



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY Quarterly Report

Saddle Up - Let's Ride

Picture 150 bike riders under a huge, blue sky, cruising across the wide-open plains of Nebraska for four days. This June, for the 22nd year, the Nebraska United Methodist Bike Ride for Hunger (NUMB) will bring riders together from across the country to pedal about 250 miles in a huge circle route in the State of Nebraska. For the second year in a row, part of the proceeds of the ride will support the Society of St. Andrew. While last year's route traveled through County Fair regions, this year's tour will roll through cattle country, averaging 63 miles a day. Riders will be fed dinner and breakfast by United Methodist churches in Wisner, Albion, Plainview, and Ponca. They'll spend their nights at local campgrounds.



Each year since 1996, Bill Ritter and Greg Bakewell have coordinated and ridden the NUMB RIDE for Hunger. The event has raised a total of \$854,000 over that time. Both are members of The United Methodist Church, and Ritter is District Superintendent of the Great Plains Blue River District. The two originally met in 1995 on another long-range bike event while they sat out a rain storm in a hog barn in Northern Nebraska. They talked about the concern that the church had lots of great hunger projects and not enough funding and publicity to make them more effective – why not create a fund-raising bike ride?

SoSA is grateful to be added to the hunger-relief organizations supported by this ride. We received \$16,250 from the NUMB ride held in the summer of 2016, and we will be one of the organizations supported again this year. Learn more about NUMB – and find the registration form if you're interested – at numbride.org ➔





January through April Statistics

**Fresh food saved and
donated to feed the hungry**

Gleaned Produce.....	5,233,518 lbs
Potato & Produce Project.....	3,634,044 lbs
Events	897
Volunteers.....	6,714

Total Historical Pounds	808.5 Million
Total Historical Servings	2.4 Billion

Recent Donations

In Memory Of

Mrs. Thelma Bohn
Mrs. Lois Brubaker
Grace Castor
Cora Clements
Mildred Sunshine (Millie)
Cooper
Deborah Copeland
Dr. Max Copeland
Bud Curtis
Theresa Damon
Darrell Decker
Mrs. Jean Duffield
Rev. Paul Harris
Preston Holmes
Evert H. Jernberg
Carolyne Kelly
Evine King
Frank King
Andy LeMaster
Audrey Levy
Jean Makoujy
Denny McGee
Michael Pedone
Mrs. Mona Hedrick Robertson
William Springston
Warren D. Tudor

Jackie Usey

Maxine Weekly
Wes Williams

In Honor Of

Andrew Benjamin
Charlotte Bennett
David Bowen
Wallace Bruce
Ray Buchanan
Helen Crosby
Carolyn Decker
Mr. Thomas Flynn
Lewis & Leona Gardner
Mr. Conrad Grundlehner
Ken Horne
Lynette Johnson
Keith & Kathy Joy
The Kindle School
Dr. Andrew Lewis
Mrs. Virginia Lewis
Rev. John Horace Minor
Carol Morling
Mike & Susan Nardotti
Rev. Donald Richardson
Mike Waldmann

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

Not Your Average Work Camp

As we move into summer, the Society of St. Andrew unique Harvest of Hope program heats up. Harvest of Hope offers mission work camps for young people and intergenerational groups in a retreat setting. Participants glean in fields each morning and learn about hunger in our nation and world in the afternoons. They explore Old and New Testament perspectives on caring for those Jesus called "the least of these." One day during the program, participants actually follow the food they've gleaned to a food bank or soup kitchen and help with food sorting, preparation, or serving.



All of these separate activities combine for a truly dynamic work camp. But what makes Harvest of Hope life-changing is that every participating group makes a pledge and a plan to do something about hunger in their own community when they return home. They don't just report back to their congregations; they mobilize their congregations to take action against hunger in an on-going way!

Please keep our Harvest of Hope staff and all who participate in the mission work camps in your prayers over the coming months! We expect the 500+ participants, ages 8 to 80, to glean and share more than 100,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables while on retreat. And we can't wait to hear about the hunger-relief projects they undertake back home later this year, in more than 30 communities across 11 states.

Does Harvest of Hope sound like something you might be interested in? Most of the summer events are full, but weekend retreats still have openings through November, and the 2018 schedule is posted, with events open for registration, too! EndHunger.org/hoh ➤

Andrew Benjamin is Relentless

Some readers may have seen this story recently on the NBC Evening News. A news crew from KARE-TV in Minneapolis brought its cameras and



microphones to a local nonprofit to interview Andrew Benjamin. As a volunteer at Prepare and Prosper, the accountant has filed 50,000 tax returns over the past 35 years for people without the experience or finances to do it for themselves. At the nonprofit agency, Andrew is legendary.

At the Society of St. Andrew, we know Andrew Benjamin as a member of our Board of Directors. He flies from Minnesota to

the hills of Virginia twice a year to meet with other board members and help guide the work of feeding the hungry. When the board joined staff and community members for a potato drop in 2016, Andrew proved to be relentless again. The 82-year-old worked non-stop in carrying the 10-pound bags from the bagging area in the parking lot to the sectioned-off parking spaces where bags

were lined up for agency pick-up. We're glad the TV station put the tax return story together. It was picked up by the network because it was a story of something good happening, and watching it can make your own day a little better. You can see the story about Andrew Benjamin on the SoSA website at EndHunger.org/sosa-board-member-loves-filing-taxes.



Andrew Benjamin, SoSA Board Member, hauling potatoes at a potato drop held in Virginia in 2016.

Harvest of Hope

Fall retreats still available



15% of Americans are food insecure.
SoSA saves and distributes 25-30 million pounds of fresh food each year.
Register online at EndHunger.org/hoh or contact us at 800-333-4597.

Mobilize Your Congregation During Hunger Action Month in September

September is Hunger Action Month - a great time for your members to help prevent hunger in the U.S. SoSA provides resources to help you raise the issue and to put your faith into action.

Visit EndHunger.org/ham for resources. Download the calendar and other materials for you own use, and for your congregation.

RSDDAY	FR	DAY
ember 3	25:29-34	neal of bean and donat
ember 1	alm 23	ord is m I shall n Practice ment today.
ember 17	ep 4:1-11	talk is cheap. n your coin every word
September 4	Genesis 41:25-36	Count the number of food items in your kitchen cupboards. Put 1¢ for each in your coin box.
September 19	Matthew 6:25-34	Put an amount in your coin box equivalent to what you need
September 19	Matthew 6:25-34	Put 1¢ in your coin box for every hour you slept this week.



THANK YOU

to the following

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

that donated \$1,000+ in the first quarter:

- The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Harrisonburg, VA
- The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust Lynchburg, VA
- Madison Drugs Rx Huntsville, AL
- Network for Good Bethesda, MD
- Publix Super Markets Charities Lakeland, FL
- Rotary Club of Forest Forest, VA
- Rotary Club of Shepherdstown Shepherdstown, WV
- Southeast Produce Council Millen, GA
- Williams Family Foundation Thomasville, GA

Let the Sweet Potatoes Roll!

In Southern Louisiana, one often hears the Cajun expression, “Laissez les bons temps rouler!” – “Let the good times roll!” On the Louisiana State University campus in Baton Rouge, it’s a good time when the sweet potatoes roll at the annual sweet potato drop. They roll in on a truck, get bagged up by a large number of student volunteers, and they roll out in agency trucks, vans, and trailers to feed the hungry across the southern part of the state.

The annual sweet potato drop has become a tradition on the LSU campus. The event has terrific support from the Baton Rouge Food Bank and the Kitchens on The Geaux Student Group. At this year’s event, held in April, a large turnout of students bagged up more than 19,000 pounds of sweet potatoes. Our Mississippi program coordinator, Andy Lemmon, says the

event was bigger than ever before: “First, our dump truck company provided a larger truck at a reduced rate for hauling the potatoes to the drop site. Second, our farmer said he would fill up whatever size truck showed up at his farm the day before the event. So we started out with more food and no additional costs.” This was Andy’s second potato drop

on the LSU campus, and he says the event demonstrates an environment of collaboration and community that can be achieved only when you truly put the needs of others first: “Kitchens on The Geaux, The Baton Rouge Food Bank, and Society of St. Andrew collaborated ahead of time to not only plan the event for 2017 but also to strategize specific ways to improve the

effectiveness of this annual event.” Andy says they also increased the number of food pantries receiving the food, and were also able to supply food to men’s shelters. You can see a longer version of this story – and a great video of the 2013 LSU event – on the SoSA website at <http://EndHunger.org/lsu-2017>. As they now say in Louisiana, “Laissez les patates douces rouler!” – Let the sweet potatoes roll! ➔

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Society of St. Andrew is authorized to solicit financial support in all 50 states. Full charitable solicitation compliance details can be seen at EndHunger.org/compliance

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW IS A NATIONAL 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • sosainfo@EndHunger.org • EndHunger.org

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EndHunger.org/signup

