



# KAIR

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

**April 2009**

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## Director's Corner



April is Florida Volunteers Month and KAIR is always grateful to ours. One of our volunteers lives in Jacksonville and works with KAIR to put the newsletter together, create fliers, and keep the website up to date and informative. She recently wrote of her KAIR experience and I thought that this month it was important to hear her story.

"My two years with KAIR have brought me in contact with so many wonderful, caring and interesting people! Being a "long-distance" volunteer made me wish I could get to know these people who volunteer their time, donate their money, and emotionally support this organization whose purpose is to reach out to people who are experiencing a life crisis. I've learned about the many diverse services of KAIR, from the simple provision of food to the hungry to the refitting of "boat homes." Case management helps people make long-range plans and the "quick-fix" we so often see is not an answer. KAIR makes "thinking outside the box" into an art!

I always thought I would like to get to know these people who make it hap

pen; I wanted to know them as friends. So, I decided that I would make the journey from Jacksonville down to the Keys to finally meet the people I only knew by our contact on the internet. The weekend of the Sombrero Beach Run to benefit KAIR seemed like the perfect time to finally connect.

Instead, what I found that weekend was that instead of finally getting to know these people and becoming friends, I already knew them! I knew them from the things they did and that part of themselves that they gave. St. Germain said, "By their works ye shall know them." And I did know them by their works, by their generous hearts and tireless deeds. They organize fundraisers, deliver food, gather furniture and provide funds for medicine, utilities and rent. All along they had shown me who they are and I already knew them as friends.

Often the most important things in our lives are there all along; they just need to come into focus. It's the ideals we share that bring us together and make us friends; the distance in miles is unimportant. Thank you, KAIR friends, for this wonderful gift!"

## Thank You to Save Our Conchs! Soc Hop Benefit for KAIR!

Sombrero Country Club was transported back to the Fifties on April 17th as poodle skirts and bobby socks came out of mothballs. Sponsored by Fishermen's Hospital, the evening featured Island Harmony singers performing doo-wop, jitterbug lessons with Theo & Ganine, magician Rich Lessig, diner style food and Chuckie D spinning the tunes. Josh Mother and Stan Haines emceed and kept the evening lively. A pink Cadillac completed the scene. Great job by Soc Hop Committee: Lynn Vail, Charlotte Quinn, Jo Grego, Melissa Grady, Terry Lanza, Terry Walters, and Sheron Grossmann.

**Thanks to all who "rocked around the clock" to make this a huge success!**



Island Harmony Singers

## Kid KAIR Quilt Winner

A beautiful hand quilted baby blanket was donated to raffle for the benefit of Kid KAIR, a program initiated to support children's services. Tickets were sold at the Seafood Festival and Taste of the Islands and we are proud to announce the winner—Janice "J.B." Broadwater, a local scuba instructor. J.B. has a new grandbaby who will have a new snuggly! The first official project for Kid KAIR is a collaborative effort with Grace Jones and Wesley House families to support a "backpack" program. Weekend food supplies will be sent home on Friday to identified families to provide food aid for the weekend.

## Roll Out the Barrel for KAIR Food Pantry!

The response to the Zonta food collection barrels has been tremendous! You can still donate non-perishable food items or toiletries at Key Colony Post Office, City Marina & Publix. **Thanks for KAIRing!**



## Community Appreciation Day Sponsored by Crane Point Museum and Nature Center

Crane Point featured the KAIR Food Pantry on April 19th. Non-perishable food items were collected for the food pantry as "admission" to the center. Community partners are an integral part of the KAIR program—Thanks, Crane Point!



## Crustacean Vacation Concert Sunday, May 17th Noon to 10 p.m. Keys Fisheries Market & Marina

Don't miss this fun day of bands, food, and raffle prizes. Chris Byrne at Keys Fisheries is pulling out all the stops to sponsor this all-day event to benefit KAIR.

### Bands include:

Howard Livingston & The MM24 Band  
Freddie Bye  
Stone Crabs  
Dan Sullivan  
Chris Case  
John Solinski & Red Rocket Man

**Volunteers Needed!**  
Call Marj at 743-4582!

Bring a chair and the family—there will be something for everyone. The gate fee is a non-perishable food item for the KAIR food pantry. Raffle tickets are available in area businesses!

