

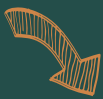
BROTHER'S Keeper NEWSLETTER

FALL
2020

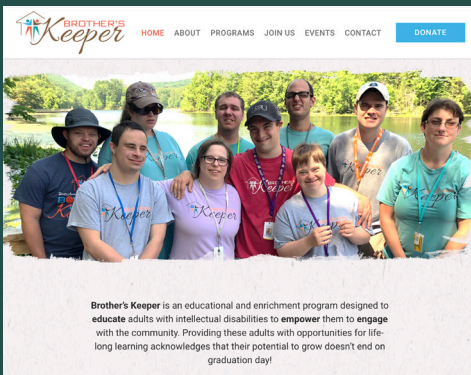
New Website

We are so excited to announce our new website! Huge kudos to Stellar Studios who managed this entire redesign for us. Check it out and let us know what you think.

Check it out!



www.BrothersKeeperTN.org



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423-268-4624

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an incredible and strange time to celebrate the start of our 5th year at Brother's Keeper! As much as I wish some days that I could have a 2020 do-over, I am more grateful than ever before for the BK community and the provision of God to sustain it. The lessons from the lives of our participants have been incredible to witness in this season.

As we try to figure out returning to "normal" at BK, I've been wondering often, "What is normal?" Since we reopened June 1st, we've had a lot of change to our routine. There are screening questions before entering and temperature checks several times throughout the day. We are learning to practice social distancing all day long, hand washing often, and sanitizing all day. We have put our weekly community outings and service trips – both participant favorites – on hold in this season. I am sure many of you are experiencing a mix of the same in your places of work and children's schools. We are all weary of the circumstances and changes the pandemic has brought to our lives. And yet, we all seem to be learning a new normal of sorts.

As I've watched this new normal unfold, I know my sons and our other participants don't begin to understand the depth of all that is going on with the pandemic. But they have all readily accepted the myriad changes in life over the past 5 months and the many things we have not been able to do. From stay-at-home orders to new rhythms for day-to-day at BK and changes in life in general, our participants have accepted these changes without question.

The reality is, people with disabilities and

their families have always had to live their lives with change, unpredictability, and an acceptance of their circumstances. I do believe they are better at adapting to "uncertain times" than the rest of the world. Our mission is to help our participants to continue to develop intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually. In this season, I have witnessed our participants' spiritual strength and resilience through the way they trust. Because their lives have never been certain, nor

have they ever been in control of their own lives, they choose to trust – in others, in Christ, in their caregivers and family members, like a child does, day in and day out.

My sons and each of our participants have modeled to me the reality of Proverbs 3:5 – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Their trust is helping my own to grow stronger. One thing this pandemic definitely continues to remind me is that I am not in control, and I need to learn to trust more deeply. Our BK participants' trust is a beautiful way God is teaching me to trust Him with all of my heart.

I pray that wherever this pandemic finds you, you are learning a deeper trust and freedom in the ways God is directing your path. Nothing happens in life without first sifting through His hands. He is trustworthy. And if you forget it, think of our BK participants and the trust they model. May they be a lesson to each of us.



Cecile Huddleston

*"Trust in the
Lord with all
your heart"*

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • ENGAGE

to be all that we can be...

FEATURE ARTICLE

As we enter into the holiday season we encourage you to consider shopping at our Etsy shop for gifts for your loved ones (both 2 legged and 4!) Our participants take pride in the items they work so diligently to create.

Find us at



<https://www.etsy.com/shop/BrothersKeeperTN>



Made with Love at
**BROTHER'S
Keeper**
AN EDUCATIONAL AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
FOR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Back In Session

As much of the U.S. is heading back to school (virtually or in-person), we are thrilled that Brother's Keeper has been back in session in-person since June 1st! Social distancing proved extremely difficult on day one due to all the joy over being reunited! Every one of our participants and staff has been so excited to be back with one another on a regular basis. We've found a good new routine and each participant has adapted well. Our incredible instructors have also adapted, cleaning several times a day and helping all of us learn how to distance in this new normal. While it has been a challenge, our staff developed a thorough plan and have implemented it with ease.

Two New Participants

Wendy loves all things Disney! She loves music, singing, and a good joke. She is quite the comedian! Her smile and laugh are contagious to everyone she is around.



Joey is our trivia aficionado - especially when it comes to superheroes and Disney! He is an excellent artist and is also a great athlete.

Engage With Us

It has been a true joy for our community to be united again, and we are more grateful than ever for the financial gifts you make that enable this work. As a result of your investment, Brother's Keeper is a successful and rewarding opportunity for participants and offers families hope for a brighter future for their family members.

The following are a few of the ways in which you can join our mission to serve these special adults and make an impact on their lives.



Become A Donor

Consider becoming a Friend of Brother's Keeper and sign up to become a regular monthly donor.



Gifting

Donate Appreciable Assets, Gifts of Stock, Gifts In-Kind, or include Brother's Keeper in your Estate Planning.



Gift Matching

See if your employer has a Matching Gift Plan in which they will match employee's contributions to charitable organizations.

Please contact us at chuddleston@BrothersKeeperTN.org if you would like to discuss the above contribution opportunities.

To donate by credit card or PayPal, please visit our website at www.BrothersKeeperTN.org/donate.

Or mail donations to:

Brother's Keeper
P.O. Box 4101
Johnson City, TN 37602