

# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

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SPRING 2007

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



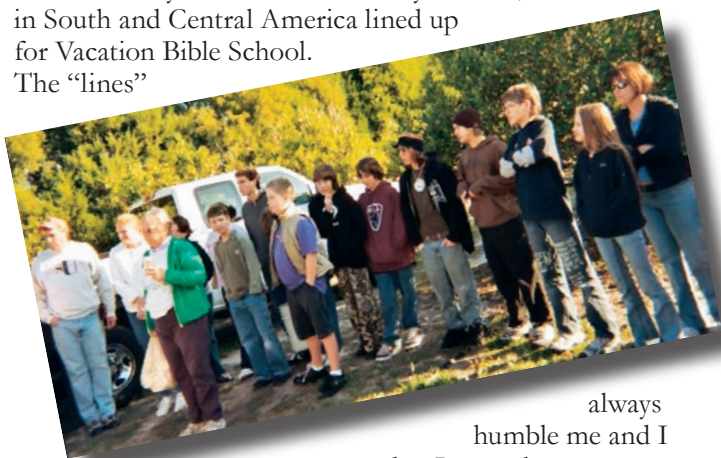
## "Lines" tell the story

They remind us of our calling to help others

By BARBARA SAYLES, SoSA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, FLORIDA

I had been up since 5am, picked up a couple hundred boxes, some pallets and bags and dropped them off at First United Methodist Church in Titusville (FL) for our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Citrus Drive. I had made a run to Mims to pick up oranges and grapefruit picked by a homeowner with backyard trees. At the same time, hundreds of volunteers were lining up at various locations to receive maps and gleaning instructions. They, too, were up early.

I arrived in Cocoa a little after 9am and saw it...the line of people waiting to get their weekly groceries from the church's food bank. I have seen such "lines" many times – on Friday nights when my family helps serve meals to the homeless at the Coalition in downtown Orlando; in Peru when my mission team held eye clinics; children in South and Central America lined up for Vacation Bible School. The "lines"



always humble me and I pray that I never become immune to them. For it is the "lines" that remind us of the need and our responsibility.

This particular day, as I watched the lines of people – the elderly, the young, the homeless, families with children – I was once again grateful to churches like this that "live their faith" and obey Jesus' instruction to "give them something to eat". I was grateful to the ones who were already in the field gleaning the fresh citrus from backyard trees so that it would not be wasted and the hungry would be fed. Because the church was not only running a food pantry this day but also serving as a "drop site" for our Citrus Drive, the line of folks would receive a special treat – a bag of juicy grapefruit and oranges filled with nutrition and vitamin C.

Emily, who looked to be in her 60's with obvious health problems, picked up her groceries from the church

*Continued - see LINES on page 3*

## From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Enough is enough. There is a phrase you have heard many times. When your mother said it to you it meant "I've had all I can take, stop it NOW". For us here at Society of St. Andrew it means that, and more. Consider for a moment:

- ▶ There is enough food thrown away every year in our country to feed every man, woman, and child that ever goes hungry.
- ▶ There is enough surplus wealth in our country to deliver that food to those who hunger.
- ▶ There is enough know how in our country to devise ways to distribute that food to those in need.
- ▶ There is enough compassion in our people to want all of our hungry fed adequately. A recent poll taken for the Alliance to End Hunger shows that the vast majority of people, Republican, Democrat, Independent, liberal and conservative alike, all place elimination of hunger in the USA among their highest priorities.

Then why do we still have thirty six million hungry people in our country? What is there not enough of?

- ▶ There's not enough leadership. Our priorities at the national level simply do not include eliminating hunger. Our tax dollars are not spent in a way that reflects our wishes where the hungry are concerned.
- ▶ There's not enough vision. Far too many of our religious institutions spend far too much time squabbling about the hot button issues of the day and neglect the fundamental command "when you see your neighbor hungry, feed him." Instead of allowing issues of theology and philosophy to divide us, America's religious bodies should band together and show our leaders and our people a vision of what "one nation under God" could look like if we let that God guide our priorities.
- ▶ There's not enough outrage. Hunger has been with us for so long, we have grown numb. The temptation, even in the anti-hunger community, is to go about our tasks as if hunger will always be with us. We need to step back a little until we can see clearly again. To see a child go hungry is a shame and a pity when the hunger is caused by lack of food. It is a sin and a crime when food is plentiful and people around the child will not trouble themselves to feed him.

It's time for us to declare "enough's enough". Our part of that declaration will be to redouble our efforts to feed those in need. We're already well on our way to our yearly goal of thirty million pounds of food delivered, and the harvest season hasn't begun yet! Along the way to that goal, and for as long as it takes, we will declare to all we see, in a very loud voice, where hunger is concerned, ENOUGH'S ENOUGH! ♦



## SoSA Statistics At A Glance January-March 2007

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:	
➤ Potato Project	2,300,000 lbs.
➤ Gleaned Produce	1,926,958 lbs.
➤ Events	320
➤ Volunteers	3,100
➤ Total Pounds	4,226,958
➤ Total Servings	12,680,874

Here are just a few of many stories about SoSA activities across the country!

### "If you build it they will come."

That's how Bob Fritchey, regional director of SoSA in Mississippi, envisions SoSA's *Gleaning Network* efforts. Not only in Mississippi but in all of our regional operations, as we present opportunities for farmers to open their fields and volunteers to glean leftover crops, "they come." Fallow winter months gave SoSA folks the time needed to strengthen and expand our network of growers, volunteers and agencies for the coming season. Our regional director and program coordinator in Alabama attended vegetable growers meetings, introducing our food salvage program to farmers and orchardists. Following a meeting with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, we were put in touch with a grower in John's Island (SC) who had some food to donate. This was our first low country gleaning; it was accomplished with the help of the

Low Country Food Bank and some prisoners who saved 3,779 pounds of rutabagas. In Georgia, SoSA's newest gleaning operation, there has been an overwhelmingly positive response from farmers, agencies and potential volunteers as they learn about our program. A cantaloupe farmer there, who is anxious for SoSA to glean his fields, said that in 2005 there were enough cantaloupes left in the field to "feed the world." So we are hoping for lots of this wonderful fruit and other healthy produce throughout this year's harvesting season. The North Carolina regional office was blessed with a significant increase in food providers in 2006 and is currently contacting them to lay the groundwork for spring, summer and fall gleaning activities. In Mississippi, now into its second year of operation, our efforts at educating people about hunger issues and giving them an opportunity to make a difference is starting to bear fruit; more and more doors are opening for us as we continue to build the gleaning network.

### "And a little child shall lead them."

So often we find that it's the children who readily grasp the concept of helping those in need. Indeed, the Bible tells us that it was a "little child" who first shared his bread and fish with Jesus so that the multitudes were fed. And so they come – hundreds of little children in preschools, private and community schools all over Central Florida are helping SoSA feed the hungry in their own communities and in their own special way. Preschools are participating in projects from collecting pennies to passing potatoes! Among their projects: "Birthday Cakes in a Bag" given to children in poor communities who don't always get the treat of a cake on their birthday; healthy "treat" bags given to children in inner city communities and the Ronald McDonald House. Some children have even brought their parents to the fields to glean. SoSA in Mississippi has been working with schools to encourage kids to participate in gleaning events and to help teachers develop ways to educate the youth about hunger issues. In Indiana, Boy Scout Troop 715 in Kosciusko County distributed a semi-load of spuds throughout the county. In fact, during 2006, the troop completed 279 hours of community service projects – from food drives to "Ringing the Bell" at Christmas time for the Salvation Army. SoSA's new Georgia *Gleaning Network* is conducting a Cabbage Drop in collaboration with Hands on Columbus to recognize National Youth Service Week. The project, "Heads and Hands Coming Together for the Hungry," will engage students of all ages in meeting some of the needs of Georgia's hungry families. Truly it is in the eyes of a child that we see the kingdom of God!

Left to Right: Gleaning NC collard greens and turnips. Indiana's Boy Scout Troop 715 still standing after a hard day of distributing 45,000 lbs. of spuds. Florida's backyard citrus drive a success due to generous homeowners and volunteer gleaners picking heavily-laden trees. Thousands of pounds of citrus taken to drop points by homeowners who gleaned their own trees.



### Winter Gleaning

Some crops, such as collards, kale, mustard and salad greens, rutabagas and turnips, prefer cooler weather. SoSA in North Carolina, Virginia and Mississippi realized a good quantity of these comfort foods. 340 North Carolina gleaners picked over 90,000 pounds and more than 30,000 pounds were salvaged in Virginia by more than 100 volunteers. When some collards were taken to a North Carolina low income neighborhood of predominately elderly folks, the residents gathered around the bags of produce expressing their gratitude and excitement about having something wonderful to eat for supper. North Carolina also distributed 505,000 pounds of excess red, white and sweet potatoes. Florida citrus was plentiful despite the chronic problem of canker. Gleaning from four "backyard" citrus drives yielded 146,000 pounds of sweet, juicy oranges and grapefruit. Alabama grower Paul Holmes is growing green house oranges and hydroponic lettuce, okra, peas and squash that will be gleaned by SoSA. And Harpersville (AL) United Methodist Church has prepared two acres to plant vegetables that SoSA volunteers will glean in midsummer.

### Hope Springs eternal!

As spring warms the earth and newly planted crops, gleaning will ratchet up, volunteers "will come" and thousands of tons of fresh produce will be saved, resulting in nourishing food for those most in need. ♦



## Souper Bowl Sunday success story

Harvest of Hopers raise funds to feed the hungry and register for spring, summer and fall *Harvest of Hope* events.

By LAUREN HOLCOMB, *HARVEST OF HOPE* DIRECTOR

Though Harvesters of Hope weren't able to attend gleaning camps during the winter months, they did not let that stop them from *DOING SOMETHING ABOUT HUNGER!*

Jessica VanScoy's youth group at St. James United Methodist Church in Goose Creek, SC attended the Johns Island (SC) *Harvest of Hope* event last July. This January, they raised \$442 for SoSA in one day on Souper Bowl Sunday, which is a national hunger-relief fundraising opportunity run in conjunction with Super Bowl Sunday. Meanwhile in Virginia, Chester United Methodist Church's youth group, which attended two Exmore, VA *HOH* events last summer with leader Gordon Morris, also raised money for SoSA that day (over \$200)!

These and other donations are crucial at this time of year to fund

If you're planning to bring a group to *Harvest of Hope* this year, act now to reserve your spots!

SoSA's year-round hunger relief programs, which transport donated potatoes and other

salvaged fresh produce across the U.S. to those in need. So far this year the Society of St. Andrew has already saved and distributed over four and a quarter million pounds of produce through its *Potato Project* and *Gleaning Network*.

When not raising money through sponsors and fundraising drives, *Harvest of Hope* teams are busy planning for upcoming summer *HOH* events, volunteering locally to fulfill their *HOH* covenants, and quickly filling up registration slots for 2007 *HOH* mission/gleaning camps.

If you're planning to bring a group to *HOH* this year, act now to reserve your spots! We have 12 *Harvest of Hope* events lined up for 2007. The first event is Phase II in Washington DC June 24-30, followed by a new weeklong Senior High event in Mathiston, MS July 1-7. Both events still have room. Many summer events are full, so please call to check on availability before getting a group together. Fall events are filling up, too, so start planning now! ♦

LINES

Continued from page 1

pantry and drove across the parking lot to where we were collecting the gleaned fruit. As we placed the bags of citrus in her car, tears welled in her eyes. She thanked us profusely saying, "I so love these Ruby Reds but I never get them, there's never enough money left for such a treat as this, fruit is expensive you know." Joe just stood there in the parking lot, peeled his orange and ate it right in front of us, laughing as streams of juice trickled down his arm, grateful for the sweet, thirst-quenching fruit.

One by one they came throughout the morning, the "lines" of them...fruit dropped off, fruit picked up.

This is what it's all about, I thought, this is what Jesus meant when he said, "give them something to eat". ♦



# Making small work of big loads!

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO PROJECT DIRECTOR

A number of church groups sponsored Potato Drops during the first quarter of 2007. They were headed up by: United Methodist Men's groups, church mission committees, and other interested parties that want to help feed their communities.



In western Maryland a church funded a load of potatoes that was delivered to an area

food bank. For convenient distribution to individual and family clients, the food bank needed the spuds to be in 10- or 15-pound bags. Since the potatoes were delivered in 50-pound bags, the church sent volunteers to break them down and rebag the spuds.

Several United Methodist Men's groups in West Virginia as well as churches in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Iowa, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania received loads of potatoes during this period. In some cases trucks brought the loads to the churches where members and other volunteers, including scout troops, unloaded the spuds on site. In other instances, it was more convenient to make deliveries to business locations where the spuds were unloaded directly onto loading docks, from which church volunteers distributed the potatoes. Feeding agencies from the smallest church pantry to large regional food banks received the potatoes to feed their many clients.

Handling a full 45,000-pound tractor-trailer load of potatoes is quite an undertaking, but these enthusiastic groups made small work of it. It takes lots of people working together to take care of those that are in need of food and SoSA is grateful for every one of them. ♦



National Hunger Awareness Day, June 5th, recognizes the 36 million Americans living on the brink of hunger. This year's theme is "The Face of Hunger Will Surprise You." Here are some things you can do to observe the day:

- ❶ Pray and fast on June 5th remembering those who don't have enough to eat.
- ❷ Design a worship service focused on hunger and the Biblical imperatives to do something about it. The Society of St. Andrew has some free resources to help.
- ❸ Volunteer with a hunger-relief agency. SoSA coordinates gleaning events in many locations. Call our office at 800-333-4597 or check our website, [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org), for gleaning offices near you.
- ❹ Give an offering for Society of St. Andrew's hunger-relief ministry, out of thankfulness for your blessings and concern for America's hungry.
- ❺ Educate your church congregation about hunger. The Society of St. Andrew offers a 12-week adult Bible study entitled, *The Fast That I Choose*.

The Society of St. Andrew is a National Hunger Awareness Day supporting organization. For more information about National Hunger Awareness Day check the website: [www.hungerday.org](http://www.hungerday.org). ♦

## VOLUNTEERS

*SoSA has tens of thousands of volunteers all over the country. Whether they give one hour or a hundred, every volunteer is extremely important ... and necessary ... to this ministry. Here we recognize just a few who make it all possible.*

### David Smith / FLORIDA

David Smith of Tampa has a heart of gold. He has been a dedicated volunteer with SoSA for more than a year. Current medical concerns may keep him from climbing citrus trees -- but that's about all they keep him from doing. David stays active with many missions including SoSA, Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army, and is active in United Methodist Men where he has served as District President. SoSA thanks David for setting such a wonderful example for others to follow. He truly illustrates Jesus' command to serve those in need.



### Bob & Chris Blackmon / NORTH CAROLINA



Bob and Chris Blackmon have been volunteers for SoSA for many years and have carried the SoSA message as they've relocated within NC. While living in Durham,

they attended Mount Sylvan United Methodist Church and were very active as volunteer gleaners and truckers. When they moved and joined First United Methodist Church of Fuquay-Varina (NC), they became active in the church Food Pantry, wasting no time introducing fresh gleaned produce to the pantry. They are humble people who, when told we wanted to give them Volunteer Recognition in this newsletter, said they wanted to pray about it first to know whether this would be boastful or if it would build up SoSA-NC and thus the Kingdom. Bob and Chris continue to be faithful in carrying the work of SoSA wherever they go!

### Joe Black / VIRGINIA

Joe Black invites *Harvest of Hope* to glean his potatoe fields every summer. Last year, over 150 participants at the Eastern Shore Junior High and Senior High events gleaned with Joe several days in July. Joe's devotion to God is obvious through his character, faith, and service as he trusts the bounty of his crops to God and gives his "first fruits" to programs like *Harvest of Hope*. We look forward to working with Joe each year and can't say enough good things about his commitment to Christ. ♦



# Truckin' to End Hunger

## VBS MISSION PROJECT

**Truckin' to End Hunger** is a fun way to involve your Vacation Bible School in feeding the hungry right here in America. The Society of St. Andrew's VBS mission project is designed to supplement your VBS program and help your students learn about hunger in America and how Jesus wants us to help. Student sheets for each day are included. They contain: a short scripture story, facts about hunger and SoSA's hunger-relief ministry, potato trivia, and a pencil activity.

One church shared with us a mother's account of how much last year's VBS project had influenced her children. Long before VBS, this family had



## VBS Mission Project

instituted a "family collection jar" for depositing money if they wasted food that they had asked for. During a discussion at home the week of VBS, one of the children suggested they donate the money they'd collected at home to the VBS mission project so that the money they'd given up because of wasted food would go to help the Society of St. Andrew collect the otherwise wasted crops to feed the hungry! It is apparent that God reached that child through this project! He can reach your VBS children, too.

Each participating VBS is given a goal of raising \$50 through nickel and dime donations from students for SoSA's hunger-relief work. \$50 will make it possible for SoSA to save about 2,500 servings of fresh food for hungry families. Last year 187 VBS programs donated a total of \$42,318, which provided 705,300 pounds of nourishing food. Challenge your VBS kids to help feed the hungry!

**Truckin' to End Hunger** is FREE and there's no obligation. Order a packet by email: church@endhunger.org; phone: 800-333-4597; or on line: www.endhunger.org/VBS.htm. **Materials should arrive within two weeks of ordering.** ♦

## Rise to the Challenge

### THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE

Each year Alan Shawn Feinstein of Rhode Island divides \$1 million among participating hunger fighting charities nationwide, using it to help them raise funds during March and April. Last year SoSA got \$18,553!

The more money donated to SoSA from March 1 thru April 30, the larger a share of the \$1 million we will receive. The million will be divided proportionately among all participating agencies, exponentially increasing each donor's gift! So now is the time to be as generous as possible to help stop food waste and feed the hungry!

**You can pledge now and pay later in the year, but please pledge before April 30.** Use the coupon on the back page. Thank you!

# *ENOUGH is ENOUGH* endhunger.org

## Your church can help end hunger in America

One way your church can participate in Society of St. Andrew's *Enough is Enough* campaign is to use SoSA's Vacation Bible School, Advent and Lent programs. These programs connect our spiritual roots with our gifts to feed America's hungry. Prior to Lent this year, the Society of St. Andrew sent out over 23,000 Lent devotional and 7,060 Good Friday Fast booklets to churches in 33 states from California to Maine. What you may not know is that all our materials are produced in-house. We print all those pages ourselves, collate, fold, staple and mail the booklets. In fact, one person does most of this work. That is until, as we neared our Lent deadline, our machines began breaking down. Then the whole staff pitched in, folding and stapling by hand about 10,000 booklets, to insure churches got their materials on time. A lot of work goes into getting these programs into your hands and we pray that as you use them they will encourage and challenge you to respond to Jesus' command, "*You give them something to eat.*" (Luke 9:13)

## And so can YOU

### Your IRA is the Key

If you're looking for the most tax-effective gift to make to the Society of St. Andrew, your IRA may be the best choice. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals aged 70½ or older to make gifts now to charitable organizations like ours using funds transferred directly from their IRAs. Qualified donors can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 on or before December 31, 2007 and they will not have to pay income tax on the amount transferred. By taking advantage of this type of donation you can witness the difference your philanthropic dollars make to our ministry and those we serve. If you think this might give you an easy and convenient way to help America's hungry without tax complications, please consult your IRA administrator or call SoSA at 800-333-4597 for assistance.

### Insuring the Future

Many people have life insurance policies purchased years ago for a specific purpose. In some cases the policy's safety net is no longer needed because of changing circumstances. Did you know you can give the policy to the Society of St. Andrew? If you name SoSA as the owner and beneficiary of the policy, you can receive an income tax deduction while reducing the size of your taxable estate. More than anything, it is a great way to help America's hungry without affecting your current income or emergency savings. And it's easy to do. Contact your insurance company to get the appropriate forms.

### Leaving a Lasting Legacy

If you want to continue to make a difference in the lives of countless American women, children and men by making sure they get enough to eat, you can name the Society of St. Andrew as a beneficiary in your will, or as a recipient of a portion of your estate. This is actually one of the simplest and most effective ways you can have a long-term impact on hunger in the U.S. All you need to do is to direct through your will that a gift be made to the Society of St. Andrew when you pass away. One benefit of such a charitable bequest is that it enables you to further the good work of our ministry long after you are gone. At the same time it could result in a significant tax savings for your estate and beneficiaries in the future by providing your estate with a charitable deduction for the value of the gift. But the most important thing about such a bequest is that it will have a lasting positive impact in the lives of many, many people. That's a legacy worth leaving. If you choose to make a difference for the future in this way, you will want to consult your lawyer or financial planner for advice. We are happy to recognize legacy donors. ♦



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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



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## VBS Mission Project

Get SoSA's **free** VBS Mission Project for your Vacation Bible School. Through daily biblically-based story and activity sheets for all ages, children learn about hunger and how Jesus wants them to respond. And their nickel and dime donations will keep SoSA truckin' to end hunger with truck loads of potatoes for the hungry. Each \$50 donation provides about 2,500 servings of fresh produce to hungry Americans. This mission project is adaptable to any VBS theme. Order your **FREE** sample kit today. There is no obligation. Use the coupon; call 800-333-4597; email [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org); or order online at [www.endhunger.org/VBS.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/VBS.htm). Materials should arrive within two weeks of ordering.

**Please send my FREE VBS Mission Project kit today!**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW  
3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD, BIG ISLAND, VA 24526**

(NL 4/07)

## **ENOUGH is ENOUGH!** *We've suffered hunger far too long!*

Join SoSA's 3-year campaign to increase the amount of food we save to feed the hungry. Commit to increase your usual donation by a dollar a day for the next 3 years. An additional \$365 a year will provide during that year more than 3 tons, or about 18,250 servings, of nourishing food to hungry children and adults who don't get enough to eat.

**Enough is Enough. Here's my donation to feed the hungry.**

☐ \$500 ☐ \$365 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)

☐ **This is my pledge for payment later in 2007**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my: ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ AmEx 

Acct.# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW  
3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD, BIG ISLAND, VA 24526**

(NL 4/07)

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW IS A NATIONAL 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW.

**For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • [sosausa@endhunger.org](mailto:sosausa@endhunger.org) • [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org)**