

# 2022 Carolinas 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.

**Thank you!** You made an incredible difference for your neighbors in North and South Carolina! Together, as a team with other gleaners, farmers, donors, agency leaders, drivers, and bag cutters, you rescued millions of pounds of beautiful fresh produce and offered it in love to our neighbor. **You are amazing!!!**



## Harvesting & Sharing Healthy Food

**All people deserve access to healthy food!** This is the driving ethic for The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) and we are honored that you joined us in this work last year.

In 2022, we strengthened connections with groups doing community health and free health clinic work so they would have more produce to share with their clients. Friends at the Farm to Clinic program, through the ECU School of Allied Health, tell stories of incredible health improvements of the people who received gleaned produce. So much so, similar groups in Greensboro and Ahoskie and Durham are starting to partner with SoSA in similar ways.

Healthy food makes a difference because it means that each person receives the crucial thing their bodies need to be healthy— And that need is skyrocketing! Recipients and agency partners report increased demand for services, even as the pandemic has eased. Everything you do matters. Every little bit helps!

## 2022 Carolinas By the Numbers

Pounds gleaned	Servings distributed	Volunteers	Farm or food	Feeding	Donors	Gifts
<b>5,321,217</b>	<b>21,284,868</b>	<b>6,069</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>1,204</b>
pounds	servings	gleaners	providers	agencies		

## Eastern NC: Healthy Partnerships

In Eastern NC, some SoSA-gleaned produce is making its way from Farm to Clinic at ECU.

There it was distributed to the clinic's patients as "produce for prescriptions."

Prescribed produce helped Free Clinic clients improve their eating habits to prevent the risks of disease and lead to healthier lives.

ECU students even volunteered to glean produce to take back to these clinics!



# Making a Difference

## Fayetteville

In the Fayetteville area, the young and the young-at-heart were gleaning side by side. Youth groups and Scout troops came out with Senior Citizen groups to gather food, cooperate in the work, and fellowship together. The elders were the usual gleaners but welcomed the help from the youth. They say even though they didn't have to glean on the days the youth were there, they still came out to "glean some of the younger energy."

## Triad, NC

In the Triad area a farmer used his land to help his neighbors. After inheriting several acres, he planted fields and grew crops specifically so volunteers could glean and distribute the harvest. He was so excited to begin this endeavor last year that he helped harvest alongside volunteers. Plans were already made to do it again in the upcoming year!

## Charlotte

In the Charlotte area it's never too late to glean for the first time. Last year was a first, and certainly not the last, for a 90+ year old newbie. She made her way to a muscadine vineyard to glean and determined that she would find a way to be at future events— whether her daughter would take her or not.



# Working Together in the Triangle

SoSA's Triangle Gleaning Coordinator was a faculty member at Duke Medical School some years ago.

She was contacted by Root Causes, a group at Duke who work to get fresh produce to discharged patients with nutrition related issues.

Root Causes got "on the list" and brought volunteers out to glean and to pick up from produce drops (like the winter squash drop in this picture) nearby.

The diverse experiences from throughout our lives are more closely related than we think, and come back around full circle eventually.

This was truly a fruitful connection!



## Growing in South Carolina

In South Carolina, word is spreading about The Society of St. Andrew and the work happening there.

More people were provided a healthy variety of produce— some different from what they're used to. It's exciting to see people open their minds to eating healthier and helping others do so as well.

At USC Columbia, the education abounded with SoSA presentations to the university faculty and students, resulting in new volunteers to help glean.

Seeing the big picture reminded individuals how they can play an active role. There is truly a place for everyone. By partnering with SoSA, you rescued and shared good food, but further than today's needs, you helped build systems, trained leaders, and established communities to sustain the effort.

In 2022, SoSA partnered with Ark Foods in Roebuck, SC to share 8,000 pounds of tomatoes and peppers. Kapi Kapi Produce and JEAR Logistics also shared around 120,000 pounds of fresh pineapple across the region.

Looking forward to 2023, SoSA plans to partner with Growers For Grace and Lisa Johnson Consulting to offer farmers measurements of what is left in their fields after harvest.

This partnership, along with an SCDA grant, will provide measurements of marketable, edible and inedible produce left after harvest so farmers can make more informed planting and harvest decisions the following year.



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# Yam Jam 2022

Every year, the fall sweet potato harvest season turns into a Yam Jam as thousands of volunteers converge to gather sweet potatoes and distribute them. Since the sweet potato is the state vegetable, it is an ideal time for school groups to go on field trips to learn how they grow, how to harvest, and experience a glimpse of farm life in this state!

Students also learned the reality of food waste, what is left in the fields, and what can be done with it. Nearly 60% of all the sweet potatoes grown in the US were grown in North Carolina! In 2022 there were 22 events, over 30 days, engaging nearly 1,500 volunteers, which shared nearly 250,000lbs. of sweet potatoes!

A special thanks goes out to Food Lion for sending employee volunteers to 4 SoSA Yam Jam events to help glean. They did a wonderful job!

