

BK NAMED: VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

On Friday, November 22, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee named Brother's Keeper as their 2024 Volunteer Group of the Year. During the presentation, Second Harvest said the following about Brother's Keeper and our service to the community:

“Brother's Keeper is an educational and enrichment program in Johnson City. It is designed to educate and empower adults with intellectual disabilities to engage with the community, and they do just that at Second Harvest. This group of young adults holds a special place in the heart of our volunteer coordinator, Rene, and in all of us here at Second Harvest. Rene said, ‘It is a true delight to watch and visit with them as they volunteer. From the moment they enter the Good Steward Volunteer Center to the time they leave, they are smiling and bringing joy to everyone they meet. Their work ethic is amazing, and they are a blessing to have as volunteers.’ We are thankful for them and for the compassionate staff at Brother's Keeper who faithfully bring this group to the food bank and volunteer alongside them. It is a pleasure to honor Brother's Keeper with our **Volunteer Group of the Year** award.”



PARTICIPANT IMPACT STORIES



« Samir Gala

“Samir Gala has been employed by Goodwill Thrift Store as a Sales Associate for almost three years. He works three days a week and five hours each day. Brother's Keeper has helped Samir to build social skills, become independent, and take on responsibilities. This has helped him learn to follow directions at his job and he has become more independent in his work assignment.”

Becca Moody »

“Rebecca is very outgoing and tries to engage just about anyone she sees at stores or other places. She never meets a stranger and will walk up to anyone and start a conversation. I think her immersion in daily social interactions with other participants of BK is part of it. She has a natural extrovert personality, and the constant fellowship and community with BK friends has really brought it to the forefront.”



PHILANTHROPY CORNER

Matching Your Gift Increases Your Impact at BK!

You can potentially double, triple, or even quadruple the impact of your giving to Brother's Keeper. We encourage you to ask your employer if they offer a matching gift program. Many companies demonstrate their corporate social responsibility principles by helping their employees maximize their giving. Your investment in the participants and in the mission of Brother's Keeper can be even more impactful than before. Ask your employer today! If anyone has questions about Brother's Keeper, please contact Micah Crews at mcrews@BrothersKeeperTN.org. He is happy to arrange a meeting or a phone call. Brother's Keeper is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in the state of Tennessee.

Ways to give to BK



LET'S ROLL FOR A CAUSE

We are excited to invite you to be a part of our **9th Annual Fun-Filled Bowling Fundraising Event** in support of Brother's Keeper! Bowling has always been a favorite activity of our participants. When we go to the bowling alley, they get out of the vans with their own bowling balls and shoes with smiles on their faces. Their affinity for bowling is what prompted the start of our Annual Bowling for Brother's Keeper event over eight years ago.

This annual event is our one and only fundraising event every year. Brother's Keeper relies on this event to "fill in the gaps" between tuition and the costs of running our program. Every dollar raised at this event goes directly towards the operational budget of Brother's Keeper and serving our amazing community.

Brother's Keeper is committed to serving adults with intellectual disabilities and empowering a vibrant and often overlooked community. Help us continue to build bridges between our participants and the broader community. Supporting our program means investing in a brighter future, transforming lives, and championing the untapped potential of the individuals we serve. Help us make a lasting impact on the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities, helping them thrive, dream, and achieve their full potential. Whether you're a pro or just there for fun, every strike (or gutter ball!) makes a difference. So, gather your friends and family for an exciting evening of bowling, laughter, community spirit, and make a difference together! We couldn't do this without you! Don't delay, lanes are reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

» **When:** April 11th, 2025

2 sessions to choose from to bowl:

» 4:00 - 6:00pm (check in at 3:30)

» 7:00 - 9:00pm (check in at 6:30)

» **Where:**

Holiday Lanes

117 Broyles Drive

Johnson City, Tennessee

Why: A chance to connect with others in support of a great mission of empowering adults with intellectual disabilities and raising awareness for our program!

Can't make it? You can still support by donating here: www.BrothersKeeperTN.org/Bowling. Please include your name and address and indicate that your donation is for the 2025 Bowling Event.

Contact us at 423-268-4624 or email us at info@BrothersKeeperTN.org with questions or to discuss sponsorship opportunities. For forms and information on sponsorships or donations, visit www.BrothersKeeperTN.org/Bowling.



ORNAMENT SALES

Following Brother's Keeper's purchase of a new building, we found that we had a plethora of hymnals that were included in the purchase. In typical BK fashion, nothing will be wasted as we prepare the building for our future. The instructional staff and participants created a way for these old hymnals to find new life. A simple ornament design was created that would allow the purchaser to select a hymn of their choice and to choose whether they would like a creche silhouette included. These original ornaments were then offered via social media to the BK community. There was an amazing response. The participants and instructional staff created more than 400 ornaments and raised more than \$2,100 from this sale. They are planning on offering these again starting at Easter and continuing throughout the year, so start thinking now about your future orders!



Nondiscrimination Policy:

Brother's Keeper admits program attendees of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to program attendees. Its application procedures and daily operations do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship program, athletic program, and other school-administered programs.