

**“Oh give thanks  
to the Lord, for  
He is good; for  
His steadfast love  
endures forever!”**

**1 Chronicles 16:34**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**T**hanksgiving is a holiday for gathering and reflecting on the many blessings we have received. Quotes about gratitude and giving thanks pop up all over our social media feeds. I recently read that “Gratitude is not the quiet game. It begs to be expressed both to God and to others. Silent gratitude isn’t much good to anyone!”. We should take time daily to ask God for the eyes to see the blessings and realize His hand at work in our lives.

My heart is full when I consider God’s blessings upon Brother’s Keeper since we started, and for the work that BK does. I am in awe of and very grateful for the staff that shows up with smiles on their faces every day, prepared to help teach and guide the participants. They are the heart and soul of BK.

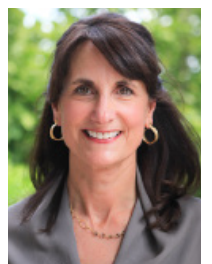
They are dedicated to helping adults with disabilities, and they do it with compassion and understanding. I am also humbled and grateful for the volunteers that support us with their time and talents that they bring to our participants. I am grateful for the organizations and university programs that join with us to help bring new experiences for our participants as well as new ideas for us to build upon. I am immensely grateful to Boones Creek Christian Church for their generosity in accommodating us and embracing us as their own over the past seven years. Most of all, I am exceedingly grateful for the participants that attend BK. They bring joy, love, laughter, and a deeper understanding of what is important in life. Brother’s Keeper transforms the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and I am so thankful for the families that want to provide the best opportunities for their loved ones. This program is building bridges between our participants and the broader community.

The positive outcomes of our program are tangible and heartwarming. Our families have said it has been life-changing for their participants. They are profoundly thankful for BK because it has been a beacon of hope in their lives. Brother’s Keeper provides a lifeline of support and a pathway to a brighter future for their loved ones. A few reasons our families are thankful:

- » Significant improvement in the overall quality of life for their participants and a newfound sense of purpose.
- » Participants’ increased confidence and the ability to accomplish tasks they once thought impossible.
- » Positive impact on emotional well-being of participants as friendships flourish and a sense of belonging is cultivated.
- » Improved self-expression through art and other outlets where participants discover their unique talents and passions.
- » Being a part of a supportive and caring program gives families peace of mind for their participant.

Brother’s Keeper is committed to serving adults with intellectual disabilities and empowering a vibrant and often-overlooked population of people. By participating in our program, these individuals gain access to education, vocational training, spiritual discipleship, social engagement and more. People with special needs should be valued and respected, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, and deserve to be treated with dignity and kindness.

As the year draws to a close, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support and commitment to Brother’s Keeper. **Your generosity** this year has allowed us to increase our staff, purchase another van, and more in order to meet the needs of our growing program. Our mission is clear: to enrich the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities by offering a nurturing environment where they can thrive. **We humbly ask you to consider including us in your year-end giving.** Together, we can break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create a special place where everyone can flourish and contribute. **Your year-end support** will allow us to continue to plan and execute vital programs and initiatives, ensuring that we can create a lasting impact on our participants, their families, and this community.



*Cecile Huddleston*



**Governor Bill Lee and his wife Maria visited Brother's Keeper as part of the First Lady's Tennessee Serves initiative.** They and their team toured the facilities, visited with every participant, and had a wonderful time playing a few games of pickleball with BK participants. They were a big encouragement to our BK staff and the participants, and they truly understood the purpose of our program. Mrs. Lee especially appreciated that the participants are serving others as well, including packing food boxes for those experiencing food insecurity. "Anybody can serve", she said, speaking of her initiative to get more people in Tennessee serving others in need.



## PHILANTHROPIC CORNER

As you consider your year-end giving, we kindly ask you to remember Brother's Keeper and the vital role it plays for the individuals we serve. Please join us in making a profound and lasting impact on the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities, helping them thrive, dream, and achieve their full potential. Supporting Brother's Keeper means investing in a brighter future, transforming lives, and helping them to be all that they can be. Every gift, no matter the size, contributes significantly to the success of our mission.

### Invest in our mission today to support our growth:

- » You can easily make a secure online donation through our website
- » Consider a one-time gift to make an immediate impact
- » Become a monthly donor and provide sustained support
- » Mail your donation to us using the enclosed response form and envelope

Additionally, if you are age 70 ½ or older, gifts from your IRA are one of the smartest, tax-wise ways you can support the mission of Brother's Keeper! Not only do these gifts satisfy your required minimum distribution, but they also reduce your taxable income.

For more information on donations, planned giving, or other ways of supporting BK, please call 423-268-4624 or visit our website at [www.BrothersKeeperTN.org/Donate](http://www.BrothersKeeperTN.org/Donate).

### Make a meaningful impact for future generations:

- » Designating Brother's Keeper as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy, retirement account, or investment fund
- » Adding Brother's Keeper as a beneficiary in a will
- » Property transfers
- » Charitable remainder trust or a Charitable lead trust

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.

## location, Location, LOCATION!

We are so blessed to now have 20 Brother's Keeper participants. This year has brought many inquiries into our program. Since we are only licensed to serve up to 20 in our current space, we have had to start a waiting list. We wish we could accommodate everyone, but our space is limited at this point. ***Please continue to pray that God would provide BK with a new home soon that will give us the additional space we need to continue to grow.*** We are also still working toward the eventual creation of a BK community campus with residential accommodations for participants in addition to our day program that we now have.



## SAVE THE DATE

**8th Annual  
Bowling for Brother's Keeper**

**April 19, 2024**