

Local

GRADD program delivers holiday joy to elderly

✍ By Renee Beasley Jones Messenger-Inquirer

🕒 12.05.18

Even Santa needs help from his elves.

The same holds true for Green River Area Development District, which will play Santa this year at Davco Rest Home in Owensboro and Sunny Acres Personal Care in Calhoun.

GRADD's long-term care ombudsman program is looking for donations for Silver Bells Christmas, an annual project that delivers goody bags to residents in two personal-care homes in GRADD's seven-county district.

Here are some items needed for the bags: soft drinks, drink packets for bottled water, peanut butter snack crackers, cheese snack crackers, chips, hot chocolate, snack cakes, raisins, ChapStick, socks, gloves and tissues.

Donors who don't feel like shopping can give a monetary gift that will be used to purchase items for the 120 bags, which will be delivered Dec. 13.

The deadline for donations is 4:30 p.m. Friday. Items or monetary donations may be dropped off during regular business hours at GRADD, 300 GRADD Way.

"We have received some donations," said Libby Watson, GRADD support service technician.

For example, Kentucky Wesleyan College Campus Ministries earlier brought 50 bags of items for this year's project. More donations are needed, though.

Watson and Sheila Howard, GRADD long-term care ombudsman, oversee the Silver Bells Christmas project, which is in its third year regionally.

Silver Bells Christmas provides goody bags for residents at personal-care homes only. Those facilities serve residents who do not need skilled care.

Six personal-care facilities exist in GRADD's district. Silver Bells Christmas delivers gift bags to two of those facilities each year.

Howard said some members of the Green River Area Council on Aging, GRADD staff and the Green River Ombudsman Advisory Council deliver the bags and sing carols.

"They are so appreciative," Howard said of recipients. "You can tell it means a whole lot to them."

For more information about Silver Bells Christmas, contact Howard at 270-926-4433 or email her at sheilahoward@gradd.com.

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