



KAIR

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

January 2010

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Director's Corner

It's a new year and a good time for us to reflect on where we've been, where we're at and where we'd like to be. Like the rest of the U.S., 2009 was a tough year for many in the Florida Keys. Those that depend on tourism or fishing found themselves with reduced work hours and fewer opportunities. Those that had previously been able to take care of their families were now in the position of making tough choices between food, medicine, basic housing and transportation. We encouraged these folks to come see us at KAIR.

In 2009, KAIR provided \$175,000 worth of food assistance, \$101,000 in basic housing, medicine and transportation assistance, and \$10,000 in recycled clothing and household goods. We also provided 250 families with a turkey and food baskets for Thanksgiving and 275 families with a ham and food baskets for Christmas. Wow. That is amazing because although some of that assistance came from government grants and some came from foundations, a large share of it came from this local community which says a lot about the generous and caring spirit of our residents. We weren't always able to help financially. Sometimes, the needs were just too great and sometimes it just wasn't prudent to help in that way. We did try to always focus on

what actions would really be meaningful and effective in improving a person's situation.

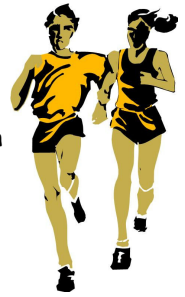
Edward Teller (known as father of the hydrogen bomb but later an advocate for peace) once said,

"When you get to the end of all the light you know and it's time to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen: either you will be given something solid to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly."

It's a bit lofty to think of KAIR in this way but many did come to KAIR with faith that we could give them something solid to stand on. For many, this was achieved as shown by the figures above. For others, we hope that problem-solving conversation, reaching out and coordinating with other resources and making a plan was also a help in "flying" independently.

Although there is uncertainty over what 2010 will bring, there is also great hope and optimism. Our humble goal at KAIR is to continue to provide meaningful assistance to those local families that are struggling to meet their basic needs - a little bit of solid ground mixed in with a flying lesson.

Sombrero Beach Run March 6th!



The countdown has begun - this race promises to be the biggest ever for the benefit of KAIR. Jane Packard and her committee have put together a weekend of fun and entertainment to meet any taste. This year there will be a 15K Challenge - runners will run both the 5K and 10K. If you would like to run or walk for KAIR or perhaps be a sponsor, you need to act now! Go to www.sombrero beachrun.com to get all the information you need to participate. If you just want to come and join in the fun, be sure to put March 6th on your calendar. For more information, call Jane at 305-289-9868.

On a personal note...

I recently had both knees replaced (yes, both!) and needed lots of help with distributing the Christmas food baskets and keeping the office open. Many, many people stepped forward and everything ran beautifully. There are too many people to mention but you know who you are. I say a huge thank you and you have my gratitude. Thank you also for the well wishes. I am back on my feet and invite you to stop by and see us at KAIR.

KAIRing Hands at Christmas



A special thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who gathered in December for the KAIR Christmas Dinner distribution. Two hundred seventy five families were provided with a complete Christmas Dinner that even included a pie! Many individuals, families and businesses contributed the funds that helped make Christmas a special day where families could gather and share a special dinner. Thanks to all!

Calling All Groupies!



The Sombrero Beach Run isn't just for runners! There's a special place (and prizes) for groups of walkers (5 or more.) Show your support for KAIR by getting a group together from

your church, club or neighborhood and walk 5K for KAIR. It's great fun, good exercise and you'll be supporting a worthy cause. Need more information? Go to www.sombrero beachrun.com or call the KAIR office. Be a part of the excitement!