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Putnam Aging Delivering Relief to Those Affected by Chemical Spill

Food and water are being delivered to areas affected by the spill

SAINT ALBANS, WV – January 12, 2014 – Homebound seniors are among the most impacted by the recent chemical spill in central West Virginia, as they are unable to get out to prepare food or retrieve clean water. Putnam Aging is delivering food and water to those in affected counties, in affiliation with organizations including the National Guard and Red Cross, according to Putnam Aging’s Executive Director Joyce Arthur.

The National Guard has donated over 1800 MREs for distribution through Putnam Aging to those in Putnam and Kanawha Counties in West Virginia. These meals will be delivered Monday to the Tisklewah Center in Charleston and the John Henson Center in Hurricane, WV. From these centers they’ll be delivered to those most in need of them across Putnam and Kanawha Counties.

“Priority is to those who can’t get out or prepare food,” says Mrs. Arthur. “We’ve been busy this weekend bringing this all together.”

Over 400 heater meals have also been provided to Putnam Aging by the Southern Baptist Men’s Association in partnership with the Emergency Services of Putnam County and the Red Cross. These were delivered Sunday to those in Putnam and Kanawha Counties.

Another 5500 bottles of water have been collected for distribution from Putnam Aging’s nutrition centers. Over 3400 bottles were donated by Emergency Management Services in Charleston, WV for distribution to 280 homebound individuals in Kanawha County. Another 1200 bottles were donated by Home Depot for distribution at Putnam Aging’s nutrition site at the Home Town Senior Center. The Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department donated another 120 bottles of water, with the Poca Volunteer Fire Department donating several hundred more.

“I really appreciate the rapport we have with our caregivers that make this kind of effort possible. Many of our caregivers have been a great help identifying those seniors most in need of these supplies,” Said Karen Johnson, Putnam Aging’s Home Care Administrator.

Two of Putnam Aging’s nutrition sites, including the Clay Nutrition Site and the John Henson Center in Hurricane, WV are also distributing bulk clean water to anyone with an empty container, as well as distributing cases of bottled water.

A nonprofit serving central West Virginia, Putnam Aging has been providing a variety of services including nutrition, home care, and more to seniors and the community for over 35 years.

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For more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with members of Putnam Aging’s staff, please call Jacob Duchaine (304) 755-2385 Ext 1126 or email JDuchaine@PutnamAging.com