

NEWS RELEASE

Society of St. Andrew

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shifting responsibilities at national hunger-relief organization

Society of St. Andrew founder named Director Emeritus; new Executive Director appointed

BIG ISLAND, VA - The Society of St. Andrew, a national, faith-based, non-denominational, nonprofit hunger relief organization, has named its co-founder as Director Emeritus after leading the charity for nearly thirty years.

In early May, the Reverend Kenneth C. Horne became Director Emeritus and Steven M. Waldmann, who has been Director of Operations since 1995, assumed the role of Executive Director of the Society of St. Andrew, which is headquartered in Central Virginia where it was founded in 1979.

Horne's vision, insight, expertise and knowledge, not to mention his vast network of friends and colleagues, are still very much a part of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) and its mission. "Becoming 'emeritus'," he affirmed, "will allow me to maintain these contacts and be available to share my experience as needed. Becoming 'emeritus' will also allow SoSA to enjoy new leadership that brings with it new energy to our mission."

In announcing these management changes, the Reverend James Tongue, Chair of SoSA's Board of Directors, said, "For nearly three decades Ken has given excellent leadership to this extraordinary ministry. With great passion and persistence he has consistently lifted the need of our nation's hungry people. And his foresight and faithfulness have insured that the Society of St. Andrew is built to last.

"Over the past several years," Tongue continued, "Ken has worked with the Board of Directors on a leadership transition plan. We are delighted that Ken will continue to be a significant part of the Society of St. Andrew as Director Emeritus."

"Our Board, which has grown with the organization," Horne pointed out, "has created a situation where I can step aside with confidence that SoSA will continue to enjoy wise governance and much needed support.

"I want to say how very proud I am of SoSA's dedicated staff and their accomplishments over the years," Horne emotionally revealed. "In addition to salvaging over half a billion pounds of vegetables and delivering them to feeding agencies all across the nation, we have achieved a fundamental change in the way our country deals with surplus produce. When we began salvaging food 25 years ago no one gleaned produce in any quantity. No one had ever thought to

package large quantities and ship across state lines. We demonstrated that this could be done efficiently and economically and our example has spawned many ‘copy cat’ programs over the years. These, taken as a whole and combined with our present efforts, now deliver over a quarter of a billion pounds of produce to agencies that feed the poor each year! None of this food was ‘in the system’ when we began! We have literally changed the face of hunger relief in our country.”

In his new role, Rev. Horne will continue to lend his considerable influence to the further advancement of SoSA’s ministry. “He will continue to serve as a key SoSA representative among national and senior religious figures involved in ending hunger in the U.S.,” explained Steven M. (Mike) Waldmann. “Ken is the taproot of this amazing organization and his new role will ensure that SoSA continues to draw nourishment and inspiration from that root.”

“Mike Waldmann, who has directed the day-to-day operations of this national organization for 13 years, will now assume all the duties of executive director, as well,” Tongue confirmed. “The Board of Directors is fully confident that Mike will lead us well into the future.”

Waldmann left a 20-year, upwardly mobile career with the Coast Guard to join the Society of St. Andrew in 1994. He is a 1974 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, served in five command positions – four afloat and one ashore – and was the first Coast Guardsman to be awarded the Military Citizen of the Year for all of South Hampton Roads (VA) in 1989 for his volunteer anti-hunger work with the Society of St. Andrew.

“It was an easy and natural transition from the humanitarian missions of the Coast Guard to that of feeding the hungry with the Society of St. Andrew,” explained Waldmann. “I was very happy serving in the Coast Guard and had no intentions of retiring. I had been an active volunteer with the Society of St. Andrew for six years when, in 1994, SoSA approached me to come on board as a full-time staff member. I felt it was an offer I had to consider because I had always been interested in fighting hunger. After talking it over with my family, we decided to make the change on faith.

“Though I do miss the sea, there is an undeniable sense of purpose to what I do with the Society of St. Andrew,” he continued, enthusiastically. “What we do – saving perfectly good food that would otherwise go to waste and getting it to people in need – just makes good sense! And I like that SoSA maintains a very low overhead so that more than 90 percent of all donations go directly to feeding the hungry. I consider myself blessed to be part of a wonderful organization in SoSA and part of a great staff that is dedicated to feeding the hungry in the best way possible.”

“We look forward to the advances SoSA will make in hunger relief ministry under the leadership of Mike Waldmann,” avowed Rev. Tongue. “And for all that Ken has done we are deeply grateful! While his efforts have been aimed primarily at the poor, he has truly been a gift to us all. We thank God for Ken Horne.”

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Photos of Ken Horne and Mike Waldmann available. Contact Carol Breitinger

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