

Society of St. Andrew REPORT

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GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



His loss is others' gain

Virginia pastor loses weight to feed the hungry and challenges others to do the same

By CAROL BREITINGER, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Last August Rev. Bill Wade announced to his Winchester, VA area church members that he was embarking on a weight-loss and wellness plan: for every pound of weight he lost from then to Christmas, he would donate \$10 to the Society of St. Andrew to feed the hungry. "My motivation was that my loss (in weight) meant others (the hungry) would gain. By the time I weighed in on Christmas Eve I had lost 50 pounds," said Bill.

Having asked his small, rural Loudoun Charge congregations to encourage and pray for him in his effort and to also pledge a contribution to SoSA for every pound he lost, a total of \$7,500 was raised for hunger relief. A portion of this generous donation covered shipping costs for a 45,000-lb. SoSA Potato Drop held at the United Methodist VA Annual Conference in early June and another held later in the Winchester area.



Bill Wade (left) and Skeeter Ramey bag spuds at a SoSA Potato Drop.

Skeeter Ramey, Hunger Relief Advocate to the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men's Cabinet and a long-time friend of Bill Wade and the Society of St. Andrew, helped organize the second Potato Drop, which was held June 30th at Riverton UMC. "Bill's Loudoun Charge churches and Riverton UMC are at opposite ends of the Winchester

District. Bill and I and our churches wanted to bring the whole community together to help the hungry," he offered.

Bill Wade's concern was not only for his own

Continued - see HIS LOSS on page 3

From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



There's a very old expression I want to introduce to you. My father (I respectfully referred to him as "my old man") used to caution me against what he called being "penny wise and pound foolish". The basic idea is that refusing to spend enough now to fix a problem properly can wind up costing you much more later. Being penny wise and pound foolish can hurt your personal finances. It can do much worse than that on a national scale. Where our treatment of the hungry is concerned we seem to have a terminal case of "penny wisdom and pound foolishness".

A recent study has calculated the cost of tolerating hunger in the United States. The study* was commissioned by the Sodexo Corporation and conducted by an old friend of mine, Dr. J. Larry Brown of the Harvard School of Public Health. Larry put together a team of researchers from Harvard, Brandeis and Loyola Universities and conducted a thorough study of the consequences of tolerating serious hunger among 35 million of our fellow citizens. The results of this study are startling.

People who don't get enough to eat turn to food stamps, and when that's not enough (and it isn't) they go to emergency food charities. These charities (like SoSA) provide food to fill the need that food stamps don't cover. Good people like you donate money to keep these charities functioning. That bill is \$14.4 billion a year!

People who don't get enough to eat get sick more than the rest of us, and, because they can't go to the doctor like we can, they get much sicker before they get any treatment. They get that treatment in our hospital emergency rooms, where it is most expensive. Their expenses get passed on to the rest of us through higher insurance premiums, which contribute to the rising cost of health care generally. That bill is \$66.8 billion a year!

People who don't get enough to eat drop out of school more than the rest of us, and those that stay in school don't learn as fast or as well as the rest of us. Because of this they aren't as productive in their working lives as the rest of us. The lost productivity bill is \$9.2 billion a year! Now, I think that number is too low, but I have learned not to argue with Larry, he's almost always right.

The total annual cost of tolerating hunger in this country is over \$90 billion! This becomes even more shocking when you consider that virtually every authority in the field maintains that an additional \$10 billion investment in present government feeding programs (food stamps, WIC, etc.) would totally eliminate hunger in this country.

So let's see..... Refuse to spend \$10 billion to fix the problem that's costing you \$90 billion? You would have to be penny wise and pound foolish to make that decision. Yet our "leaders" do that every year, and think they're saving us money! You'd think we could elect people at least as smart as my old man. Well, maybe next time. ♦

* www.helpstophunger.org/pdfs/Economic_Cost_of_Domestic_Hunger.pdf

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-July 2007

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:	
➤ Potato Project	5,600,000 lbs.
➤ Gleaned Produce	7,302,804 lbs.
➤ Events	1,362
➤ Volunteers	15,352
➤ Total Pounds	12,902,804
➤ Total Servings	38,708,412

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

Feeding His Sheep

More than 7 million servings of 62 varieties of produce have been distributed in NC so far this year...25,000 lbs. of cosmetically imperfect NC sweet potatoes destined for a landfill were saved and shipped to FL where 350 volunteers from 33 churches and organizations bagged and distributed them to 40 agencies in a 100-mile stretch across two FL counties...Drought conditions prevailed throughout much of the Southeast this spring/summer, drastically affecting how much produce was available to glean. Despite that, AL volunteers continue to make salvage pickups at multiple locations 3-5 days a week and new providers and agencies joined our AL network...In VA, drought and three days of sub-freezing weather devastated a good number of apple trees and most of the blueberries and cherries; still, gleaning continues with field crops in Hampton Roads and white potatoes on the Eastern Shore...SoSA's new gleaning operation in GA provided thousands of pounds of food

to help feed evacuees and firefighters affected by the South Georgia wildfires...In MS more than 500 volunteers gleaned and moved 213,000 lbs. of food to families in need. Amidst that, 300 elementary school kids in a depressed area bagged up and took home 7,000 lbs. of nutritious sweet potatoes; 85,000 lbs. of squash and watermelons were saved from packing houses and given to more than 100 food assistance agencies; and a rejected load of melt-in-your-mouth sweet corn made its way to hungry folks in Little Rock, AR...SoSA's Hunger Relief Advocates in MO, OH and IN were busy this spring/summer with Potato Drops. Joe Bartelsmeyer (MO) got help from George "Tater" Jensen (OH) with a 44,000-lb. load during the MO United Methodist Men's Gathering. Meanwhile, David McCleary (IN) kept 135 volunteers busy with 4 Potato Drops totaling 167,000 lbs.

SoSA volunteers are up to the challenge!

When 100 acres of squash were donated to SoSA in FL for gleaning, we had less than a week's notice to pull together enough volunteers to get the job done. To our delight, 70 volunteers came out and gleaned over 13,000 lbs. of squash. The local food bank was the recipient for their 150 client organizations. Two weeks later the same farmer offered SoSA eggplant fields to glean. Many of the same volunteers showed up, including 54 day-camp kids who rose to the challenge...A joint effort between SoSA in FL and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central FL resulted in the largest number of volunteers to gather in a corn field – 147 folks gleaned 14,000 lbs. of corn in an 8-acre field that had already been harvested twice...Last year the Jasper First UMC (AL) established an award in honor of dedicated SoSA volunteer Jim Ferrell. This year's award went to Nora Lane, director of the Jasper Salvation Army. Nora can assemble a large group of volunteers on short notice to unload, bag and distribute bulk loads of any produce that's available. Whenever SoSA contacts Nora, her response is always, "let's do it!"...27 MS volunteers picked 11,000 lbs. of cabbage in the rain; 103 gleaners hand picked 34,800 lbs. of corn in MS's 95+ degree heat. Not least among MS volunteers this summer was MS United Methodist Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who joined our *Harvest of Hope* event in MS to glean corn and also gleaned blueberries another day...In the VA Hampton Roads area volunteers gleaned nearly every day in June, missing only 3 days!...3,200 NC volunteers put in 7,800 man-hours to provide nutritious food

for the hungry. Every gleaning group gets a thank you note, but for the first time ever a group sent SoSA in NC a thank you. The youth of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh helped bag over 70,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes on Hunger

Awareness Day and said, "Thank you for the opportunity to learn about hunger. We know this is an important issue to us as well. Thank you for all you do to help fight hunger."... Savannah, GA's Second Harvest Food Bank paired with SoSA for a 20,000-lb. Green Bean Drop with children from a local elementary school helping to bag the beans, which went to agencies in South GA and a SC food bank.

Generous growers.

Drought conditions in AL produced an unusual result. A grower's irrigation water, coming from a small municipal water supplier, was about to be terminated so he had to decide what crops would be most cost effective to continue watering. Unable to get his asking price at market for collards, he stopped watering them and offered them to SoSA for gleaning. Volunteers from a food ministry did two gleanings and found clients waiting at their warehouse for fresh collards...The GA Gleaning Network has developed wonderful relationships with several farms that have in the past had to dump their excess produce or use it to feed cows. Saying they would much rather have the food go to the hungry, they are thankful to be working with SoSA... The Greensboro NC A&T Research Farm allowed SoSA to harvest their organic cauliflower crop, which went to local shelters, a day program for mentally handicapped adults, and other feeding ministries.

And the need continues.

150 churches across the nation used SoSA's inspiring Lenten devotions program as a fruitful way to raise money (\$59,583 this year) to feed the hungry. SoSA in MS is particularly grateful to Schaeffer's Chapel UMC, which raised \$1,500, and the two-church charge of Ebenezer UMC & Myrtle UMC, which raised \$965. These donations alone will provide 123,200 servings of food to those in need...There's nothing like a little competition to stir things up. The two-church charge of Brown's Chapel and Pleasant Hill UMC in Pittsboro, NC have for many years used SoSA's Lenten program. This year the churches wanted to see which could raise the most money.

The friendly competition raised over \$1,000... On Hunger Awareness Day, volunteers from an OH home school association collected donations for SoSA in front of WalMart and Kroger grocery stores. ♦

Bottom l. to r.: MO volunteers pray before bagging spuds. No matter the size or mobility of volunteers, good produce feeds the hungry. FL VBS kids plant a

garden. AL gleaners pick blueberries. Top l. to r.: GA green beans. MS Bishop Hope Morgan Ward gets a kick out of driving the "big guys" through the corn field while kid gleaners play with their corn. VA baby rests after a hard day bagging spuds.

Something old, something new...don't be blue

By LAUREN HOLCOMB, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

SOMETHING OLD – *Harvest of Hope's* long established Phase II event held in Washington, DC every summer was a BIG success this June-



emphasis on the "BIG"! Participation was almost double that of last year, so we were able to make a huge impact in the nation's capital that week. We served in soup kitchens, distributed sandwiches and water to homeless people on the streets, and met with our Congressional representatives to give

"...we were able to make a huge impact in the nation's capital that week."

Top to Bottom: Phase II HOHers did there thing in the nation's capital, including helping to distribute a load of potatoes to agencies throughout DC.



impovertished people a voice on Capitol Hill. We also visited the ONE Campaign, Bread for the World, the World Bank, and the World Food Programme to learn about

international efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty. It was an awesome week of fun and service, and we met many people who changed

our perspectives on the problems of homelessness and hunger.

SOMETHING NEW – For the first time, we had a weeklong *Harvest of Hope* in Mississippi, and it was a great success! Some 50 Senior High youth and adults came together to glean over 62,000 pounds of sweet corn, blueberries, peas, cucumbers, and other vegetables. A team from St. James UMC in Little Rock, AR led the event along with SoSA's two Mississippi regional staffers.

It was hard, hot work, but well worth the sweat and exhaustion to feed so many hungry people in the area. We hope to add this event to our regular HOH schedule for many years to come!

DON'T BE BLUE – Fall HOH events are filling up, so register soon to guarantee your spot. The college and young adult HOH weekend is October 5-7 in Keezletown, VA (near Harrisonburg) – it's a great time to meet new people and invite new friends to share in your passion for hunger relief! Don't be left feeling blue – register for HOH today! Get the full schedule and application at www.endhunger.org/hoh_schedule.htm, email sosahoh@endhunger.org or call 800-333-4597 and **Do SOMETHING ABOUT HUNGER!** ♦

Over the river and through the woods

By MARIAN KELLY, *POTATO PROJECT DIRECTOR*

Potatoes donated to the *Potato Project* did a bit of traveling in the second quarter of 2007.

A load donated by a Minnesota grower went to an American Indian Reservation in South Dakota. A load originating in Maine was delivered to a large food bank in New York. Another Maine potato grower donated a load for distribution in Virginia. Our only potato donor in Wisconsin gave us two 45,000-lb. loads of spuds that ended up at two churches in Ohio. A tractor-trailer load delivered in Oklahoma came from North Dakota. North Carolina sweet potatoes went to a Rotary Club in West Virginia and to churches in Virginia and South Carolina.

But we're not just about potatoes. A charity partner gave the *Potato Project* four tractor-trailer loads of flavored water and tea, which was a godsend for a lot of folks in West Virginia, Georgia and Virginia during a very hot and dry spell in June.

This is just a small example of the expansive scope of the Society of St. Andrew's *Potato Project* and the people and places that benefit from the generosity of growers and manufacturers everywhere.

Whether it's a nutritious and delicious baked potato or a bottle of refreshing, re-hydrating water, SoSA is about salvaging food for the hungry.

Yes, indeed, our potatoes and other products have been "over the river and through the woods" to reach those in need in every corner of the country.

May God bless our food donors, our financial donors, and the many volunteers that have helped SoSA feed hungry people these past several months. We pray for your continued support. ♦

HIS LOSS

Continued from page 1

health and well-being but for that of his congregations and others. "Many of my own church members have health issues and lots of folks in the nation are dealing with weight problems," Bill explained. "In fact, several members of my congregations also lost weight along with me. It's a health issue and a spiritual issue that is very much a part of our Wesleyan tradition.

"If other pastors that have weight problems were to be supported by their people as I was mine," said Bill, "and if they were to support the Society of St. Andrew in the way my charge is doing, we could be feeding a lot of hungry people, not to mention be much healthier ourselves."

Not only did the 6-foot-3-inch pastor lose 50 pounds, taking him down to his high school weight, but his cholesterol dropped more than 60 points, making his point about better health.

Bill Wade's commitment to feeding the hungry through the Society of St. Andrew, which dates back nearly twenty years, and his recent weight loss spurred a generous contribution that will ultimately provide more than 75 tons of food for the hungry. The end result will be nearly half-a-million servings of nourishing food for hungry families. "I'd call that a good trade-off for 50 pounds," concluded Bill. ♦

New faces at SoSA

Three new people have joined Society of St. Andrew's Development Team, which focuses on raising the funds needed to salvage fresh produce and distribute it nationwide.



D'Lynn Shaw
Director of
Corporate Giving



Wade Mays
Mission Advancement



Jennifer Vestal Moore
Director of
Church Relations



Lauren Austin
Harvest of Hope
Summer Intern

D'Lynn Shaw, who comes to us from the banking and mortgage industry in Florida and Virginia, is the new Director of Corporate Giving responsible for researching and applying for corporate and foundation grants. D'Lynn first learned about SoSA through Potato Drops at her church in Forest, VA. "Before working for SoSA, I had no idea so much food went to waste in our country," she said. "I'm very excited to do my part to help feed the hungry through SoSA's common sense approach of salvaging food. I'm thankful to be working for such a wonderful organization." In announcing her appointment, Mike Waldmann, SoSA's Chief of Operations, said, "D'Lynn brings excellent writing skills and sales experience to this strategic job."

Wade Mays, formerly director of the Purpose Driven Children's Ministry Conference at Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in Orange County, CA, is focusing on SoSA's Mission Advancement. Mike Waldmann reports that this is a new position designed to support SoSA's expanding efforts to reach individual, church and corporate donors and applauds Wade's enthusiasm for working in this ministry. "I feel truly honored to have the opportunity to work with the Society of St. Andrew toward the goal that no man, woman or child will go to bed hungry," said Wade.

Jennifer Moore, most recently Director of Program Ministries at Mountain View UMC in Forest, Virginia, is now SoSA's Director of Church Relations. She replaces Susan Allen, who retired after faithfully serving the Society of St. Andrew for 14 years. "Jennifer's energy and experience in the pulpit will prove to be tremendous assets to SoSA," said Mike. Jennifer said she feels blessed to work for a ministry that is faithful to Jesus' calling of feeding our hungry brothers and sisters. "I'm excited about working with our churches to help them fulfill their commitment to helping others."

All three are now bringing their considerable talents to bear on SoSA's "Enough is Enough: endhunger.org" marketing campaign.

Harvest of Hope Summer Intern

Our 2007 HOH summer intern is **Lauren Austin**, a recent graduate of William & Mary who will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall to work towards her Master's Degree in Social Work. Lauren has been involved with mission work for many years and just had her first international mission experience in Russia with William & Mary's Wesley Foundation. Having worked for a food bank in Northern Virginia last summer and also for Appalachia Service Project before that, Lauren comes to us well versed in the complex problems of hunger and poverty. Her willingness to help out both in the fields and in the office has made her a huge asset to *Harvest of Hope* this summer, and we

wish her all the best as she continues to serve her brothers and sisters in Christ in Richmond this fall. ♦

Through a glass... clearly

By KEN BRADFORD
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

There's a traditional Jewish story told about a rich but miserable man who once visited

a rabbi seeking understanding of his life and how he might find peace. The rabbi led the man to a window and said, "What do you see?"

"I see men, women, and children," answered the rich man.

The rabbi then stood the man in front of a mirror and asked, "Now what do you see?"

"I see myself," the rich man replied.

Said the rabbi, "It is a strange thing, is it not? In the window there is a glass and in the mirror there is a glass. But the glass of the mirror is covered with a little silver and no sooner is the silver added than you cease to see others, and see only yourself."

Clearly, everyone who contributes financially to the Society of St. Andrew is able to see beyond their silver. They are able to see the needs of people, and more importantly, they respond to those needs by putting their "silver" to work in a tangible way. By contributing to SoSA, every one of our financial supporters is responding in faith to make a real difference in peoples' lives.

It is very unlikely that a donor to our ministry will ever get a thank-you note from someone who received a serving of fresh fruits or vegetables delivered by the Society of St. Andrew. But guess who the recipients of the food we provide do thank? They thank God. And that is fitting, for God is not only the source of the food, but because of people responding to God's call to be generous that we have the financial resources to deliver the food to them.

When you're able to deliver food to hungry Americans for just two cents a serving, it means that no gift is too small to have an impact on people's lives. We at Society of St. Andrew truly appreciate every donation and are very thankful for the selfless support of all our donors. ♦



VBS Success Stories

Every kid counts when it comes to feeding the hungry

When it comes to feeding the hungry, every prayer, every financial gift, every effort counts ... and that includes those of kids. This year's VBS mission project, "Truckin' to End Hunger," resonated with VBS leaders and kids alike, and they responded with enthusiasm and generosity. Here are a few of their stories.

★ **Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Myers, FL** ran three weeks of VBS in conjunction with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida. They said, "We were so touched by your program theme that we decided to fully immerse our campers during missions week in the idea of truckin' to end hunger. We feel strongly that children who are educated about world issues at a young age can and will make a difference for our future." They expanded SoSA's curriculum, adding daily arts and crafts projects and environmental education elements. One day the kids planted a "prayer garden" to remind people to pray for the hungry; another day they planted a garden at church. The kids gleaned thousands of pounds of eggplant one morning to give to the hungry. And they raised money for SoSA's hunger relief work. "The week was a huge success," said Sarah Balkcom, program coordinator. "60 campers now know that they can make a difference and feed those who are hungry by spreading the word, by going out and gleaning, by planting seeds, and by standing up for a cause that can change someone's life. They also made a difference in the lives of this congregation and the community. During the closing program, each class shared a portion of what they had learned and all the parents raved about what a great week it had been."

★ **Otterbein United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg, VA** - "We displayed a big wooden truck with a 5-pound bag of potatoes in it representing 25¢ to feed the hungry. We collected donations in a ceramic potato and each day gave the children a report on how many pounds of potatoes we could buy. We challenged the congregation to match the children's contribution and they more than doubled it!"

★ **Loganville Christian Church, Loganville, GA** - "We pulled the wagon around the church and collected money while the children chanted 'truckin' to end hunger' and 'a nickel buys a pound!'"

★ **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Laurinburg, NC** - "Parents liked our 'spare change' approach and that we were making hunger relief in our country a priority. The children related well to the project. We paired it with snack time, helping them to realize that some children have no meals let alone snacks."

★ **Chamberlayne Heights UMC, Chamberlayne Baptist Church, and Duncan Memorial UMC, Richmond/Ashland, VA** - This combined VBS program reported: "We played potato relays of various types to emphasize the need to move food and money quickly and effectively to people and areas of need."

★ **Good Samaritan/St. Paul Charge UMC, Clover, SC** - "After explaining the Mission Project we asked the kids to do chores at home to earn money to put in the 'big yellow dump truck' we made. During each day's opening ceremony we'd read information from your mission packet. The children were excited about this project and raised over \$100 themselves. You should have heard them when the final total was announced!"

★ **First Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA** - 44 VBSers spent a day on the Eastern Shore gleaning over 4,400 lbs. of potatoes. Prior to the event the kids held a car wash and raised almost \$600 for SoSA to feed the hungry. ♦

You Met the Challenge

THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE

Each year the Feinstein Foundation divides \$1 million among participating hunger fighting charities nationwide, using it to help them raise funds during March and April.

Because our supporters responded with enthusiasm and generosity, the Society of St. Andrew received \$26,814 from the Feinstein Foundation. That's 44.5% more than we got in the 2006 fundraising challenge! Thank you!

If you were one of those who pledged, please be sure to send in your contribution before the end of the year

Thank You!

Leave a Living Legacy to carry on your life's good works

- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Pooled Income Funds
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Gift of Residence with retained life use
- Bequest and Other

Bequests and life income gifts offer substantial tax and legal benefits. For more information contact the Planned Giving Advisor at the Society of St. Andrew.

800-333-4597 ♦ sosausa@endhunger.org

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Honor Someone Special!



Birthdays ♦ Anniversaries Congratulations ♦ In Memory Shower your Pastor with Cards

Make a gift donation in honor or memory of someone special. The Society of St. Andrew will send a card (*pictured here*) telling them that a gift has been given to provide food for the hungry in their honor or memory. It's the perfect way to let someone know how much you think of them!

HERE IS MY GIFT DONATION

Send an ☐ IN HONOR ☐ IN MEMORY card to my honoree
(Attach a separate sheet with the person's name & mailing address)

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Charge \$ _____ to my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Acct.# _____ Exp.Date _____

Signature _____

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

(NL 8/07)

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)

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 8/07)

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 • www.endhunger.org