

BROTHER'S KEEPER

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The world values being "independent". It is a word that is used by everyone including parents and educators. It can have greater significance in the world of adults with disabilities - achieving the highest level in a task, skill, or activity of daily living. However, none of us are truly independent. We all depend on others for certain things in our lives, so in truth, we are **interdependent**. God created humans for relationship and interdependence. In Genesis 2:18, "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'". An **interdependent** relationship is one in which two or more people rely on each other to help fulfill needs, whether they be physical, emotional, or spiritual. With these first two people, God set the pattern of interdependence for all future mankind.

The apostle Paul speaks of our **interdependence** in Romans 12:4-8 "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

On a visit to a model program when starting Brother's Keeper, I was blessed with an unexpected opportunity to witness **interdependence** in action. The program participants were preparing to decorate Christmas ornaments to sell in the gift shop. There were many adults with special needs gathered around the tables. Those who were able, were sorting the different shapes of ornaments on the tables. There were a few of the participants who could decorate the ornaments beautifully, and several others not as well. Some were only able to put a dot of paint on the tree shaped ornaments, representing the ornaments we place on our trees at home. Some of the participants were tasked with cutting the string, some were able to thread the ornaments with the string, and a few were able to tie the bows with assistance. But the person that struck me to the core,

was the individual who could not move her extremities and relied on a wheelchair for mobility. Her helper had layered the cut string pieces across her arms to be easily accessed by all. She played the valuable role of string holder and enjoyed being a part of the activity as much as the others. Each person used their gift and abilities to contribute to the whole, and it was beautiful to watch.

We are all made in God's image, and Brother's Keeper believes that every individual has inherent God-given value and is worthy of dignity and respect. We are passionate about helping these adults maximize their potential and use their special abilities and gifts in a God-centered, safe, and loving environment. We believe in the **interdependence** not only of our community at Brother's Keeper, but also, of our community at large, for the adults attending our program have a great capacity to serve and support others. We empower them to become artisans, gardeners, card makers, and more. As encouragers of one another, Brother's Keeper has become a beautiful example of an **interdependent** community where lifelong friendships have formed and where our vision for a brighter future is possible.

May we all appreciate God's design for His people and begin to respect and appreciate each other's giftings. **Interdependence** is displayed when we join hands to accomplish something much bigger than what we could ever do on our own. God loves seeing His people serving and working together; that is how we were created to function. He designed us to need each other!

We are extremely thankful for your support and contributions that have helped us cultivate this **interdependent** community that has meant so much to our participants and their families. As we face the new year and the growth and changes that we anticipate, will you please consider Brother's Keeper in your **year-end giving**? Your gift will continue to support our programming efforts and will help prepare us financially for our next steps. It can make a lasting impact on the lives of those attending Brother's Keeper and offer them hope for a promising future!



Cecile Huddleston



Visit our shop at BK Corner. Our Participants take great pride in the items they make.



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't forget to sign up for AmazonSmile for your holiday shopping!

Testimonials

Callie Whitaker

Intern from Milligan University

Brother's Keeper has been the biggest blessing in my life this semester! The participants never fail to brighten the day and make you feel loved! I love that they work on various life skills and many other things every day and have TONS of fun while doing so! The participants prove every day that they can do way more than imagined! My favorite thing about Brother's Keeper is the participants' hearts for prayer requests! Every morning they do a devotion and ask for prayer requests and without fail the participants ALWAYS have prayer requests! When I walk in the room, the participants at BK always make my day brighter. I am so thankful for the opportunity to intern here at Brother's Keeper!

New Participants



Sonya

Sonya has a huge heart! She loves all things holidays and knows the entire Thriller dance.



Michael

Michael is one of three of our newest participants. He loves all things Star Wars and Disney!



Chris

Chris is a joy to have with us! He loves being around people and making them laugh.

Parent of a Participant

Brother's Keepers is an answer to prayer. After moving back to Tennessee two years ago, I was told about Brother's Keeper while I was searching for fun things to get our daughter Hannah involved in. I took her on a tour of BK, and she loved it so much she didn't want to leave. I had no idea something like Brother's Keeper existed. I began to pray that this was the program for Hannah. We were so thankful when she was accepted into the program. Hannah has something to look forward to, a place where she can learn, be happy, make friends, and she has something to call her own. I can't tell you how thankful we are for BK! It's a safe and amazing place. We are blessed that Hannah gets to be a part of this program. The Program Director, Ashlee and all the instructors are wonderful, and you can tell how much they care for our special sons and daughters.

Engage With Us

Your support means the world to us! Would you please consider a generous donation to Brother's Keeper in your **year-end** gift planning. This is a transitional time in the growth of BK and your donation will play an important part in our next steps as we grow towards having a physical presence in the community. We have remained true to our original goals to have an educational and experiential focus in a faith-based environment. Your **year-end** gift will continue to help provide meaningful programming for adults with special needs that wouldn't otherwise have the opportunities for continued education and personal growth.

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.



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.

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

Or mail donations to:

Brother's Keeper
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BrothersKeeperTN.org



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