



# Society of St. Andrew REPORT



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**GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY**

## Staying Focused — Saving Food

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have you ever been in a situation when you needed to focus but were surrounded by distractions? That is the situation nonprofits faced throughout 2009. And the distractions were threatening because they came in the form of an economy in a serious slump. Many nonprofits closed completely, others underwent mergers, and nearly all faced hard cutbacks in staff and programs. It is difficult to stay focused on what your ministry is about when everyone is “taking flak”.

Like all other nonprofits, SoSA faced the same situation in 2009. We encountered the same difficulties and the same

challenges. But we made the decision early in the year to do what was needed in terms of reducing our expenses while collectively staying focused on what SoSA's ministry is really about. We knew the need for the highly nutritious food SoSA provides would only increase in the tough economic environment; and it certainly did. In short, we were determined to do more when

everyone else was doing less.

The results were amazing. With your help we were able to save and distribute more food, host more gleaning events, and engage more volunteers than the previous year while at the same time decreasing our expenses. We did that by staying focused on what matters most in this ministry – preventing highly nutritious food from going to waste and getting it to the tables of those most in need in America.

You see, in good economic times and bad, our nation wastes more than enough food than is needed to feed every hungry person in America. That is not an exaggeration, it is a fact: 96 billion pounds of food is wasted each year while the number of hungry is now around 45 million persons. Do that math and you'll see that we waste more than a ton of food for every hungry man, woman, and child in the country.

The food resources are there, we just need to bridge that gap between excess food and people that need it. That is what SoSA does every day, all year long, year after year. And with the need increasing we couldn't do less.

Staying focused meant setting an all time record in the

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## From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



When times get hard, things get difficult, the woods get thicker and the hills get steeper. People will react in two different ways. Quite often, the hard times and steep hills will be seen as excuses for doing less than usual, producing poorer results and in general settling for second, or even third best. Other folks will take the hard times and difficult circumstances as a challenge to do more, better, and produce the kind of results that inspire us all. I want all of you who are reading this newsletter to know that the people of Society of St. Andrew belong in the second group. They are simply the best at what they do and this recent recession has proved that, once again, without question.

At a time when most charities are living (sometimes precariously) through economic short falls, and cutting back on vital services as a result, your SoSA leadership and staff have found ways to do more with less. While budget cuts were necessary across the year just past, none of those cuts impacted food deliveries at all! In fact, SoSA found ways to increase the delivery of good nutritious vegetables to the poor who needed them in 2009! This is a very significant accomplishment and one that was in danger of going unheralded. I have decided to use these few paragraphs to rectify that.

One of the most frustrating parts of hunger ministry is that when the economy goes south (as it does periodically) two things happen.

1. Demand for the fresh vegetables we provide to hungry people goes up.
2. Our ability to package and ship those vegetables to where they are needed goes down.

Generally, you cope with this miserable situation as best you can and hope to avoid cutting your food shipments back at a time when they are so desperately needed. SoSA staff have, in the year just past, found ways to actually increase food deliveries at a time when finances were increasingly hard to come by. Part of this was due to good fiscal management and planning, part was due to very innovative staff work at all levels of our food delivery operations, and all of it was due to the incredible talent, commitment and dedication of our people. One of the benefits of being retired is that I'm now free to praise SoSA people without giving the appearance of “blowing my own horn”. SoSA people, your people if you are a SoSA supporter, have been simply magnificent through the worst economic times since the great depression. They deserve your thanks and continued support until the happy day arrives when there are no hungry people in our land. ♦



By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-December 2009

**Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:**

➤ Gleaned Produce	15,699,641 lbs.	up 30.2%
➤ Potato Project	10,745,091 lbs.	down 6.2%
➤ Events	3,984	up 21.5%
➤ Volunteers	34,479	up 8.7%
➤ Total Pounds	26,444,732	up 12.5%
➤ Total Servings	79,334,196	up 12.5%

## SoSA stories from around the states

Once again, the Society of St. Andrew was blessed by God's grace! We were able to salvage even more fresh produce in 2009 and distribute it to those in need all while financial donations were down due to the economy. ♦ The Society of St. Andrew is saddened to have recently lost a very important and longtime gleaner and friend. Jerry Lipscomb, of Zebulon, NC, passed away on November 19, 2009. Jerry has been a faithful gleaner with the NC Gleaning Network since SoSA started that network in 1990. His leadership and dedication will be sadly missed. ♦ The NC Gleaning Network saved over 5 million pounds in 2009! ♦ The annual Yam Jam in NC saw over 800 volunteers in 2009 who gleaned over 84,000 lbs of sweet potatoes that were delivered to 50 agencies around the Triangle and beyond. 2010 will be the 20th year of the NC Yam Jam! ♦ There are times when a gleaner opportunity might be the result of a loss for the farmer – such as the drop in

the price of juice apples in NC that resulted in 144,000 pounds of gleaned apples. There are also times when, with the support of gleaner volunteers and people who support the Society of St. Andrew and cherish our farms, we can do a favor for the farmer. The more-than-a-century-old Barbee Farms in Charlotte, NC was at risk of being splint in half by road expansion. But thanks to the urging of Charlotte area SoSA volunteers that contacted the N.C. Department of Transportation, the state chose an alternate route that will have far less impact on the Barbee farm. ♦ Gleaning is an important Mitzvah in the Jewish tradition. Congregation Beth Ha Tephila in Asheville, NC has been carrying out the biblical call to glean since 2007. Over the years, Congregation Beth Ha Tephila has remained a constant steward of the land and faithful follower of the Leviticus call to glean. ♦ The MS Gleaning Network received a donation of 26,000 lbs. of pumpkins from Nichols Boyd Pumpkin Patch. While that is a lot of nutritious fresh produce, the pumpkins were too cumbersome for feeding agencies to handle and distribute. But thanks to the sharp actions of Jackie Usey, MS Gleaning Coordinator, and the help of her son's schoolmates and teachers the pumpkins were made into breads, muffins, soups, and pies. These items were welcome donations to the Pinelake Care Center that was handing out 300 Thanksgiving boxes and also to the Salvation Army that was feeding 1,500 people on Thanksgiving Day. Creative solutions to unique problems have always been a driving force behind SoSA's work! ♦ MS was also very fortunate to have an Empty Bowls fundraiser event sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church of Jackson, MS. It was a great day of food, fellowship, and potato bagging, and plans are already being made to make this an annual event. ♦ The FL Gleaning Network had over 5,500 volunteers in 2009 including children, college students, seniors, and executives from J.W. Marriott and Ritz Carlton Resorts. FL even had some of the food recipients

– a few who were homeless – volunteer to glean. Without their help, FL would not have been able to save the over 2 million pounds of fresh food that it did in 2009. ♦ The FL Gleaning Network had 4 potato drops in October and November through a partnership with Thrivent for Lutherans. It wasn't just potatoes though; white potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, cucumbers, melons, corn, and zucchini were provided to over 200 agencies in the Destin, Gainesville, Homosassa, and Orange City areas. ♦ If you saw the Disney Christmas parade on Christmas morning then you may have seen SoSA gleaner in FL. The theme was "families in service" and a Disney film crew joined with the FL Gleaning Network and the Sheehan family who had been chosen as a family in service. 12,000 pounds of fresh citrus were gleaned that day. ♦ Speaking of parades, have you ever wondered what happens to all that citrus from the Citrus Bowl Parade? We know! It is donated to SoSA and distributed through the Bread of Life Food Bank and Second Harvest Food Bank in Orlando so that many people who are in need may receive the delicious citrus. ♦ The AL Gleaning Network is continuing their salvage work at Montgomery area Farmers' Markets. For more information contact the AL office at 205-838-1927. ♦ In their first full year of operations, the SoSA West Gleaning Network delivered more than 2.4 million pounds of fresh produce to 6 western states. They also grew their field gleaner efforts to 36 events with almost 600 volunteers saving over 100,000 pounds. ♦ Compassion for people in need got Dick Loman involved in the work of the Society of St. Andrew, and his passion for food, farming and God's work moved him forward in 2009 as he introduced Central Missouri to the mission of SoSA. Ultimately he moved nearly 25,000 pounds of produce, singlehandedly, from the Central Missouri Produce Auction to food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the region. From mid-June through the end of September, SoSA's mission occupied Mr. Loman's time six days a week. Mr. Loman said he enjoyed volunteering for SoSA West in 2009 and he's looking forward to the 2010 season. He said the work fulfills his desire to have a meaningful part in a faith-based effort. "This is something I can do to help out, make a difference and serve the Lord," he said. "Working with SoSA feeds body and soul. It's the right thing to do." ♦ The VA Gleaning Network saved over 1.5 million pounds with the help of over 600 volunteers. A very special thank you to Windy Hill Farm in Riner, VA, which donated a turnip field that resulted in over 50,000 pounds of turnips. We even gleaned there on Thanksgiving Day! ♦ Several of our part-time Hunger Relief Advocates (HRA) across the country were busy in 2009 feeding the hungry in their communities. Ronnie Wendell, East Ohio HRA, organized a successful potato drop with spuds from the Ohio State Research and Development agency. George Jensen, West Ohio HRA, received a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition" from US Representative Mary Kaptur of the 9th District in OH for his gleaner work in OH. ♦

Fresh beginnings are beautiful things. Why else stay up till midnight to watch a giant ball of red lights descend a pole in Time Square? We feel the slate is washed clean and we look forward to a new start with all its possibilities and opportunities. That is the true gift of a new year.

For Christians, everyday should be a spiritual New Year's Eve party as we celebrate our new fresh beginning with Jesus. The question is what shall we do with our fresh start? I sit here pondering that question in regards to *Harvest of Hope*. What will *Harvest* do with its new season ahead? In my experience successful New Year's resolutions need to be simple and obtainable. So my vision for *HOH* this year is to help participants realize they are part of something grand in scope – 25 years of educating people about the hunger issue – and that they have the ability to be part of the solution to hunger in America. I want people to know that their choices do make a difference and that they are not alone but part of something significant.

Last year many individuals made the choice to give up vacation time, money and their energy so they could join us at a Harvest event. These people helped save and distribute 250,000 servings of food to those in need. There is no doubt their sacrifice made a difference in the world.

I invite you to join us this year as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Harvest of Hope*. That is 25 years of people making a choice to help those who are hungry and in need. Let's continue to do something about hunger! ♦



**Top l. to r.:** Jerry Lipscomb stands proudly with gleaned produce. Volunteers with gleaned pumpkins in AL. Dick Loman next to a SoSA truck in MO.

**Bottom l. to r.:** Volunteers in MS deliver baked goods made from gleaned pumpkins to an agency. Potatoes are delivered to an agency in East OH.

- Alternative Spring Break**
- Orlando, FL.....March 8-12
- Senior High Weeks**
- Exmore, VA.....July 4-10
- Ashland, VA.....July 11-17
- Wilmington, NC.....July 18-24
- El Dorado Springs, MO.....August 1-7
- Junior High Weekends**
- Exmore, VA.....July 2-4
- Shawsville, VA.....July 30-Aug 1
- Intergenerational Weekends**
- Gaston, SC.....August 13-15
- Fincastle, VA.....Sept. 24-26
- Dahlonega, GA.....Oct. 15-17
- Palmyra, PA.....October 22-24
- College & Young Adult Weekend**
- Keezletown, VA.....October 1-2
- Phase II Week**
- Washington, DC.....June 20-26

## Summer Internship

Résumé submissions for *Harvest of Hope's* 2010 Summer Intern will be accepted now through April 1st. Applicants should be college-aged or young adults, hardworking, and dedicated to fighting hunger. *HOH* experience is preferred but not required. The internship is 10 weeks during the summer and involves traveling to *HOH* events as well as some in-office work. For more information, email Scott at [sosahoh@endhunger.org](mailto:sosahoh@endhunger.org). ♦



## SoSA is a top-rated food and shelter nonprofit

GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user-generated ratings and reviews of nonprofits, announced that the **Society of St. Andrew was one of the top-rated charities** in their first ever Food and Shelter Awards. The reviews and ratings were provided by those who have actually experienced the work of the charities. **SoSA is one of the top five charities with a 5-star rating** by our volunteers and donors. Thank you!

All reviews by SoSA volunteers and donors can be seen at [www.greatnonprofits.org/foodandshelter/](http://www.greatnonprofits.org/foodandshelter/) or at SoSA's listing on [GuideStar.org](http://GuideStar.org), the premiere source for donor research on nonprofits, or by clicking on the GreatNonprofits "badge" on SoSA's home page at [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org). You can also write a review of your experience with SoSA at GreatNonprofits.

Here is what some of our volunteers and donors had to say: *Maureen Copan, Raleigh, NC* – "I learned about SoSA while attending a conference on hunger and decided to give gleaning a try as a way to do something to help those who deal with being hungry on a daily basis. My first experience was gleaning corn on a late summer day in a beautiful setting. It was very satisfying to see the results of many people coming together to help feed those in need. I have been gleaning again since this first experience and came away with the same high regard for SoSA. The Society of St. Andrew makes things happen immediately. Hungry people can't wait. The gleaning done by volunteers provides food to take care of people the same day. Both staff and volunteers did their jobs and it was all about getting things done so others could eat."

*Jarrett McLaughlin, Prairie Village, KS* – "I grew up in North Carolina where SoSA has been active for many years. Some of my best youth group memories involve the annual "Yam Jam" where we met on a Saturday morning to pick sweet potatoes. Now I live in Kansas City serving a church, and I was so surprised to see that the Society of St. Andrew had set up shop in the Midwest right here in my own city. In much the same way that Jesus took a little and made it into a lot at the feeding of the 5,000, SoSA also takes very limited resources and transforms them into an abundance. Our own church's food pantry has received hundreds of pounds of fresh produce that we could put right into the inner city where it is so sorely needed for good nutrition. It's also an excellent service opportunity for volunteers of all ages. Participate. Get involved ... you won't regret it!"

*Christine Randall, Mars Hill, NC* – "Wow, there are so many positive aspects about this organization. In addition to the apparent ones that result from feeding people in need, I will focus on the opportunities it provides for people with disabilities to become contributing members of society. Mark, a young man with autism, has also been participating with me a little over a year now in SoSA gleaning projects. He has picked hundreds of pounds of apples, cabbage, cucumbers, peppers & tomatoes. He has positively socialized with fellow gleaners, farmers and recipients of the donated food. Through all of this, he has acquired a heightened sense of belonging and genuinely knows he's needed by his community. Most importantly, he is now relied on (often the opposite for those who happen to have a disability). In a nut shell, SoSA feeds the hungry, while at the same time allowing those who are 'hungry to help' their community in a way that is successful for them." ♦

## Potato & Produce Project News

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato & Produce Project* delivered a variety of produce and white and sweet potatoes to feeding agencies in St. Charles, IL, Williamsburg, KY, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Franklin, TN, Virginia Beach, VA and many other places across the country. Over 10.7 million pounds were distributed in 2009 through the *Potato & Produce Project*. We hope that these loads of food have helped to ease someone's burden a little. Our mission here at the Society of St. Andrew has always



A loving potato at the Holy Cross Catholic Church Potato Drop in Lynchburg, VA.

been about salvaging food, but first and foremost it is feeding America's hungry. The need is there for good nutritious food for the hungry and the supply of fresh produce is very abundant. So we will continue to follow this commission that our Lord has given to us – "You give them something to eat." A very special thank you to all who have helped us feed the hungry over the years. ♦

### Donations to SoSA in recent months:

**IN HONOR OF** - Lois Barnes ... Loretta & Ed Bolen ... Bill & Dorothy Branson ... Paige Campbell ... Bub & Fran Carleton ... Sam Dillard ... Bruce & Bette Forbes ... Susan Hamilton ... James Hewitt ... Betty & Bruce Hughes ... Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr. ... Mr. & Mrs. William R. Hurley ... Mrs. Jack Irby ... Donald Kear ... James H. Long, Sr. ... Devin MacRitchie ... Dillon MacRitchie ... Ms. Brianne Lyda McDonald ... Andrew J. Nawn ... Douglas Kurt Schwein ... Rev. Michael Teixeira ... Billy Tew ... Mrs. Sandy Tilley ... Joanie & Buddy Wood ... Stanley Young

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**Society of St. Andrew**  
 Telephone: 1-800-333-4597  
 3383 Sweet Hollow Road  
 Big Island, Virginia 24526  
 www.endhunger.org



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# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

## Jesus Is ... Lent Devotions



As you make the journey to the cross this year, use this devotion booklet to see Jesus in all kinds of unique ways while remembering the incredible sacrifice Jesus made for each of us.

Use the information below to order these free materials or contact our office at 800-333-4597.

### Please send my FREE Lent kit today!

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**3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD, BIG ISLAND, VA 24526**

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## Donate now — [www.endhunger.org/donate.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/donate.htm)

Donations received between March 1st - April 30th  
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\$500  \$365  \$250  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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This is my pledge for payment later in 2010.

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