



# KAIR

Keys Area Interdenominational Resources  
Food Pantry and Social Services for those in Need in the Middle Keys

## July 2009

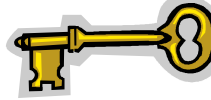
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### Director's Corner

After working at KAIR each day, I often pause at the complexities and difficulties in people's lives and wonder, "How can we really help in a significant way?" After all, we aren't Oprah and able to give each person a new auto just for participating; we aren't Dr. Phil who seems to impart insightful wisdom in time for the commercial break; and we aren't the Extreme Make-over show that can re-invent people's looks or their homes. What can we do?

My friend Alex gave me a book about remarkable Florida women. More than Petticoats by E. Lynne Wright is not a book I would have picked up on my own. It looked a bit dry and I didn't really recognize many of the names it discussed but in a dull moment with no reading material, it caught my eye. Rose Weiss lived in Miami Beach and as a member of the Democratic Party was invited to sit on the podium when Franklin Roosevelt came to town. She was ready to be seated but was hungry so stopped for a hot dog. Her friends went ahead and her delay meant that another was placed in her seat. During Roosevelt's speech, the fellow

sitting in Rosie's seat, Chicago mayor Anton Cermak, was mortally wounded by a bullet meant for the President. Rosie claimed thereafter that she had been saved by a hot dog.



KAIR doesn't have a ready solution to make people's lives better. We do what we can with what we have. We hope that the relationship we have with those we serve can help encourage, guide and comfort them. We count on our links to the community to possibly lead to significant opportunities for those who come seeking help. And we can't underestimate the value of just being there every day ready to try and help even when we stumble. Just as the insignificant hot dog saved Rosie's life, we keep faith that our actions, even if seemingly insignificant, can sometimes have the same power.

"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it."  
Marianne Williamson

### Why We KAIR....

People often think that KAIR primarily serves the homeless. In reality, quite the opposite is true. One morning saw two individuals that show the scope of the KAIR program.

A grandmother recently had to step in and take custody of her grandchildren, ages 2 years and 2 months. The parents were unable to provide responsible care for the children and this grandmother provided a safe haven for these little ones. In the process, she lost her job, but was confident that once she had them settled she could easily find work again. The poor economy took this option away and she turned to KAIR for guidance. It was discovered that she had a support system to turn to if she could relocate to North Carolina where help and employment awaited her. KAIR helped her with transportation and enough food and supplies to make her journey.

This same morning another local resident came to KAIR who recently had a fire that damaged the home they had lived in for the past fifteen years. Although employed full-time, the cost of these unexpected repairs stressed a budget that could only cover basic living expenses. Local contractors assessed the damage and as KAIR volunteers will complete the repairs at no cost. Appliances will also be provided.

KAIR is not meant to be a support system, but rather to help the person create or connect with a support system. These families were returned to self-sufficiency, always our primary goal.

### Thank You, Keys Fisheries!

Chris Byrne of Keys Fisheries organized a fantastic May celebration to benefit KAIR. His "Crustacean Vacation" brought in hundreds of donated food items and over \$1,000. Special thanks also goes to Howard Livingston for his generosity.



### Did You Know?

During the first six months of 2009, 442 different families representing over 1000 individuals were served by KAIR. This does not include the daily lunches given to those in need.

**YOU make this happen!**

Marj Roberts accepts a check for \$1,000 from the May event. From left to right, Charlotte Quinn, KAIR Board Member; Chris Byrne, Asst. Manager; Marj; Herb Bennett, KAIR Board Member; and Joe Caligiura, General Manager.

### Hurricane Hymnfest and Prayers for Peaceful Waters

Sunday, July 26th  
2 p.m.

Kirk of the Keys Presbyterian Church  
8877 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, FL

Join with us to sing your favorite hymns and old time songs. Last year the church rafters vibrated with the joyous voices of our community.

An old fashioned ice cream social will follow with sweet treats for everyone.

All are welcome and the event is free. A special offering will be taken to benefit KAIR.



"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Mark 4:39