



KAIR

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

September 2009

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The Director's Corner

Recently, I traveled to N. Miami to attend the mandatory annual training and certification class required of all food pantries served by the Feeding South Florida Food Bank (formerly Daily Bread Food Bank.) South Florida Food Bank encompasses four counties: Broward, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Monroe, and serves 117,000 people through 800 food pantries and feeding sites. I marveled at the coordination and collaboration required to successfully continue to feed people in South Florida. Food pantries must comply with all fire safety, health codes and food storage regulations and daily collect temperatures, signature logs and eligibility forms. It is the responsibility of the food bank to ensure that these 800 agencies comply with all the requirements of the contract.

Two types of food come from the food bank: United States Dept. of Agriculture food (USDA) and share of cost food from corporate donations. USDA food is often fresh fruits, vegetables and meats but can include any type of food. This is provided free of charge to food pantries by the U.S. government but can only be a small part of the overall food collected and distributed by the food pantry and there is no choice in what is received by the pantry. It could be green beans and peaches or it could be 10 cases of eggplant! Last year the Food Bank distributed seven million pounds of USDA food to South Florida. The other type of food distributed by the food bank is what is known as "share of cost" food which is food donated to the food bank by corporations. A fee is levied by the food bank to cover the cost of handling and distributing the food to pantries and feeding sites. The pantry has a limited choice of what can be ordered through share of cost food. Each week, as corporate donations arrive, the choices change and the amounts allowed change. As goes the rest of the economy, so goes the Food Bank and some weeks are better than others. Ideally, staples such as pasta, peanut butter, and tuna are available but there are many weeks when only cookies, crackers and sodas are on the list. In 2008, an additional fifteen million pounds of food (in addition to the USDA food) were distributed at share of cost. As corporations refine their inventory process, it gets more difficult to get these corporate donations as they no longer have the unanticipated excess that was frequent in years past.

All of this together paints a picture of why you are so important in feeding our local residents. Each donation of a food item is able to supplement the limited food choices that come from the Food Bank and each dollar donated toward food allows us to obtain food at a deeply discounted price. Food is a basic need and with your help, we are determined to continue to meet the needs of our neighbors.



Amazing Yard Sale to Benefit KAIR

On Saturday, October 24th, from 8 am to 12 noon there will be a yard sale to benefit KAIR. **Every item will**

be \$1! and there are some fabulous buys. **Every item is new!** You do not want to miss this opportunity to stock up on everyday items and gifts for the holidays. The sale will be on the grounds of the Marathon United Methodist Church at 3010 Overseas Highway. Call the KAIR office with questions—743-4582.

Marathon Lumber's Anniversary Sale

will feature Kevin Roberts at the grill and DJ Tito spinning his tunes. Both are donating their



time and any tips received will be donated to KAIR. The date is Wednesday, October 7th and the refreshments and music will be available from 9 am to 2 pm. There will be prizes, giveaways and demos, so don't miss this fun, money-saving event. Thanks, everyone, for supporting KAIR!

Have a dog and support KAIR!



Kid KAIR

Marathon Lumber, Fishermen's Hospital and The Marathon Weekly made our Backpack for Kids a big success. Tricia Baker of Marathon Lumber is shown here with excited school-bound kids!

September is National Hunger Awareness Month

KAIR is the only USDA certified food pantry between MM30 and MM92.

- ◆ 7,000 pounds of food each month are distributed by KAIR
- ◆ Demand for food has doubled over the past year

Consider making a contribution to the KAIR Food Program in honor of someone you love, in memory of someone you held dear, or just to make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your support!



Marj Roberts, Director, accepts a check from The Rev. Dustin Sedlak and Herb Bernett of Kirk of the Keys Presbyterian Church. The donation is from the Tropical Presbytery, regional umbrella for Presbyterian churches in SE Florida.