



KAIR

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

March 2011

3010 Overseas Hwy.
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 743-4582
KAIRonline@bellsouth.net
www.KAIRonline.net



READIN', WRITIN' , 'RITHMATIC and GLASSES!

Educating our children has changed through the years but one thing has not changed. To be successful in school, a child still needs to be able to see the blackboard and to read their textbooks. Each year, the school nurse conducts sight screenings and some children are identified as needing eyeglasses but their families do not have health insurance or the resources to purchase eye exams and glasses. This year, KAIR is working in partnership with Dr. John Sheldon, a local optometrist, and the schools to provide the necessary eye exams and eyeglasses for these children. You would think that a child is only interested in fun things and

play but it is amazing to see how grateful they are when they get their new glasses and can see! Thanks to all who contribute to our KIDKAIR program that makes this happen.

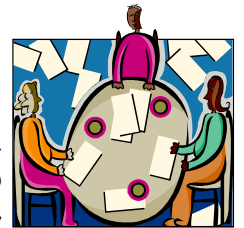
KAIR WAS THERE

Recently, Harry and Sue came to KAIR desperate for help. Harry's failing health meant many trips to Miami hospitals and several surgeries and Sue had to take a leave from her job in order to care for him. They were optimistic that things were going to get better. Harry's surgeries were stabilizing his health, he had applied for Social Security and Sue thought she could return to work within two months - but what to do right now? Right this minute? How were they going to eat? How was the rent going to get paid? How would the car insurance get paid? They had used up all of their savings and had never been in this position before. We were so glad that someone told them about KAIR. KAIR paid some of their basic bills, helped them with their Social Security application and also coordinated additional assistance from two other charitable organizations. Sue stopped by the other day just to say thanks and let us know that things are getting better. KAIR is neighbors helping neighbors - thanks for being there.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

GETTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK



KAIR has been partnering with South Florida Workforce to offer workshops to help local residents obtain work. On March 7th, a dozen people who have come to KAIR for food and other assistance attended the workshop focused on job readiness. The second workshop will be held on March 21st and will focus on how to complete an application and have a successful interview. Individual help will also be offered. A job and good health can go a long way to creating a successful life. KAIR is happy to partner with South Florida Workforce to help people succeed in obtaining work.



AND THE GOLD MEDALS GO TO.....

March 5th was a glorious day for the 5th Annual Sombbrero Beach Run. The sun was out, the sky was blue and several hundred runners and walkers came out to support KAIR. The morning was grand and everyone had a chance to exercise, maybe win a medal or raffle prize, eat some, drink some, dance a little to the music and just enjoy being with each other at the beach. The purpose was to have fun but also to accomplish some serious business - that of keeping the KAIR food pantry and emergency services available to local families in need. Each day 25-30 people come to KAIR seeking some sort of assistance and the proceeds from the



Sombbrero Beach Run are used to make sure that when your neighbor needs help, that help is available. None of this happens without a lot of hard work. The race committee starts meeting the week after the previous year's race and with smiles on their faces, spends long hours and logs many miles to make a successful event happen. This year was the most successful ever! So, **hip, hip, hooray and gold medals go to Jane Packard, chairperson, and her committee: Terry Lynn Kelly, Penny Ludwin, Phyllis Michaelis, Sarah Cizmas, Lynn Voit, Becky Godchaux and Charlotte Quinn**

