



KAIR

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

October 2009

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Marathon, FL 33050
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A KAIRing Community!

At KAIR, we often experience people who have been very reluctant to seek help when they need it. They have been managing to get by paycheck to paycheck when a crisis finally makes them come to KAIR. We reassure them that reaching out for help was the right thing to do; that we want to help them get back on an even keel; that they don't have to do this alone.

Recently, we experienced a crisis of our own at KAIR. Our food inventory was running low, available food choices from the regional food bank were limited yet the number of people seeking help from KAIR was at an all-time high. We weren't very good at listening to our own advice. We discussed it privately and were determined to muddle through. It didn't dawn on us to shout out that we needed help. After all, we are supposed to be the ones helping others.

That's where a wonderful group of local citizens got involved. Word got around town that KAIR was struggling to meet so many needs and the community went into action. On October 7th, Marathon Lumber donated to KAIR at their

anniversary celebration and on October 17th, John and Marlene Bartus of Ma-rooned in Marathon hosted a successful sale to benefit KAIR.

Stan and Sue Haines of Collector's Corner coordinated a radiothon, with owner Joe Nascone and radio producer Anne O'Bannon of WGMX 94.3. The entire day's radio programming on October 20th was devoted to seeking help for KAIR. Capt. Don Mull, Theo Derleth and Mike Puto went all over town spreading the word. Rob Busweiler of the Free Press, Ryan McCarthy of the Keynoter and Jason Koler of the Weekly reached out to their thousands of readers. A steady stream of community members stopped by the radiothon to bring food and donations for KAIR's food pantry and emergency services. Donors enjoyed food provided by Frank's Grill. Most importantly, our friends and neighbors let us know that we too at KAIR need to reach out and accept help; that we don't have to do this alone. As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I am thankful to be living here surrounded by all of you, a giving, loving community.



Annual Thanksgiving Baskets

Businesses and individuals from the KAIR community donate funds each year to fill over 250 baskets with a complete Thanksgiving dinner. These baskets are delivered to families right here in the Middle Keys whose holiday would otherwise be bleak. This year the economy has hit many more families with the harsh reality of not being able to provide for their families. KAIR would like to expand the basket program to 300 this year; baskets are also delivered to the Domestic Abuse Shelter, the Guidance Clinic the Peacock House Assisted Living and the Homeless Shelter. Donation forms can be obtained by calling the KAIR office or going online to KAIRonline.net and downloading under Upcoming Events. You can also make a donation on the website. A \$25 donation will cover the cost of one basket for an entire family. Won't you share your Thanksgiving Dinner with a neighbor?



KAIR is grateful for the many volunteers that help with donations of their time, talents and goods.

- ♦ Raymond James donated furniture to KAIR and Independence Cay.
- ♦ The Spottswood Family donated furniture from the Marathon Inn.
- ♦ Rotary generously lent their tents for the yard sale.

- ♦ The KAIR Yard Sale was a huge success thanks to Terry Lynn Kelly, Jane Packard, Charlotte Quinn, Penny Ludwin, Nancy Lewis, Liz Prieto, Dawn Wilson, and the Boy Scouts of Marathon.



Pampered Chef Party for KAIR and Independence Cay

Sandra Saylor is hosting a Pampered Chef party on Saturday, November 7th from 4-6 p.m. at St.

Columba Episcopal Church (451 52nd Street, Gulf.) There will be appetizer demonstrations, food, and holiday gift ideas. Call Sandy at 731-5411 or the church at 743-6412 for more information. All are welcome.

Marj Roberts, director, Tom Clifford, Sandy Manqueros, Harrell Alexander, C.J. Geotis and J.J. Hickson picking up furniture.