

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2014

4th annual 'Stop Senior Hunger' food drive begins Monday

Nearly one in six senior citizens is at risk of hunger—representing an 88 percent increase over the past decade—according to the Meals on Wheels Association of America.

To combat troubling statistics like these, local agencies are once again partnering to sponsor the “Stop Senior Hunger” food drive, running March 24 through April 30.

Independence Bank, Comfort Keepers and GRADD are seeking to rally community support to feed at least 500 low-income individuals in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean and Webster counties.

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



Nonperishable food items may be dropped off at area Kroger, IGA and Sureway supermarkets, as well as other locations, including Independence Bank, Comfort Keepers, GRADD and local senior centers.

Those wishing to make a monetary donation can mail a check to: The Independence Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 988, Owensboro, KY 42302. (Please designate county in the memo section.) One hundred percent of proceeds benefit the food drive.

“‘Stop Senior Hunger’ is a national effort of Comfort Keepers to raise public awareness and combat this crisis,” said Levi Reames, Comfort Keepers of Owensboro owner. “We appreciate the support of our many partners, especially Specialty Foods Group, Canteen Service Company and AmeriCorps program volunteers.”

Last year’s food drive netted nearly four tons of food, plus an additional \$1,900 in cash donations.

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

“This is a vital project because we have 517 residents in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean and Webster counties on our home delivered meals waiting list,” said Jennifer Williams, GRADD in-home services manager. “Nearly one-third of our aging services clients tell us they have 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 or call (800) 928-9093.

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