



# RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL FOOD BANK

A PROGRAM OF THE CRAWFORD - SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Media contacts:

**Tracy Engel**

Director

River Valley Regional Food Bank

1617 South Zero St, Fort Smith, AR 72901

**Email:** [tengel@rvrfoodbank.org](mailto:tengel@rvrfoodbank.org) | **Phone:** (479) 785-0582

**Justin Bates**

Marketing and Development Coordinator

River Valley Regional Food Bank

1617 South Zero St, Fort Smith, AR 72901

**Email:** [jbates@cscdcca.org](mailto:jbates@cscdcca.org) and [jbates@rvrfoodbank.org](mailto:jbates@rvrfoodbank.org) | **Phone:** (479) 785-0582 | **Cell:** (870) 692-5785

## **River Valley Regional Food Bank, Panera Bread, Feeding America Partner to Deliver Meals to Community**

**FORT SMITH (April 24, 2020)** — The [River Valley Regional Food Bank](#) (RVRFB) and [Panera Bread](#), along with the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization [Feeding America](#), have partnered to deliver packaged meals to residents in the River Valley.

The delivery program began Friday with Panera Bread delivering 105 meal packages to the RVRFB for the distribution. Each package has four meals inside, enough to serve 420 individuals. The RVRFB Street Team on Friday delivered the Panera Bread meals to residents in low-income housing areas and senior living centers in Alma, Barling, Fort Smith and Van Buren.

In addition to delivering meals to residences in these areas, the RVRFB Street Team also assisted the [Boys & Girls Club of the Alma Area](#) with their hot meal delivery program. These meals were delivered to families with children that aren't of school age and don't receive meals from the Alma School District.

Panera Bread — through its [#SeeAPlateFillAPlate program](#) with Feeding America — and the River Valley Regional Food Bank have committed to continue the meal delivery partnership every week day over the next three weeks. The RVRFB's meal delivery partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of the Alma Area will also continue over the course of the next three weeks.

The intention of the meal delivery program is to deliver nutritious meals to residents living in low-income housing areas and senior living centers in cities across the River Valley Regional Food Bank's eight-county service area.

“We are so blessed to have the community support and the national support of Feeding America during these trying times,” Food Bank Director Tracy Engel said. “We hope by partnering with Panera Bread, that the nourishment provided during this time with these meals also provides comfort for their souls. Through this program, we hope to reach families in each of our eight counties.”

The program will resume Monday when the street team distributes food to residents of Briarwood Apartments in Fort Smith at 10 a.m. The media is invited to attend.

-30-

**About the River Valley Regional Food Bank:**

The RVRFB, a charitable organization, is based in Fort Smith, Ark., and works to alleviate hunger by acquiring and distributing food to people in need. The RVRFB distributes food to approximately 160 nonprofit food pantries, senior centers, youth shelters and other agencies throughout an eight-county region in west central Arkansas. The food bank distributes more than 12 million pounds of food each year. It is one of 200 national food banks that make up the Feeding America network, and one of Arkansas’s six food banks that are connected through the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. The food bank is a program of the Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council.

Learn more at [www.rvrfoodbank.org](http://www.rvrfoodbank.org).



AC Woodard, a member of the River Valley Regional Food Bank's Street Team, loads Panera Bread lunches into a van on Friday, April 24, 2020. The lunches were distributed to residents in low-income housing areas and senior living centers in Alma, Barling, Fort Smith and Van Buren. (Photo courtesy of the River Valley Regional Food Bank)





RVRFB Street Team members Lance Woodard (left) and AC Woodard (right) deliver lunches to residents on Friday, April 24, 2020. (Photo courtesy River Valley Regional Food Bank).





RVRFB Street Team members Lance Woodard (left) and AC Woodard (right) deliver lunches to residents on Friday, April 24, 2020. (Photo courtesy River Valley Regional Food Bank).



RVRFB Street Team members Lance Woodard (left) and AC Woodard (right) deliver lunches on Friday, April 24, 2020. (Photo courtesy River Valley Regional Food Bank).