

MY 
BROTHER'S
KEEPER

J. P. Blase Cooke Center
because hope needs a home

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 4
December, 2007

In Memoriam – Blasé Cooke

Dear Friends,

November is a month that I eagerly await each year. With the natural beauty of the changing colors of leaves my mind turns to a deep awareness of God's unchanging love. Not only do we meet God in the beauty of creation but also in three very significant days: All Saints, All Souls and Thanksgiving. November provides each of us to step back and hopefully breathe in the good things God has and does for us. As the winter comes I hold onto in my mind the vivid colors and joy of this season of Saints, Souls and Thanks.

As many of you know on October 2nd our good friend Blasé Cooke passed away after a long and valiant battle with cancer. October 2nd had always been special for Blasé because it was the birthday of his mother and the feast of the angels, which would seem not to be a coincidence but a sign of God's loving care of this holy man.

Saints, Souls and fall leave I saw color I thought of nature takes its time to the point where its beauty. As the leaves fall and winter sets in there is sadness as the trees stand bare the beauty gone for another year. But then I remember we shall see them again in the not to distant future. And so we wait in joyful anticipation of that day.



Blasé Cooke, Dawn Cooke, Blasé's wife, and Joanie VanTuyll

know on October Blasé Cooke passed away after a long and valiant battle with cancer. October 2nd had always been special for Blasé because it was the birthday of his mother and the feast of the angels, which would seem not to be a coincidence but a sign of God's loving care of this holy man.

Thanksgiving! Each year filled with brilliant color I thought of nature takes its time to the point where its beauty. As the leaves fall and winter sets in there is sadness as the trees stand bare the beauty gone for another year. But then I remember we shall see them again in the not to distant future. And so we wait in joyful anticipation of that day.

God had filled Blasé's life with the fullness of color and beauty. While we miss his light and presence we

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Director's Corner:

Sister Carol Durkin, DC

Dear Friends,

As you see this Newsletter is dedicated to J.P. Blasé Cooke who went to God on October 2, 2007. This was the feast of Guardian Angels. Blasé was a guardian angel looking out and caring for the needs of others, especially for us here at My Brother's Keeper. With the HOPE that he has given us Blasé will continue to watch over and care for us in our ministry.

Many of you are donors to our work of assisting others. We are careful with your donations in trying to serve our guests.

**Use of My Brother's Keeper Charitable Funds:
January thru October 2007**

BGE and Fuel:	23%
now discontinued; referrals given instead	
Prescriptions & Medical Supplies	32%
insurance, co-pays, glasses	
Transportation	14%
mainly bus tokens given for medical app'ts, job inter-views, travel to assistance agencies	
Birth Certificates	7%
State ID's	19%
Shelter Fees	3%
Other Needs	2%
clothes, postage, furniture	

This is certainly a tribute we can give to Blasé Cooke.

HOLD THE DATE

BASKET BINGO April 6, 2008.

To support operating costs for My Brother's Keeper.

Mt. St. Joseph Cafeteria
4403 Frederick Ave.

Thank you,
Sr. Carol

ZONE 29

Dear friends of My Brother's Keeper,

The "ZONE 29 CLUB" is a way to support the ministry of "My Brother's Keeper – J.P. Blase Cooke Center." There are four levels to this club:

Platinum - \$25,000

Gold – \$10,000

Silver - \$5,000

Bronze - \$2,500

Contributions to the "Zone 29 Club" cumulative meaning that each time you make a contribution of any amount, it helps raise you closer or to the next level. In our November news letter or on our web site you can check to see where you and others are in the "ZONE".

"ZONE 29" refers to the zip code where My Brother's Keeper is located and where many of our benefactors, including Blase Cooke are originally from. Ask any "ZONE 29er" and see the pride!

My Brothers' Keeper - Blase Cooke Center, 4207 Frederick Ave., PO Box 25169, Baltimore, MD 21229, 410 644 3194

www.mybrotherskeeper.org

Executive Director: Sister Carol Durkin, DC, sistercarol@mybrotherskeeperbaltimore.org

Social Worker: Sister Mary Louise Zollars, DC, sistermarylouise@mybrotherskeeperbaltimore.org

Director of Development: Leo Goicochea, leog@mybrotherskeeperbaltimore.org

Kitchen Manager: Gordon Crockett

Security & Safety: David Shepard

Visit our WebSite at www.mybrotherskeeperbaltimore.org

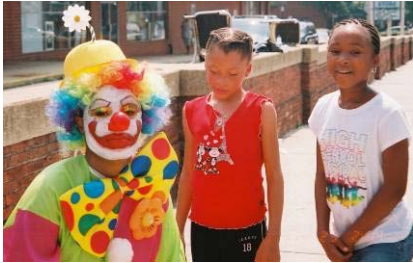
Irvington Community Association

"Where Houses Become Homes and Neighbors Become Friends"

P. O. Box 25254, Baltimore, MD 21229

What's Up in Irvington?

Back to School Event



The fourth annual back to school fair was held on August 18th, with over 300 Irvington residents participating!!! This year's event was bigger and better because of the grants and generous donations from merchants, politicians and churches. Even though it was a very hot day, we were able to provide our families with dancing in the street, games, prizes, food, and free school supplies for the students. New to the event was the participation by the urban radio station 92-Q, a clown, and representatives by several city agencies, and churches. Our gratitude goes out to our political representatives who consistently support and participate at the event. Over hundred fifty (150) back packs filled with school supplies were distributed, along with additional materials contributed at the fair.

Many thanks to those who donated money and supplies, the residents of 200 block of Collins Avenue for serving as grill masters, and all the volunteers who endured the extreme heat in order to make sure the event was a success.

Trip to the Port of Baltimore

On September 15th, a bus load of Irvington residents visited the Port of Baltimore for Port Fest 2007. Children and adults had the opportunity to see our world class working port which contributes greatly to

Maryland's economy. Some of the sights included the hundreds of imported cars such as Volvo, Porsche, and Mitsubishi; heavy farm equipment ready to be exported; a ride through a paper shed with flats of raw paper pulp from Brazil, waiting to be manufactured into tissue paper and disposal diapers; container ships with cargo ready to be unloaded by huge cranes; demonstrations by the Maryland Transportation Authority's canine unit; and the large x-ray machines used by U. S. Customs.



Because of Homeland Security, Port Fest is the only time of year the Port of Baltimore is open to the public for free tours. However, educational tours are permissible, so if you have a class interested in learning about how the port operates, contact the outreach coordinator at 410-631-1106 or mpasafepassage.com.

Empowering Adults and Youth Summit

The Irvington Community Association hosted the first empowerment summit sponsored by Senator Verna Jones of the 44th District and the Community Building Network (CBN) on October 20th. The event was held on the campus of Mt. Saint Joseph High School on Frederick Road. Nearly 100 youth, adults, exhibitors and volunteers participated in the summit that was designed to take a look at some of the problems that plaque our neighborhoods, such as gangs and conflicts, and to offer healing and direction for those who are coping with social and per-

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sonal challenges. Workshops were offered in the following areas: the myths vs. realities of gangs, behavior management, dealing with loss, and breaking generational curses. The CBN is comprised of community leaders from different communities, so each of the participating areas will have the opportunity to host a similar event. For information concerning any of the presentations or future events, contact Evelyn Eldredge at 410-669-6355.

Upcoming Dates

- ICA volunteers will participate with St. Joseph Monastery for the Thanksgiving Day Dinner, November 22nd, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm. The Monastery is located at 215 S. Morley Street.
- ICA will participate with the Southwest District for the distribution of Christmas food baskets. If you know of any family in Irvington that needs assistance, please call Dorothy Cunningham at 410-368-4015 with the name(s), address and number of people in the family.

- Join us for Citizens on Patrol walks through the Irvington neighbors. This is our community and our presence shows that we care! These walks are supported by Southwest District Police and other volunteers and begin at 7:00 pm at the corner of Frederick Road and Collins Avenue. Please mark your calendar with these upcoming dates: 11/19/07, 12/17/07, 01/21/08, 02/11/08, 03/17/08, 04/21/08, 05/19/08, and 06/16/08.

That's the wrap up of what's happening in Irvington. Please remember that our monthly community meeting is held every second Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Common Room of Irvington Place Apartment, 4025 Frederick Road. If you have any questions or issues that need community attention, contact Dorothy Cunningham, ICA president, at 410-368-4015. See you at the next meeting! 🍷



Thanksgiving 2007 at My Brother's Keeper

A wonderful celebration for all

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know we will see him again in the not to distant future. Like the autumn leave we know they will come again. Our faith tells us the same thing about those who have died.

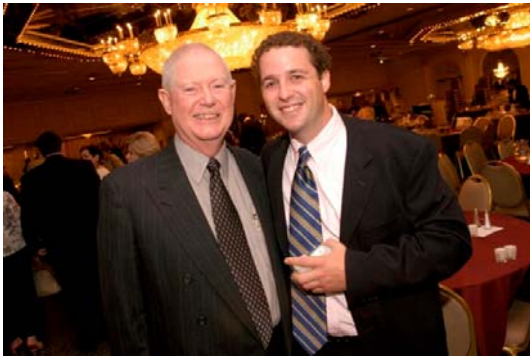
Thank you to so many who have made contributions to My Brother's Keeper in Blases's memory. Your care and financial support is very much appreciated and needed. You are always in our prayers.

Saints, Souls and Thanksgiving.

Blase, you now share in the fullness of the communion of Saints, your Soul is at peace and we will for ever give thanks for the gift of your friendship!

Peace,

An envelope is included for those who would like to make a contribution to My Brother's Keeper – J. P. Blase Cooke Center. Help us to continue to help others especially during this Holiday season.



Blaise Cooke and his son, Kevin



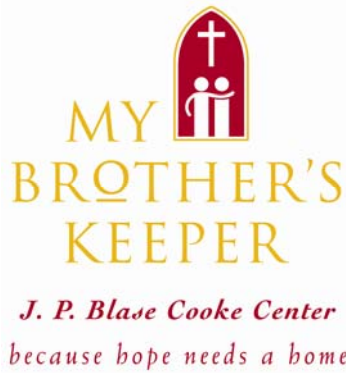
My Brother's Keeper Original Building



Thanksgiving day Mass 2007
at My Brother's Keeper



My Brother's Keeper Present Building



“Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:37-40

My Brothers' Keeper
4207 Frederick Ave.
PO Box 25169
Baltimore, MD 21229

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

And are deductible as provided by law.

WISH LIST	Paper plates, napkins
Frozen hamburgers, hot dogs, meatballs	Paper towels (z or c cut)
#10 cans of vegetables	Paper towels rolls
Large cans of tuna fish	Cleaning supplies; 409, bathroom cleaner
Casseroles	Socks, men and women
Large trash bags - 33 gal. and 55 gal.	Stamps \$.41

Visit our new online store at
www.cafepress.com/mybrotherskeeper
For T-shirts, magnets and mugs.

