



KAIR

Since 1998

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

Spring 2018

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KAIR WEATHERED THE STORM!

Hurricane Irma ar-

rived on Sept. 10th and destroyed or heavily damaged many, many homes. Local residents lost their jobs, tourists stayed away, and we wondered if we would be able to pick up the pieces, recover and go on. Although there is still much to be done, we are happy to report what an overwhelming helping hand we received from both local organizations and individuals as well as total strangers from far away.

Small and large trucks arrived with food, water, and practical goods. Our partner United Way of the Florida Keys stepped in and provided significant additional grants to help local residents with housing and other basic needs. The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys also provided significant grant money to help residents recover from this devastating storm. The Miami Diaper Bank sent truckloads of diapers. Individuals were raising money on Facebook and through their workplaces. Total strangers were reaching out with donations as well as volunteering to be "boots on the ground".

All of this help means that KAIR was able to dedicate over one million dollars to helping residents recover from the storm in 2017. Money for utilities and rent; money for start-up costs in new housing; and practical goods such as food and clothing all made life more bearable after such a terrible loss. Yes, we have a ways to go before we can say we are back to "normal" and yes, we are a bit wiser and less naïve but six months after Irma blew through town, we can see the resilience of the human spirit all around us and are optimistic that we are "getting it done!"



Pastor Larry White (On the right) of the United Methodist Church helps unload donated goods.



Feeding South Florida was one of our partners that helped provide food and basic necessities after the storm.



John Rickards (on left) from Alabama's Habitat for Humanity helped with repairs.



Nancy Arrowsmith, volunteer from San Pablo Catholic Church, cooks weekly for the Independence Cay soup kitchen.

INDEPENDENCE CAY BOUNCES BACK

Let's talk about Independence Cay. It sits quietly behind the old furniture store in lower Marathon. It houses the soup kitchen for the homeless as well as day services that include showers and laundry for the homeless. Just as importantly, it houses the transitional housing program for men.

Hurricane Irma took what was a serious housing problem in Marathon and turned it into a full-blown crisis. Our economy and our city depend on having competent and skilled workers yet there is currently nowhere for these workers to live. After the storm, Independence Cay took the opportunity to refurbish the transitional housing space and to prioritize working residents.

Currently, there are 13 men living at Independence Cay and each one is working full-time. There are construction workers, an electrician, a restaurant worker, a hotel clerk, etc. Each man is given an opportunity to live there for an affordable charge, save their money and develop a path to more independent housing. The men are tested at admission and randomly thereafter for drugs and alcohol and they must abide by a curfew. They have a code of conduct that they must follow and it is very important that they work together as a family to keep the building clean and peaceful.

Each man who lives there is homeless when they arrive but with a job and more independent housing when they leave. Independence Cay serves an important purpose for Marathon and the Keys. If you have questions, or would like further information, please call Marj Roberts.



KAIR recently held the 12th annual Sombrero Beach Run which has been KAIR's largest fundraiser each year. The fact that the run even happened this year is a testament to how hard the city of Marathon worked to put things back together again after Hurricane Irma swept through.

After Sept. 10th, the beach damage looked insurmountable and we wondered if it ever could be the beautiful place that it once had been. Our race committee hesitated to plan on the Run/Walk since we had no idea what the beach would look like on March 3rd.

We are happy to report that the beach, although not completed, is beautiful and we had a very suc-

cessful day. Over 400 runners and walkers came out to support KAIR, listen to music (courtesy of DJs Tito and EJ, eat some food, get some prizes, and of course, get some exercise!

The City of Marathon Parks and Recreation also partnered with KAIR for a Sunday event that included a cook out, music, beach games and prizes.

Thanks to Jimmy Schmitt, Ali Adams, and Hammer for their help.



BEFORE



AFTER



THANK YOU SPONSORS AND FRIENDS OF THE SOMBRERO BEACH RUN!

PLATINUM

The Art Studio
Florida Keys Electric Co-Op
Jason Koler and The Weekly Newspaper

GOLD

Lynn Voit
Tom and Rachael Cizmas
Centennial Bank
Holiday Inn Express
Iberia Bank
C.B. Schmitt Real Estate Co.
Courtyard by Marriott Florida Keys
The Faro Blanco Resort-Hyatt Place and Lighthouse Grill
Glunz Ocean Beach Hotel and Resort

SILVER

Ted and Terry Lynn Collins
Dot Palm
B&B Properties
Chuck and Kim Caton-Caton Aluminum
Royal Furniture
Kirk of the Keys
Ocean's Edge Key West
First State Bank
American Caribbean Charitable Trust

BRONZE

Shelter Bay Marina
Artic-Temp, Inc.
Keys Boat Works
Andy and Dave's Garage
Marathon Lumber
Marathon A/C and Appliances
Robert and Kathleen Piers
Beckmann's Auto Supply
Rotary Club of Marathon
Can Do Construction
Charles Miller Construction
D'Asign Source
Tropical Designs
Efrain Marin Tile

Bob Rankin, Keys Kayaks
Florida Keys Contractor's Assn.
St. Columba Episcopal Church
New Life Assembly of God
Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce
Sandy Bachman

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Frank's Grill
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Marathon Jet Center
Marathon Auto and Marine
Ryder Construction
Barbara Cain
Key Colony Inn
Specialty Hardware
Dan's Discount Dumpster
Marilyn Spies

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jason Koler, MC
Karen McKeon, Photographer
Beth Moyes and Theme Runs
Don Nelson and Southernmost Runners
Jimmy Schmitt, Hammer and the City Parks Department
City of Marathon and Carlos Solis for working so hard on the beach
Ali Adams of the City Parks Dept. for organizing our Sunday event
7 Mile Bridge Run, Ginger Sayer
Florida Keys Electric Co-op for getting us electric!
DJ Tito and the EJM Boys
The Monroe County Tourist Development Council
Michael Krevat, Web designer
Fish Tales
Islamorada Beer Company
Marathon Garbage
Florida Keys Aquaduct Authority
Publix

ALL THE VOLUNTEERS!

SILENT AUCTION and RAFFLE PRIZES

Artist Marty Leone
Artist Lynn Voit
Holiday Inn
Crane Point
Lighthouse Grill
Island Yoga
Ocean's Edge Resort Key West
The Art Studio
The Art Studio
Keys Fitness
The Optical Shoppe
Aquarium Encounters
FKEC
The Turtle Hospital
Shady Palm Art and Photography
Salon Blanco
Terri Charron
Anthony's Ladies Apparel
DK's Beach Boutique
Hair by Martha
Flowers by J&J
Midas Touch
Herbie's Restaurant
A Cut Above-Marilyn Geaneas
Porky's Bayside
Sweet Savannah's
Marathon Cinema
Island Fish
Lazy Days Restaurant
Burdine's Restaurant

RACE COMMITTEE

Marjorie Roberts
Phyllis Michaelis
Penny Ludwin
Susie Adasko
Suzy Curry
Terry Lynn Kelly
T.J. Patterson
Jackie Sauer
Kim Caton