



# KAIR

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

Nov/Dec 2009

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## Director's Corner

Preparing for the holidays at KAIR is both bittersweet and heartwarming. Because people struggle to provide basic necessities for themselves and their families, the holidays are an added stress as they try to meet expectations for brightly wrapped gifts under an impressive tree and the aromas of roasting meats and newly baked treats in the air. They are supposed to create tender scenes of happy, close knit families enjoying the holiday splendor.

The philosopher Ionescu once wrote, "Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together." It is tempting to generalize, classify, and make pronouncements based on whether we are right or left, conservative or liberal, mainstream or splinter. This sets us apart from the other humans that share this earth. We disconnect and our worlds don't meet. What brings us together is when we notice, really notice the day to day efforts and obstacles that affect our neighbors, our colleagues, our family members. At KAIR,

we see the anguish of illness, failed ambition, plans gone astray, disappointing relationships. We also have the opportunity to hear of hopes and dreams for the future, for better lives for their children, for a new start, another chance. It is the dreams and anguish, the human condition, the sharing, that binds us together and keeps us connected.

What does this all have to do with the holidays? Our Christmas story is that this is the moment to reflect on those around us; to reach out and provide some small connection; to look to the New Year with renewed hope and faith. Next week, 275 families will receive a food basket from KAIR. Ham and yams, pie and all the trimmings will be given so that families can celebrate in their own home on this special day. Will this eliminate struggles and hardships? No, but it acknowledges anguish and need and encourages hopes and dreams. We are together in this. I am after all, passing through life, not with those who went before me or those who will go after me, but with you.



## Christmas Food Baskets

KAIR was able to distribute 275 Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need and the goal is to meet this

same need again at Christmas. December 19th these baskets will be assembled and distributed by community volunteers that care about their friends and neighbors who do not have the means to meet their daily food needs. A \$25 donation will feed one family a complete celebration dinner of a ham and all the fixin's! If you or your family or business would like to help by contributing your time or donations, please call the KAIR office. You can go online to [www.KAIRonline.net](http://www.KAIRonline.net) to download the donation flier and you can donate on the website through PayPal. Celebrating through sharing brings joy to everyone—thank you for sharing and KAIRing!

## Thanks to All Who Made Thanksgiving A Huge Success!

Forty volunteers gathered to sort and distribute 275 food baskets for Thanksgiving. Every participant was joyfully appreciated! Special thanks go to Exit Realty for use of their truck, the Jaycees for use of the building, Skip Haring and Herb Bennett for their Miami trip to pick up the food, and Penny Ludwin, Ralph Bennett and Sandy Manqueros for coordinating the distribution. Blessings to all!

## Marathon Community Chorale Sings "Messiah"

The Chorale is comprised of people from the Marathon Community who join together to celebrate the holidays through music. This year they will be singing Handel's Messiah on December 13th at 7 pm at Marathon High School. The program is free to all and they are asking people to bring a non-perishable item for the KAIR Food Pantry.



## Small Community—Big Heart!

One of KAIR's biggest supporters is the community of Outdoor Resorts of Long Key with a population of 411 units. Many residents live there from November through March, but that doesn't keep them from being active supporters of their local community. A small church also operates on site during these months. They help many groups in the Marathon area and KAIR is grateful for their continued support. Call Don Prince at 305-664-4060 for more information.

**YEAH to JANE PACKARD for her race website!**  
[www.sombrero beachrun.com](http://www.sombrero beachrun.com)



## 10th Anniversary Celebration Celebrated by Marathon and KAIR!

Recently, the City of Marathon celebrated its 10th year with a big all-day event at Community Park. Along with several other organizations and non-profits, KAIR had a booth to greet people and sell items to raise funds for KAIR programs. Thanks to all who sold water and soda at the trailer provided to us by Coca Cola; the t-shirt booth was also manned by KAIR volunteers for 2 hours. KAIR is celebrating its 10th year, too—what fun to share that day with the whole community!