaeh, (Heaven spelled backwards!) asked me what I had in the box I was holding. It was the crucifix we deliver on every furniture delivery. She looked at me and said, "It matches your necklace." Taken aback by this little girl's ability to connect the two so quickly, I asked her to sit with me for a minute. I explained Jesus loves us and watches over all of us. I then showed her how to bless herself by making the sign of the cross. She giggled several times as she tried to remember which way to move her hands.

At the end of the delivery, with Cara, her children and the crew standing in a circle in the kitchen, we presented the crucifix to Cara and we all made the sign of the cross. Watching with eyes wide open, Nevaeh asked if we could bless ourselves again! Of course we can, you can never have too many blessings!

The Positivity of Those We Serve

By Beth Collins, Manager, Food Assistance Program



My Brother's Keeper is about so much more than delivering furniture and food to local families in need. As a Christian ministry, God blesses us with so many opportunities to bring His love and hope to those we serve. At the same time, our staff and volunteers often find that those we serve (despite their hardships and

everything they are going through) bring His love and hope to us, too!

While answering the furniture assistance line one day, I was so struck by Lorenzo's positivity. I answered, "Good afternoon, My Brother's Keeper" and Lorenzo said, "Sister, God is good all the time!"

He caught me off guard for a moment, but I agreed with him wholeheartedly and then I asked him "How can I help you today?"

Lorenzo explained that he had been homeless for quite some time and how Father Bill's and Mainspring had kindly helped him obtain an apartment. He said, "Yesterday just as I was leaving Church, I got the call letting me know about my new apartment - it felt like it was a sign from God that it was meant to be!" He laughed and said, "Ma'am, I was so excited - I wanted to start breakdancing in the Church parking lot!"

I was so impressed by Lorenzo, his kind nature, and his positive attitude. I wondered to myself how someone could stay so upbeat having gone through everything he dealt with. He shared, "The hardest part of being homeless was not knowing where my destination would be. Even with all the struggles and pain I had, I was able to persevere thanks to God and the angels around me who helped me."

It became clear to me that Lorenzo's faith in God and his gratitude for the people around him is what helped him stay positive and get through the tremendously challenging times he was experiencing.

I've talked with other staff members and volunteers at My Brother's Keeper about how lucky we are to meet people like Lorenzo, and how our work helps us put our own life struggles into perspective. One weekly volunteer, Alice, has said many times, "The minute you step out of your car and you step in here to My Brother's Keeper, whatever you were going through is gone."

Even if our own problems are big or don't necessarily go away, the prayerful community around us and the inspiring people we serve tend to help us feel a bit better about them.

Witnessing the strength, faith, and perseverance of those we serve can help us to remember our blessings among whatever struggles we may be having. We thank God for all He gives to us – including this great privilege of serving others in His name.

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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