

BROTHER'S Keeper NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2022

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brother's Keeper's educational and enrichment program was formed over 6 years ago to serve those born with intellectual disabilities. They will never outgrow the need for continuing education, training, and care and we believe that these men and women should have every opportunity to develop to his or her potential, belong to a community of friends, and have a purpose in their life. Their potential to thrive shouldn't have to end at high school graduation! More than just an adult day care setting, Brother's Keeper offers those opportunities for growth in a safe, loving and faith-based environment where our participants can excel. It has been life-changing for our participants, and we are honored to be serving families in our community.



Scott Peeples, Josh Salyer, Ashlee Thompson, Ashley Whitmer, Kara Price

I want to recognize the fact that we could not offer this program without our **wonderful** staff; most of whom have been with Brother's Keeper since opening our doors. The staff at Brother's Keeper are educated, experienced, and have such passion for their job. Their love for their work is evident in all they do. Each staff member is uniquely gifted for working with our participants and finding new avenues to help them remain active and learn new skills. They are loyal, invested, and dedicated to the participants as well as to the mission of Brother's Keeper. There is a sense of camaraderie among the staff that carries over to the participants. All of this contributes to Brother's Keeper being a unique organization in our community.



Cecile Huddleston

“As our committed and trained staff work with individuals who are intellectually disabled, they know they are helping the participants conquer some of the daily challenges they encounter in life while also celebrating their successes as they reach for new heights to be all that they can be.”

Staff Reflection

I never expected to work at Brother's Keeper, instead preferring the summer camp experience and challenge course facilitation. All throughout my college career it was suggested that I work with individuals with special needs. I continued to stay the course with Parks and Recreation in spite of the moments where I knew God was telling me where I needed to be, working with individuals with special needs. I have loved working at Brother's Keeper the past three years. It has become more than just a job; it has been a source of awe, wonder, amazement, and, yes, even amusement.

Not long after starting at Brother's Keeper, we were walking for an activity period and a participant started to chase me, which was not an uncommon occurrence. However, when I turned around to look at the participant's face, I saw an expression of pure joy. At that moment I knew I was where I needed to be.

Seeing the same faces at Brother's Keeper day in and day out has brought quite a different experience from my camp experiences, and I am all the better for it. Each day brings its challenges; however, each day also brings the opportunity to help someone grow, learn, and become a better person. Watching the participants improve while I have been here has been nothing short of amazing. To see the expression on the faces of the participants, when they are learning something new, when they engage in activities they did not think they could do, and when they display their love of belonging, truly warms my heart.

The time I have spent as a Program Assistant with Brother's Keeper has brought me many opportunities, and I have developed quite a bond with the participants. I look forward to building upon those in the future.



Scott Peeples

Bowling for Brother's Keeper Update

It was so much fun being together in person this year for our 6th Annual Bowling Event. It was a huge success and thanks to our many sponsors, donors, bowlers, and friends, we raised over \$40,000 to help further the mission of our program. After our participants opened the evening by simultaneously bowling the first ball, we had 24 teams made up of over 140 bowlers competing for the first-place spot. There were many others who came just to cheer on their friends and support the event. We appreciate everyone involved that made the event such a success. Your support allows our unique program to continue serving adults with intellectual disabilities in the Tri-Cities.

FEATURED ARTICLE



This event raised over **\$40,000** to help further the mission of our program.



Engage With Us

Brother's Keeper is a registered non-profit 501(c)3 organization, EIN 37-1757836. All donations are tax deductible. Because we do not accept any government money, Brother's Keeper is privately funded by donations from individuals, corporations, church partners, foundations, grants, tuition income, and the sale of participant crafted products.

While our Bowling Event was a success, we are still in need of your financial support to start a capital fund for the future when we outgrow our current space. Please consider investing in our mission; we appreciate you partnering with us!



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 me 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

Staff News

We recently welcomed a new staff member to the BK family, Ashley Whitmer. Ashley studied Special Education at ETSU. While in college, Ashley volunteered at the inclusive performing arts program, POPArts, and completed student teaching in various schools in the Tri-Cities. After graduating from ETSU in 2018, Ashley taught Special Education at Hunter Elementary School before moving on to Brother's Keeper. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, and playing with her dog, Oliver. She believes that Brother's Keeper was a blessing and that God led her here. She loves being a part of BK.



Ashley Whitmer

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