



KAIR

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

April 2011

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Annual Food Drive

Food collected by local letter carriers will be distributed to KAIR as well as other area agencies. Place non-perishable food by your mail box to be picked up by your carrier. Thank you for your support and the wonderful assistance of our local post office workers.

KAIR is Now a United Way Agency!

We are so pleased to announce that we have been chosen to be a United Way agency in the Florida Keys and a recipient of a \$10,000 grant. KAIR submitted an application that included a program plan, financial information, tax reporting and audit reports. This was followed by United Way Board members doing an interview and site visit of our food pantry. The national United Way mission is "to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities". This grant will allow us to expand the amount and quality of fresh, nutritious foods offered at the pantry. We will work hard to maintain the high expectations of United Way.



Workforce Workshops Give Help to Unemployed

George Shinn, NBA Hornets owner says "There is no such thing as a self-made man. You will reach your goals only with the help of others." At KAIR, we believe this. In March, we partnered with South Florida Workforce to offer two workshops to the folks we have helped who have been out of work. Individual attention was given to help people successfully fill out applications and complete a resume and other job readiness skills. It was such a success that in May, two additional workshops will be held and will focus on how to dress and answer interview questions. Each Rubik's Cube moment where things click into place and a job is successfully obtained is celebrated by all of us. There is definitely joy in work.

HELP!

We are looking for volunteers that will help us pick up food from Winn-Dixie for the food pantry. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Winn-Dixie sets aside fresh food for KAIR but it needs to be picked up and delivered to KAIR. We are asking for a commitment of one day a week or you can volunteer to be a substitute. If you are interested in helping, please call the KAIR office.

KAIR Partners with DCF

Part of Florida's Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) mission is to "protect the vulnerable and promote strong and economically self-sufficient families". This mission is a good fit for KAIR and we are proud to announce that we are now a community partner with DCF. KAIR will not only be able to help people apply for food stamps, Medicaid, etc. but will have access to information that will assist them to resolve problems with their food stamps or other benefits. The folks we serve at KAIR often have a hard time accessing and navigating computers and this will be a big help.

St. Columba Celebrates Barefoot Sunday!



At KAIR, we have noticed that many people down on their luck spend a lot of time walking but often end up shuffling around in shoes that don't fit or are falling apart. St. Columba Episcopal Church was sympathetic to this and recently held their Barefoot Sunday picnic at Sombrero Beach. Each person who attended donated a pair of gently worn shoes or sneakers that will be distributed by KAIR to those in need. You can't imagine how a person's face lights up when we can match their size to shoes that fit and feel good. Thank you St. Columba! If your church or group would like to participate in this project, please call the KAIR office. We'll even pick up! **Show Your Toes for KAIR!**



Our Wednesday Volunteers!

Kevin Smith, Phyllis Michaelis, Bill Ahtes, Dick Cunningham

April is Volunteer Recognition Month!

April is national volunteer recognition month and we want to shout from the rooftops "We love our volunteers!" Volunteers pack and deliver food, sort household goods, serve on the Board, raise money, man the office and more! Each person brings with them a unique set of interests and talents. At KAIR, it's volunteers that "get er done!" If you are interested in making a difference in someone's life, please contact the KAIR office.