

# MEDIA RELEASE



Comfort  
Keepers



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2013

## 3rd Annual 'Stop Senior Hunger' Food Drive Kicks Off

One in seven senior citizens is at risk of hunger—representing a 78 percent increase over the past decade—according to the 2012 "Senior Hunger Report Card" compiled by the Meals on Wheels Association of America.

To combat troubling statistics like these, five local agencies are once again partnering to sponsor the "Stop Senior Hunger" food drive, running March 26<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

GRADD, Independence Bank, Comfort Keepers, Specialty Foods Group and Canteen are seeking to rally community support to feed at least 500 low-income individuals in Daviess and Hancock counties.

"Hunger is a silent epidemic among seniors nationwide and in our local communities," said Independence Bank president Darrell Higginbotham.



Nonperishable food items may be dropped off at area Kroger, Hometown IGA and Bill's IGA supermarkets, as well as local senior centers, Independence Bank, Comfort Keepers and GRADD.

Those wishing to make a monetary donation may also mail a check to: Independence Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 988, Owensboro, KY 42302. One hundred percent of proceeds benefit the food drive.

"'Stop Senior Hunger' is a national effort of Comfort Keepers to bring awareness to this crisis in our communities," said Comfort Keepers of Owensboro owner Levi Reames. "We sincerely appreciate our partners, especially Kroger and IGA, for their support again this year."

Last year's food drive netted over seven tons of food—enough to feed 505 seniors for approximately one week.

Local seniors who have an income at 150 percent of the federal poverty level or who are currently receiving public assistance are also eligible to obtain food through this initiative.

"This project is desperately needed because we have 335 Daviess and Hancock county residents on our home delivered meals waiting list," said GRADD contracts manager Jeanette Woodward. "Nearly one-third of our aging services clients report having to choose between food and paying for medical care or utilities."

For more details about contributing to the "Stop Senior Hunger" food drive or to refer a senior who may need assistance, please visit [www.GRADD.com/StopSeniorHunger](http://www.GRADD.com/StopSeniorHunger) or call (800) 928-9093.

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