

Local

# Feed Seniors Now donations accepted until Friday; distribution May 3

 By Austin Ramsey Messenger-Inquirer

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The coalition of partners aiming to help support the senior citizen community in this region will wrap up a monthlong food drive Friday.

Feed Seniors Now, sponsored by Comfort Keepers, Independence Bank and the Green River Area Development District, is collecting and distributing food in a five-county area of western Kentucky for the first time this year, and the need is greater than ever, organizers say.

"This is our sixth year doing the program," said Comfort Keepers Owner/Operator Levi Reames, "but it's the first time we're serving multiple counties."

One in six senior citizens are at risk of hunger, and more than 2,000 older U.S. Americans die from malnutrition each year. Feed Seniors Now collects monetary and food donations at bank and grocery locations to provide at least a week's worth of food for about 500 of those seniors in the region.

Next week, on May 3, dozens of volunteers will spend the day distributing all of that food to the people who need it most.

GRADD plays a huge role, said Comfort Keepers Community Relations Specialist Steve Baker, in determining seniors' needs.

But canned fruits, vegetables, meats and soups are still needed in addition to nonperishable whole grains like brown rice and dairy like evaporated milk. On Wednesday, April 26, volunteers will spend the \$1,100 of donated money to buy needed products. Local Independence Bank branches, Kroger or IGA stores are all accepting donations.

"These are grandmothers and grandfathers who are hungry," Baker said. "They're real people who need real help. And maybe just a week's worth of groceries isn't all that much in the long run, but it's a start and it lets people know about a problem that too often goes ignored."

More information about Feed Seniors Now is available by contacting the Comfort Keepers Owensboro office at 270-685-5045.

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