

NEWSLETTER

www.BrothersKeeperTN.org

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What's in a Name?

Reflecting on when we founded Brother's Keeper, we chose a name that would reflect our mission. The phrase "brother's keeper," which originates from the Bible, continues to represent enduring values of shared responsibility in our community, and having compassion and empathy for others. We are all interconnected within a larger community, and being my "brother's keeper" is a call to action to help ensure the well-being of others. This sentiment is especially visible in programs for adults with intellectual disabilities, such as Brother's Keeper. Our program exemplifies the principle of being a brother's keeper, fostering a community characterized by mutual care, support, and respect.

These values shape our program which offers opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities to engage in learning and social activities. For these adults, opportunities to learn, grow, and connect are otherwise limited. Brother's Keeper steps in and offers not only a place of belonging but also a chance to thrive. Staff and volunteers embody the role of "keeper" by providing instruction, guidance, encouragement, and support. Throughout the day's activities, the staff guide them in building character and living out Biblical principles.

BK participants live out the name "**Brother's Keeper**" in ways that are natural, heartfelt, and deeply moving. We are reminded every day that being a "keeper" isn't limited by ability. Our participants personify the spirit of being **their** brother's keeper by demonstrating that caring for others is a joy and a privilege, and not a burden.

Encouragement and Friendship

When one participant is struggling with a task, mastering a skill, or simply having a difficult day, others are quick to offer encouragement. A pat on the back, a smile, or words of encouragement display a deep sense of looking out for one another.

Celebrating Achievements

At BK, no milestone goes unnoticed. Every participant's birthday is celebrated like a holiday. When someone learns a new skill, completes a project, or shares a personal accomplishment, the entire group rejoices. Their joy is genuine and contagious, no matter how big or small the success may be.

Showing Compassion

Our participants demonstrate remarkable empathy towards everyone. If a friend is upset, others will sit beside them, offer comfort, or pray with them. Their instinct to care for one another, and to love as Jesus commands us to, without any barriers.

Helping Each Other

Staff members teach with patience and understanding. Our participants also naturally help guide each other, share resources, or help explain instructions during the day. **Everyone** has something to offer. Helping one other comes from a place of love, not duty. Supporting one another is an act of genuine care, not obligation.

Building a Genuine Community

Brother's Keeper has a family-like atmosphere that welcomes and values every individual's unique gift. Kindness is the norm and being a "keeper" for each other is woven into the very culture of the group. The participants not only receive kindness, but they are often the most genuine sources of it. Their lives bear witness to the truth that every person has a role to play in building a community.

As this year ends, we invite **you to join us** in being our brother's keeper. **Your support** has the power to create opportunities, ignite joy, and affirm the truth that every person has worth, purpose, and potential. **Together**, we can live out this calling. **Your year-end gift** can help us continue to grow the compassionate, caring community that we call our BK family.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATING



ENCOURAGEMENT



HELPING

Brother's Keeper Needs Your Help

Donate Today



The host location for BK since we opened 10 years ago, Boones Creek Christian Church (BCCC), just announced that they are preparing for a major renovation and expansion project to accommodate the needs of their growing congregation. Their work is scheduled to begin in December 2026, and our present BK location will be the **first to be affected**. We are now faced with finding a new home as we prepare to move out of the church before the demolition begins.

Brother's Keeper also needs to accommodate our growing program, which is why we purchased a building last year to renovate. We have completed plans for the necessary renovations and **when the funding is in place**, we will be ready to proceed with the project. BCCC's expansion project means that there is now a **new urgency for Brother's Keeper** to raise the money needed to create a new home for BK. While this is an unexpected challenge confronting BK, we choose to recognize this as part of God's plan, and we are confident that He will provide!

Would you please help us with this **urgent need** so we can move towards construction to meet the needs of our growing community? When you support our work, you help ensure that some of the most overlooked members of our community can live and thrive in a safe and supportive environment. **Because of you**, BK will be able to continue to serve this part of our community. **Your generosity** will provide a place where this spirit of love, care, and belonging can continue to grow. Please consider us in your **year-end giving** and together, we can live out the calling to be our brother's keeper.



BK's Future Home

A Year in Review



Have You Considered Giving Through Your IRA?

For many generous individuals, supporting charitable causes is an important part of life. If you are age 70 1/2 or older, one especially tax-efficient way to give is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). A Qualified Charitable Distribution is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian to an eligible charity. Instead of withdrawing money yourself, paying the necessary taxes and then donating, the gift is made directly to the nonprofit without the need to pay taxes on the money. Your investment advisor can inform you about withdrawal limits.

Reasons to Consider a QCD:

- Tax Benefits – Because QCDs are not counted as taxable income, they can reduce your overall tax liability. You must be at least 70½ years old at the time of the gift. If the funds pass through you, they will not qualify. The funds must come from a traditional IRA and in some cases, certain inherited IRAs also qualify.
- Direct Support for Charities – Your chosen nonprofit receives the full value of your gift, without you paying taxes on the withdrawal.
- Satisfying RMDs – Starting at age 73, the IRS requires annual minimum withdrawals (Required Minimum Distributions, or RMDs) from your IRA. A QCD can count toward all or part of your RMD for the year.

Qualified Charitable Distributions are a powerful tool that allow donors to meet their philanthropic goals while enjoying valuable tax benefits. If you or someone you know is 70½ or older, a QCD could be an excellent way to support Brother's Keeper and make a lasting impact in our community!



Myra O'Dell, CFP®, MBA
Brother's Keeper Board Member

From Our  to Yours
We Wish You a Blessed Holiday Season