



KAIR

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



Spring 2015

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Hats Off to KAIR Volunteers!

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
~Leo Buscaglia

This newsletter celebrates all of the KAIR volunteers. Without these dedicated folks, KAIR would not exist. They haul food, pack shelves, fold clothes, and answer the phone. They work with individuals to fill out applications and take people to the doctor. They deliver food and raise funds. They do this with a willing heart and a joy in living. It is contagious and uplifting and makes a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Thank you, thank you for being who you are.



March 7th was a glorious day at the beach. The sun was shining, the temperature perfect. There was music and food and drink. There were prizes and an auction. It was the 9th annual **Sombrero Beach Walk/Run**. Besides being a fun day for competitors

to test their speed and friends to enjoy time together, it is KAIR's largest fundraiser and helps us keep our doors open to provide food and emergency services to the 40 plus people who come for help each day. Thank you to the 600 walkers/runners who came out to support KAIR and the 100 plus volunteers who got up before dawn to give of their time and talents. Special thanks to the race committee chaired by Jane Packard. The committee includes Lynn Voit, Kim Caton, Sarah Cizmas, Terry Lynn Kelly, Phyllis Michaelis, Penny Ludwin, Sande Neiditz and Becky Godchaux. Next year's race is already in the planning. Come out and join us on March 5th, 2016!



KAIR has the only USDA certified **food pantry** in the Middle Keys. It distributes 15,000 pounds every month! Herb Bernett, pictured below, has been a loyal volunteer for 17 years!



Our Clothes Closet stays

organized and busy with donations of clothing and household goods. No donation, large or small, goes unused! Shown above are Sande Neiditz, Karen Kelly and Betty Walker.



Phyllis Michaelis, shown to the far right, jumps in whenever and wherever needed! What does she do? It would be easier to describe what she doesn't do! Do you have a talent or just an open heart? KAIR needs you!



What do KAIR Volunteers do?

- Distribute food through our USDA Food Pantry
- Organize and distribute clothing and household goods in KAIR's Clothes Closet
- Provide transportation to people in need of getting to doctors' appointments
- Pick up food at our partners who donate, i.e. Publix, Winn Dixie
- Work in the office
- Volunteer for fund raisers to provide funds for daily operations
- Manage a mailing list
- Deliver food to those unable to come to KAIR
- Organize a fund raiser
- Help people with social security, food stamp applications and other documentation
- Be a community liaison to raise awareness
- Provide computer expertise with software and hardware
- Photograph events and assist with social media

If you have time or talent to give, call Marj Roberts at KAIR!



Betty, You Are One in a Million!

You are never too young or too old to make a difference in someone's life. In August, Betty Walker will be 90 years young. She comes to KAIR several days a week and helps out wherever she's needed. She is always on the move and keeps our clothing closet neat and well-organized. She has lived in Marathon for 57 years and is also an active volunteer at St. Columba Episcopal Church. Betty says the best part of volunteering at KAIR is "giving back for all the wonderful years I've had here". Thanks for all you do Betty!