

# 2022 Florida Impact Summary

## The Mission

The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishing food to hungry neighbors.

The 2022 Gleaning Season was a busy one— so many people came together to feed their hungry neighbors while navigating a laundry list of challenges. From heavy rains to unseasonably cold temperatures to major hurricanes, the Sunshine State wasn't always so bright and sunny.

Yet, this did not stop SoSA's amazing partners— like you— from shining light into the darkness of food scarcity. With financial support from donors, produce from farmers and packing houses, and endless hours of service from volunteers, you distributed millions of pounds of food through SoSA's statewide network.

Thank you for partnering with us.



## Harvesting & Sharing Healthy Food



The year began with food distributions, along with citrus gleans throughout Central Florida, broccoli gleans in the northeast and lettuce gleans in the south. As Spring came, SoSA's amazing volunteers began gleaning several times a week. They harvested strawberries, blueberries, oranges, green beans, corn, cabbage, cucumbers and potatoes. In the scorching summer months, Florida food banks suffered food shortages.

Many of these organizations called SoSA for help. And thanks to the support of so many donors, SoSA provided almost 500,000 pounds of bananas, watermelon, pineapples and mandarin oranges to these agencies.

With barely a moment to catch a breath, Fall brought two hurricanes and damage throughout the state. Again, agencies across Florida pleaded with SoSA for fresh food donations. Because of your support, many families affected by the storms received fresh food.



Thank you for making sure that hungry Floridians received fresh and healthy food in 2022!

## 2022 By the Numbers

Pounds gleaned	Servings distributed	Volunteers	Food providers	Feeding agencies	Donors/Grants
<b>4,180,385</b>	<b>16,721,540</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>199</b>
pounds	servings	volunteers	providers	agencies	financial gifts



# Bringing People Together



On the weekend before Thanksgiving, Society of St. Andrew, in partnership with the Southeast Produce Council, arranged for THREE tractor trailer loads of fresh produce to be donated to the Crop Drop Destin event. More than 40 food pantries and agencies in the Florida Panhandle received over 100,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables, thanks to 350 volunteers who unloaded, packed and bagged, then distributed.

Among the 16 varieties distributed were oranges, dragon fruit, blackberries, onions, potatoes, cabbage and cucumbers. We heard from many agency leaders who felt truly blessed to receive such a variety of food. SoSA is deeply grateful to the 15 farms throughout the southeast that contributed to this event. It was a great day bringing people from all over Florida together to help feed our hungry neighbors!



## Building Caring Communities

Partnerships are crucial to the success of SoSA's mission to feed the hungry. In 2022, the Florida SoSA staff met with food banks across the state to better understand their needs and the issues facing those affected by food insecurity. We are proud to partner with food banks like Second Harvest of Central Florida, Feeding Tampa Bay, Farm Share, Barnabas Center, Palm Beach County Food Bank, Wintergarden Food Bank, One More Child and countless others working hard to alleviate hunger. Thanks to the support of our donors, we played host to multiple food distributions, joining partners across the state in bringing food to hungry Floridians.

These events helped build a network of connections and to strengthen existing relationships with our partners across Florida. When we meet people throughout our state who know of SoSA's mission and want to join in what we do, we are reminded of the impact of our service, often in the lives of people we will never meet. We are called to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. This is reflected in all that we do at SoSA.



*Pictures above are from site visit with Feeding Tampa Bay, Farm Share, Wintergarden Food Pantry and Second Harvest in 2022.*

## Partners & Recipient Agencies

4Roots

All Faiths Food Bank

Backpack Buddies

Bread of the Mighty

Beyond The Walls

Coalition for Homeless

Community Hope Center

Destin Harvest

Farm Share

Farm Workers Assoc.

Feeding Tampa Bay

Feeding NE Florida

Feeding South Florida

First Bapt Church Pantries

Grace Tabernacle Pantry

His Compassion Food Bank

Hope International

Islamic Center of Orlando

Joy Food Pantry

Lake Cares

Lake Sumter C. Col Pantry

Leesburg Food Bank

Neighborhood Center

New Covenant UMC Pantry

One Heart for Women/Children

One More Child

Operation Hope

Palm Bch Co. Food Bank

Picnic Project

Salvation Army

Second Harvest C.Florida

Second Harvest Big Bend

SOZO Kids of the Village

St. Luke's UMC Food Bank

The Sharing Center

Unite Here Food Bank

Vol. In Service to Elderly

Wintergarden Food Pantry

# Reducing Food Waste



Society of St. Andrew appreciates farmers who welcome our volunteers into their fields to glean. We know plowing fields under immediately after harvest would be the easier, so they can simply plant again. Instead, our farmers call SoSA to come and gather fresh produce left over in the field. Ruth 2:7

“She asked ‘Please allow me to glean and

gather among the barley sheaves behind the harvesters.’ So she came and has been working in the field since morning until now, except for a little while in the shelter.”

Because of the warm Florida climate, we are blessed to be able to



provide nutritious food throughout the year, gleaning in months when other states can't. However, there is a trade off. Our summer season usually slows down a bit due to the heat.

Last August, we were blessed to received a phone call from a farmer in Miami who had 5 acres of avocado trees and wanted to donate all the produce from these trees! We quickly made calls to



our gleaning partners in the southeast part of the state for help.

When we arrived, we saw the beautiful farm had several varieties of avocados. The earliest to ripen was the Simmonds, a large Florida avocado. SoSA volunteers gleaned the Simmonds avocados three times in the first two weeks of August. In September, we gleaned a Florida Hass variety four times. In early October, we finished the final glean which was another Hass



variety. In total, we gleaned over 55,000 pounds of avocados, which is more than 221,000 servings of nourishing food that provides a range of nutrients and health benefits. Thank you to our famers who donate healthy fruits and vegetables to those struggling with food insecurity.

*Pictures above are an Avocado gleaning in Miami.*



## Donor Partners

Amaturo Family Foundation

Arborbrook Consultant

Bernard A. Egan Foundation

Bi Lo Winn Dixie Foundation

Charles A. Frueauff Foundation

Central Florida Presbytery

Florida Blue Foundation

FL Dept. of Ag & Consumer Svcs

Frank E. Duckwall Foundation

John K. Bastien Foundation

Johnson Family Foundation

McIntosh Foundation

Publix Supermarket Charities

Raymond James Global

Southeast Produce Council

171 Individual Donors

23 Churches

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THANK YOU to all our donor partners, you help ensure that hungry people have healthy fruits and vegetables.

## Contact Us

Society of St. Andrew/Florida

406 E. Amelia St  
Orlando, FL 32803

Kelly Stainer  
Regional Director  
(863) 224-0472

Florida@endhunger.org

Rebecca Brockman  
FL Program Coordinator  
(863) 224-0403

FL-glean@endhunger.org

# Offering Nourishment to Hungry Neighbors

Approximately 3/4 of Charlotte County's geographical area is considered a food desert, which means the majority of the population has limited to no access to affordable food and produce, a reality made worse by the impact of Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 storm. Ian left a wide path of destruction. Loss of life. Damaged and destroyed homes. Flooding. Power outages. Sadness. Grief. Hopelessness.

SoSA quickly joined in relief efforts, organizing truckloads of water and cleaning supplies a week after Ian made landfall. Seven semis brought almost 400,000 pounds of hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes to coastal areas ravaged by the storm. As the power returned to impacted areas, storm survivors were desperate for food, but area food banks found themselves without fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables, having only received large loads of shelf-stable items.

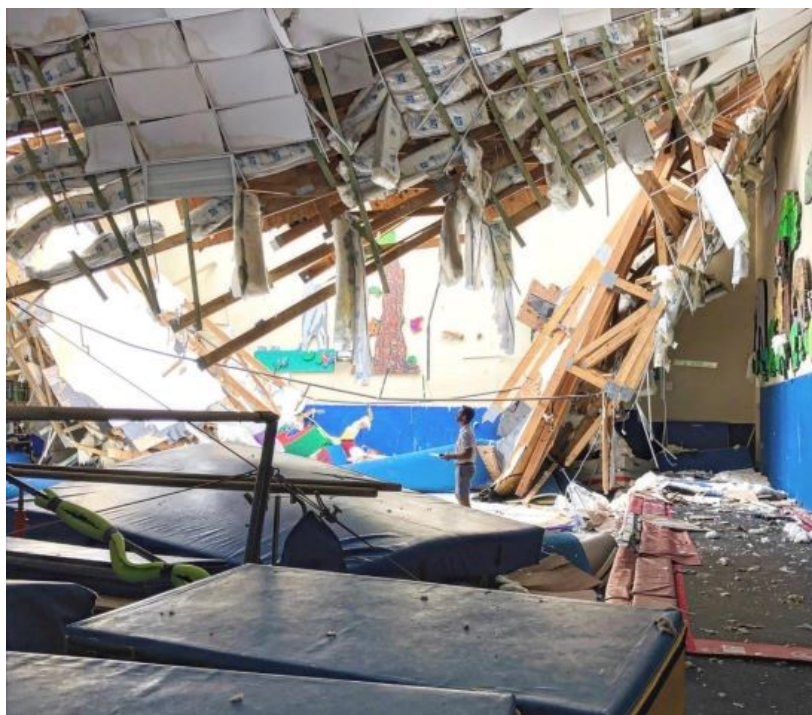
To alleviate this need, SoSA partnered with a local agency whose pantry director also suffered home destruction from the storm. As we sought to be a blessing, we were blessed to partner with this incredible woman who would not let her personal circumstances diminish her passion for feeding her community.

Just as we were preparing to send food, a second hurricane, Nicole, hit Florida. The food bank was forced to postpone the distribution until after the second storm.

Finally, when the winds from both storms were gone, SoSA sent 48,320 servings of freshly harvested watermelon, peppers, squash and zucchini, food so desperately needed by the residents of Charlotte County.

Recipients were deeply grateful for the variety of fresh produce.

We were grateful for a chance to serve them.



*Destruction after Hurricane Ian in Charlotte County*