



# KAIR

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



Summer 2013

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## Ready Set, School! Give Every Kid a "Smart Start"

Every year KidKAIR sponsors a Back to School Program that provides each child in our KAIR families with a backpack full of school supplies and a new pair of sneakers. This program is for children Kindergarten through 12th grade and last year over 90 children received items to help insure a successful school year. Many children weren't able to participate in all activities because of lack of proper footwear or school supplies. We are asking for your help! We need **backpacks, notebooks, crayons, paper, pencils, pens, glue, folders, rulers, scissors, calculators, and binders**. In addition, sneakers for boys and girls, sizes 10 child through 12 adult are needed. If you are able to give a donation toward any of the above items, KAIR will do the rest! This program serves the children directly while other community programs provide supplies to the schools.



Thanks for KAIRing about KIDS!

## Do You BOGO? Buy One, Give One!

Both Publix and Winn Dixie, two of our KAIR sponsors, offer "Buy One, Get One" specials each week. Won't you take this opportunity to "Buy One, Give One" and pass on your special to the KAIR Food Pantry? There are staples we never have enough of—pasta, peanut butter, canned meats, rice, etc. **BOGO for KAIR!**

## Episcopal Charities Comes to KAIR

In July, KAIR had the pleasure of welcoming folks from the Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida. For many years, Episcopal Charities has given grants to both KAIR and Independence Cay to continue their mission to help those in Marathon and the Middle Keys who are homeless, disabled, or less fortunate. These grants have made a huge difference in being able to continue to feed the hungry and help with basic necessities. KAIR and Independence Cay are two groups, along with the Grace Jones Daycare Center, that the local Episcopal Church, St. Columba, helps support.

The visit was organized by Bonnie Weaver who is the Program, Grants and Resource Director for Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida. Over the past several years, she has gone above and beyond to energize and mobilize the Episcopalians in South Florida to take a hands on approach to helping the needy. Thank you Bonnie for all that you do. You really make a difference!

## Indy Cay Corner

Independence Cay has a new temporary resident. For purposes of this newsletter, we will call him George. It started at Community Health Clinic when George, who is homeless, showed up on their doorstep complaining of not feeling well. They examined him and sent him to Fishermen's Hospital and George had the good luck of meeting up with Dr. Steven Smith. George has no health insurance but Fishermen's Hospital and Dr. Smith provided extensive care including a pacemaker.

In planning his discharge, the hospital and Dr. Smith requested George come to Independence Cay for a brief time to recuperate. In getting to know George, it was obvious that he has multiple problems to overcome and would need much assistance to do so. He is elderly but his Social Security and Medicare had been stopped several years ago and he did not know how to get it restarted. George has early dementia and learning disabilities and ended up living on the street.

Visiting Nurses and Hospice of the Florida Keys graciously offered to provide the follow-up care necessary to have a successful outcome after surgery and Florida's Adult Protective Services got involved and assisted us with finding out his correct birth date and social security number. They will also assist us in placing George in a safe environment once his wound is healed and he has his benefits restored.

Meantime, George is comfortable at Independence Cay and they make sure he has all his needs met. They are taking him to his follow-up appointments. This is definitely a case of "it takes a village" not just to raise children but to protect our vulnerable citizens. Good job everyone!

## Make a Joyful Noise!

In June, the Marathon churches and community came together to pray for calm waters during hurricane season and to donate much needed funds to KAIR. Hosted by Kirk of the Keys, there were choirs and bands from many churches as well as Misery Loves Company, Storm Watch and the Island Harmony Singers among others.

Bonnie Cucchi and Lesley Aaron (shown in picture with Herb Bennett and Marj Roberts) organized the entire event and brought together singers and musicians from all walks of life. The event ended with an ice cream social which was enjoyed by all. More than \$3100 was raised for KAIR to use to continue helping local residents in need. We are very humbled by the outpouring of support and love.



Thank you to all who participated!