



# KAIR

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

June/July 2011

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

"O God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small" is part of an old Irish Fisherman's Prayer and is well understood here in the Keys where we are surrounded each day by the vast expanse of the sea. Sometimes, at KAIR, we feel like that small boat in a large sea when daily we hear of a person's illness, job loss, or family problems. We have to remind ourselves that each day the local fisherman sets out in that large sea and has faith that he will succeed and return safely to shore. With knowledge, experience, luck and some help from above, the little boat does hold its own with the sea.

At KAIR, we also need knowledge, experience, luck, and help from above. We also depend on the help from our community to succeed and navigate difficult waters when we are trying to help a family get through a difficult time. Just like there are undercurrents in the ocean, there are undercurrents in each person's life. Knowing that the community is there to help get us through the currents and make life a little better for local families gives us the strength to set out in that sea each day!

Thank you!

## HURRICANE HYMNFEST



On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we raised the rafters at KAIR's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Hurricane hymnfest. Organized by Pastors Peggy Benson and Dustin Sedlak, parishioners

from the local churches came together at Kirk of the Keys to raise their voices in praise and in prayer and to celebrate the beautiful voices and talents of the choirs and musicians that participated. It is too difficult to thank everyone that had a part in this great afternoon but special thanks also go to Mark Davis and Bonnie Cucci, Island Harmony, as well as choirs and musicians from New Life Assembly, Kirk of the Keys, St. Columba, San Pablo, and AME. An ice cream social was held afterwards and it felt so good to be there all together. An offering was taken to benefit KAIR and more than \$1300 was raised to help the food pantry.

## Packs for Success



Part of getting "psyched" to go back to school is having new school supplies and clothes. It makes parents proud and helps kids tackle the new school year with energy and excitement. Not all parents and kids get to experience that. Many parents are worried about how they are going to provide the basics that their children need for school. Kids often worry that they will be singled out as poor and different from the other children.

This year marks KAIR's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School drive to provide new backpacks, school supplies and sneakers directly to the families who are not able to provide these items for their children. These families are known to KAIR because they have come to us for food or other necessities over the past several months. Backpacks help keep kids organized; school supplies help them learn; and sneakers mean they can participate in gym and outside school activities.

The following places are drop off points through the end of August:

- ♦ **Sarah Cizmas of Edward Jones** at the Town Square Mall, 11400 Overseas Highway, Marathon - during work hours Mondays-Fridays
- ♦ **Office Depot** - 10950 Overseas Highway, Marathon - Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 12noon to 6pm and Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 5pm
- ♦ **KAIR office or Community United Methodist Church** office at 3010 Overseas Highway, Marathon.



A couple of months ago, we put out an SOS for volunteers to pick up the donated food from Winn-Dixie three times a week.

We would like to say a special thank you to the following: Tracey Kunitz, our Monday volunteer; LaRue Mills, our Wednesday volunteer; and John and Sandra Grouten, our Friday volunteers. They have each been volunteering for several weeks and we so appreciate their help in keeping the food pantry stocked. We would love to hear from you if you are willing to fill in once in awhile!



KAIR is a United Way Agency