

Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 24

NUMBER 1

WINTER 2008

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



A "shift" at the top

After co-founding and leading this successful hunger ministry for almost 30 years, Ken Horne has decided it's time to shift his focus. As of May 1st, his status will change from Executive Director to Director Emeritus. Mike Waldmann, who has been Director of Operations since 1995, will assume the post of Executive Director.

Ken isn't going away, though; at least, not very far. His 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 and its mission. The biggest change will be that Ken simply won't be in the office *every* day.

In making the announcement, Rev. Jim 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."

In his new role, Ken will continue to lend his considerable influence to advancing SoSA's ministry. "He

Continued - see SHIFT AT TOP on page 4

From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What do the United Methodist Church, the National Basketball Association, the United Nations Foundation, and Bill and Melinda Gates have in common? Nothing, but nets. These entities have, by partnering with each other in a campaign to provide mosquito netting to poor people at risk of malaria, accomplished feats that none of them could possibly have done on their own. They have also saved countless lives in the process.

We at Society of St. Andrew have long known that, if we are to eliminate hunger and food waste in our country, those accomplishments would require the combined efforts of many partners. Accordingly, we have worked with farmers, agricultural associations, truckers, churches of all denominations, food banks, foundations, philanthropic individuals and volunteers to forge the partnerships that have allowed us to salvage and distribute well over 500 million pounds of food since 1983. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done.

We are on the threshold of a breakthrough in partnership with the United Methodist Church that will take our food salvage ministry to the next level. Our Board of Directors has introduced a petition to be considered at the April-May General Conference meeting of the United Methodists that would, if adopted, make SoSA a major emphasis of that denomination in their domestic hunger ministry.

Should this partnership come to pass SoSA would receive support sufficient to expand our gleaning ministry coast to coast over the next four years. This step would raise our annual food salvage to 100 million pounds, engage over 100 thousand volunteers all across our country, and put an opportunity to salvage and distribute food to hungry neighbors within reach of every United Methodist congregation in the "lower" 48 states.

I have always believed that hunger would be eliminated in our country. This partnership represents a giant step in that direction. Its passage will make a huge difference in the lives of millions of poor people and empower a great denomination to be much more effective at carrying out its mandate to care for "the least of these". I hope you will join me in praying for its passage. ♦

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you are a delegate to the United Methodist General Conference please lobby for adoption of this petition, which will directly benefit "the least of these." If you know someone who is a delegate please ask them to do the same. Thank you.

SoSA Advent Devotions used in Liberia, Africa



Sam NeSmith (far right), a former member of SoSA's Board of Directors, took SoSA Advent devotional booklets with him on a recent mission trip

to Africa. Shown here are members of the Grand Bassa District Conference of the United Methodist Church in Liberia who used the devotionals during Advent.

SoSA's Advent Devotional program was used by 194 churches in the U.S. and so far has resulted in \$7,728 to provide 515,237 servings of food (with more to come). ♦

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-December 2007

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:	
➤ Potato Project	10,561,328 lbs.
➤ Gleaned Produce	9,747,810 lbs.
➤ Events	2,694
➤ Volunteers	29,179
➤ Total Pounds	20,309,138
➤ Total Servings	60,927,414

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

SoSa receives gleaning assistance from some little helpers

Despite a rainy season in Florida 200,000 pounds of produce was gleaned in the last 3 months of the year. A highlight of those gleanings were the contributions of three groups of elementary aged children. The Windmere Preparatory School, the Central Florida Presbyterian Youth and the International Community School children enthusiastically gleaned corn and citrus and learned more about the causes and effects of hunger. The students showed a marked awareness for the needs of the hungry and a desire to do something about hunger. It was an experience that will stay

with them for a very longtime. ♦ Mississippi

was also fortunate enough to receive volunteer help from students and staff at Sudduth Elementary school in Starkville. They bagged 13 thousand pounds of delicious, healthy sweet potatoes, and each student walked away with not only a sack of potatoes but also a lesson in healthy eating and ending hunger. ♦ Betty Heishman of the VA Gleaning Network conducted a turnip gleaning where the annual Turnip King and Queen were named among the children. This year's royal couple were Yoleni Itubide and Jerino Sanches. Awards were also given to those who picked the biggest turnip and the funniest-shaped one. The event was a great success and 3,515 pounds of turnips were gleaned and delivered to 15 agencies.

We keep doing what we do best and making new friends along the way

George "Tater" Jensen, SoSA's West Ohio Hunger Relief Advocate, has recently been appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Hunger Network in Ohio (HNO). HNO is a 29-year-old, faith-based, advocacy organization whose mission is to end hunger in Ohio. Congratulations to "Tater"; his faith and passion will serve him well as he serves in this added role. ♦ In the last quarter of the year SoSA's Alabama office gleaned over 10,000 pounds of pumpkins. This was a joint effort of six new produce providers. ♦ The Virginia Gleaning Network made a donation of apples to the D.C. Central Kitchen, which they used to make applesauce that was then distributed to area shelters. The D.C. Central Kitchen provides 4,500 meals each day to about 100 shelters and social-service agencies in the region and they are very excited about providing fresh fruits and vegetables with the help of SoSA. ♦ The Detroit United Methodist Conference (region) recently hosted a very successful Potato Drop. 30,000 pounds of spuds were bagged and distributed in less than two hours with the help of 150 volunteers. About 2,000 families benefited from the fresh produce. ♦

SoSA's Alabama office continued

their salvage program from the Montgomery Farmer's Market and recently received a donation of over 4,000 pounds of squash from one farmer. More volunteers are needed to expand salvage of leftover produce from farmers' markets throughout the state. ♦ While some areas had an excess of rain, North Carolina saw an extreme drought. Despite the conditions, 30 varieties of produce were gleaned in the 4th quarter of last year, which represents diversity in diets and better health for our brothers and sisters experiencing hunger. ♦ SoSA's Mississippi office hosted their first Yam Jam, which was a huge success. Nearly 40 volunteers came from all over the state to gather and distribute 19,000 pounds of sweet potatoes. The event was such a success that they are looking forward to making this an annual event. ♦ The Florida office has recently begun a new partnership with University of Central Florida pre-med students who are feeding the hungry in downtown Orlando. They are looking forward to a continued partnership throughout the year. ♦ The Alabama office recently made a new relationship with a food manufacturer in California who has some excess inventory from an Alabama wholesale grocery distributor. The new contacts opened the door for a continued relationship with both the food manufacturer and the wholesale distributor. ♦ Due to drought, the Virginia Gleaning Network apple gleaning season ended early this year. Despite that, 191,124 pounds of fruit were gleaned and distributed. The apples were somewhat smaller and fewer than usual, but they sure were sweet! ♦

SoSA on the 'net www.endhunger.org

SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

Ken Horne's Blog

www.endhunger.org/kenblog/blog.html

SoSA Executive Director Ken Horne blogs about hunger, social and justice issues

SoSA's MySpace Page

www.myspace.com/societyofstandrew

SoSA's interactive MySpace website. You can become our friend and keep up-to-date with our ministry

SoSA's YouTube Page

www.youtube.com/societyofstandrew

View SoSA's video and help spread the word of our ministry by sharing it with others

SoSA's Facebook Cause Page

apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/44602

Join the cause of fighting hunger at SoSA's Facebook "cause" page

Sign up for SoSA's "Gleanings"

www.endhunger.org/newsletter_subscribe

Get this monthly electronic newsletter with SoSA updates delivered right to your email inbox



with them for a very longtime. ♦ Mississippi



Bottom I. to r.: Volunteers picking turnips in NC. NC volunteers at their Yam Jam. MS volunteers after their first Yam Jam. **Top I. to r.:** In VA, the Turnip King and Queen. A giant turnip holding another giant turnip. Volunteers in NC with their wagon of collard greens. FL children enjoying a corn gleaning.

Still looking for a New Year's resolution?

By LAUREN HOLCOMB, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

Don't forget to think about how you are fulfilling the commands God has set out for you to accomplish this year. Then resolve to do your part to end hunger in 2008 by joining *Harvest of Hope* at one of our 13 upcoming retreats to DO SOMETHING ABOUT HUNGER!

2008 Harvest of Hope schedule of events

Don't delay – registration is now open for all HOH events and many people have already signed up. Complete details and application form are on the Society of St. Andrew website at http://www.endhunger.org/hoh_schedule.htm.

Senior High Weeks

Mathiston, MS July 6-12

Eastern Shore, VA July 6-12

Ashland, VA July 13-19

Junior High Weekends

Eastern Shore, VA July 4-6

Shawsville, VA July 25-27

Intergenerational Weekends

Starke, FL March 7-9

Johns Island, SC August 1-3

Fincastle, VA Sept. 26-28

Milroy, PA Oct. 10-12

Dahlonega, GA Oct. 24-26

Johns Island, SC Nov. 7-9

College & Young Adult Weekend

Keezletown, VA Oct. 3-5

Phase II Week

Washington, DC June 22-28

If you plan to attend the Florida event March 7-9, call SoSA today to check on availability! 800-333-4597.



Summer HOH Intern Opportunity - Apply by March 31

Resume submissions for SoSA's 2008 *Harvest of Hope* Summer Intern position will be accepted through March 31. Applicants should be college-aged or young adults, hardworking, and dedicated to fighting hunger. *Harvest of Hope* experience is preferred but not required. The internship is 10 weeks during the summer and involves traveling to HOH events as well as some in-office work. The intern will receive a stipend and will also be housed by a host family near Big Island, VA for the duration of the job. For more information, email HOH Director Lauren Holcomb at sosahoh@endhunger.org. ♦

Rise to the Challenge

THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE 2008

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. Last year SoSA got \$26,814, which was 44.5% more than in 2006.

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!**

Please Help!

New year ... same needs

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO PROJECT DIRECTOR

In November and December more food than usual is requested from feeding agencies across the country because of holiday season food giveaway programs. But seldom does supply go hand-in-hand with demand for fresh produce from the Society of St. Andrew.

During the fourth quarter of 2007 fewer potatoes were delivered by the *Potato Project* compared to the rest of the year. October is when most of the harvesting is done throughout the nation, so we get fewer donated loads. Produce donations pick up in November and December, but that tenuous balance between supply and demand remains elusive.

The 1,317,548 lbs. of potatoes that were distributed October through December went all over the country. Food banks in Washington, DC, New York City, Fargo, ND, Kansas City, MO, Detroit, MI, Williamsburg, KY, and Kanawha City, WV received loads of white potatoes. Church groups and agencies in Nashville, TN, Baltimore, MD, Branson and St. Louis, MO, Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC, Lambert, MI, Davisville, NH, Charleston, WV, Rosebud, SD, and Belcourt, ND also received produce loads. We are grateful for all of the hard work these feeding agencies and church groups put into feeding the hungry in partnership with the Society of St. Andrew's *Potato Project*.

In 2007 our food donations were down due to drought and market changes, while costs continued to go up as a direct result of exorbitant increases in the price of gas and diesel fuel. As we start another year uncertainty remains regarding the quantity of produce and other food products available to be donated to SoSA. However, we are diligently striving to find new sources of food and we continue to need and depend upon the faithful support of our financial donors.

It is our earnest desire to help alter the lives of those that face hunger everyday in our country. If you haven't already, please partner with us as we save food from going to waste and feed our hungry neighbors. If you already support our ministry please continue to remember us in your prayers and giving. ♦

SHIFT AT TOP

Continued from page 1

will continue to serve as a key SoSA representative among national and senior religious figures involved in ending hunger in the U.S.," explained 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."

"For all that Ken has done we are deeply grateful!" avowed Rev. Tongue. "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." ♦

EDITOR'S NOTE: Those wishing to send Ken a SoSA "honor donation" gift card can do so at our website: www.endhunger.org; then click on the "Honor Ken Horne" button. If you do it by April 30th it will also count toward the Feinstein challenge (see page 3 of this newsletter).

A Life Well Lived ... Bill Schminkey will be missed



Bill Schminkey is legendary at the Society of St. Andrew. Most recently of Harrisonburg, VA, Bill went to be with his Lord on December 22, 2007. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 56 years, Dorothy. Bill was a long-time friend of SoSA who, in 1985, started the St. Andrew Club at Fairlington United Methodist Church in Fairlington, VA to raise funds for SoSA's ministry. Since then two additional chapters

of the club have been established, and to date they have raised nearly 1.6 million dollars, which provided nearly 100 million servings of food to the nation's hungry – all because of Bill's commitment to helping others! "Generous heart," "dedicated to his country and his God," "welcoming spirit," "one who moved others to do greater things." Those were the words used again and again as people spoke about Bill at his memorial service. Bill believed in making a difference in the world and that is truly what he did. Because of how Bill lived his life, those who knew him, and even those who didn't, are better people; and now, with Bill's passing, our lives have been changed forever. As one of the speakers at Bill's memorial service stated, "those who say there are no heroes left in the world are looking in the wrong place." Bill was certainly a hero to us all! ♦

(The following does not include those honored with SoSA Christmas Cards)

Donations to SoSA have been made in recent months to:

HONOR - Mike Alcock ... Martin Barley ... Sandra & Fred Barry ... Betty Beckwith ... Dorothy Bierer ... Mrs. Hester Booker ... Pat Burns ... David Clapp ... Carol Cruikshank ... Lora Duggan ... Verlin Funkhouser ... Shannon Galloway ... Dawn Gallt ... Diane & Johnny Gentry ... Easton & Peyton Hawk ... Wayne & Carol Ann Hawkins ... Robert & Susan Irvine ... Del Ketcham ... Sandra Kovar ... The Rev Chuck LaPlaca & MaryAnn LaPlaca ... Michael Latsko ... Marilyn Mallow ... Emilie McDaniel ... Mrs. Anna Reed ... Antoinette E. Reedy ... Sonny & Carole Reynolds ... Kenneth & Jane Roberts ... Mrs. Emma Russell ... Edith W. Seibert ... Art Shoemaker ... Jean & Tom Stockton ... Pat Telford ... Jane Thomas ... Mr. Lee Tishler ... Peggy Jo Travis ... Betsy Walters ... Our Friends at New Hope.

IN MEMORY OF - Virginia Beeler ... Esther Beatrice Douglas ... Mr. Bristol Johnson ... Evine King ... James Harold Long, Sr. ... Earl H. May ... Darrel McCain ... Roy Miller (SD) ... Marion G. Newman, Jr. ... Bob & Marie Nolan ... Norvell & Mildred Reynolds ... Eslee W. Sledd, Jr. ... Robert E. Shackelford ... Ryan Shoaf ... Mrs. Stella Susek ... Edna Tomevi ... Sonny Wendel ... Barbara Hennessey Wortley.

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

'Net Speak: endhunger.org – GAF/FAH

A Vacation Bible School mission project



In this internet age our children often speak a different language than we do. Website addresses. Text messaging abbreviations, etc: ?4U - LOL - <3 - 4EAE - 9 - AYTMTB - AFC - CYE - MTF - B4N - PZ - SSIF - :). * And this is just the tip of the iceberg! So, what does GAF/FAH in the headline mean? Read on.

This year's VBS mission project is entitled **endhunger.org – GAF/FAH**. OK, we'll spell it

out for you: www.endhunger.org is SoSA's website address; GAF/FAH stands for Gleaning America's Fields-Feeding America's Hungry, which is what SoSA does.

SoSA's VBS mission project will engage students in mission as they go surfing (for the uninitiated, that's another 'net term) through the Bible to learn about hunger. The program is a fun, energizing way to involve kids in mission by feeding the hungry, just as Jesus commanded.

endhunger.org – GAF/FAH is designed to supplement your church's VBS program. It can be adapted to any VBS theme. Daily activity sheets for all ages contain short scripturally based stories, facts about hunger and SoSA's ministry, potato trivia, and pencil activities. And for the first time, they include optional online activities kids can do at home with their parents at SoSA's website.

Besides the fun and educational aspects of this mission project, the goal for each VBS is to raise enough through student offerings for 1,000 pounds of fresh produce that will end up on the plates of hungry Americans. At a nickel a pound, that's a goal of \$50.

This fresh food will be donated to feed the hungry by SoSA and it will be delivered to feeding agencies across the land at a cost to SoSA of just over 5¢ a pound! It's a simple, effective way to obey Jesus' command to feed the hungry while being good stewards of our nation's abundance.

Last year 182 churches used SoSA's VBS program. VBS kids enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry by donating \$40,822 – enough to provide more than 2.7 million servings of food to hungry men, women and children! On average, each participating VBS raised four and half times the goal of \$50. This year get your VBS involved in this worthwhile mission project!

All materials are free and available now. Order a sample kit today. There is no obligation. Call Jennifer Vestal Moore at SoSA, 800-333-4597; email church@endhunger.org; fax your request to 434-299-5949; or order online at www.endhunger.org/order_material.htm. If your materials do not arrive within two weeks of ordering please call our office. ♦

* Interpretation of Text Messaging Abbreviations: ?4U – I have a question for you; LOL – laugh out loud; <3 – [sideways heart] love, friendship; 4EAE – forever and ever; 9 – parent is watching; AYTMTB – and you're telling me this because; AFC – away from computer; CYE – check your e-mail; MTF – more to follow; B4N – bye for now; PZ – peace; SSIF – so stupid it's funny; :) – smile.

"I Wonder..."

A Lenten devotions program. It's not too late to start.

It's not too late to join thousands of people across the nation who are using SoSA's Lenten devotions booklet, **"I Wonder ..."**.

Daily contemplation and reflection during the 47 days of Lent can bring a deeper understanding of just what Jesus' sacrifice on the cross meant to Jesus as well as to ourselves.

"I Wonder ..." is a collection of personal "wonderings" and insights of ordinary people as they read, think, and pray about the symbols, people, and places that shaped Jesus' last days on Earth.

The devotional also challenges you to take seriously scriptural injunctions to care for the poor and provides an opportunity to feed the hungry through your daily "Lent sacrifice" donations to SoSA.

A Good Friday Fast, written by SoSA executive director Ken Horne, is a separate booklet that complements the devotions or can be used as a stand alone activity.

All materials are free. Order today: online at www.endhunger.org/lent, by email at church@endhunger.org, or by phone at 800-333-4597. ♦



Meet Janet Sheldon

SoSA South Georgia Program Coordinator

Prior to joining SoSA the first of the year, Janet Sheldon had, for the past five years, been working in Georgia with farmers and community leaders, on environmental, conservation, and agricultural issues. That work led to a network throughout the state, which she believes was laid in preparation for this job with SoSA.

Reverend Rachel Radeline Gonia, SoSA Regional Director in AL, said, "We are very pleased to welcome Janet. Her understanding and love of South Georgia along with her varied skills and wealth of experience bring a new synergy to the South Georgia office. Motivated by her faith, she is eager to engage the communities of South Georgia in fighting hunger through gleaning."

In making the announcement, Mike Waldmann, SoSA Director of Operations, said, "We are delighted to have Janet join the SoSA family. Her knowledge and skills will be instrumental in expanding SoSA's reach and effectiveness in feeding the hungry throughout Georgia. She has essentially hit the ground running, too. On just her fifth day with SoSA she moved 30,000 pounds of cabbage."

Janet said she is "thrilled to be a part of this marvelous ministry that is win/win/win." Janet lives in the midst of farmland and has seen first hand the waste of crops left in the field. "Through gleaning," she continued, "we can help feed the hungry, help farmers make use of their unused produce, help give individuals and groups a concrete outlet to serve their fellow man, and by doing so have a greater understanding of God's word as it regards ministering to '...the least of these.'"

Janet has also been very involved with her church and has lead outreach and missions programs and Bible studies. ♦

Society of St. Andrew
Telephone: 1-800-333-4597
3383 Sweet Hollow Road
Big Island, Virginia 24526
www.endhunger.org



Society of St. Andrew REPORT

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endhunger.org - GAF/FAH VBS Mission Project

New feature:
Online activities kids can
do at home with parents

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 help SoSA deliver food for the hungry. 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; or go online to www.endhunger.org/order_material. Materials should arrive within two weeks of ordering. If not, call our office. **All materials are free.**

Please send me a FREE VBS starter 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 2/08)

***EVERY contribution accomplishes
something important and lasting!
There's no reason why anyone
should ever be HUNGRY!
CARING PEOPLE make the DIFFERENCE!***

I do care! 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 2008.

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 2/08)

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