

# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 24

NUMBER 2

SPRING 2008

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



## Food Production and the SoSA Connection

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

So many things are connected. Financial partners, farmers & growers, volunteers, feeding agencies and SoSA staff create an amazing network that each year produces significant results for those who don't get enough to eat in America. That network is also connected to the many variables that impact and challenge our ability to feed as many people as possible.

Some variables have a direct impact on how much food is available to be donated to SoSA. For example, ethanol, corn, dog food, and sweet potatoes are all connected. A great



deal of corn, as well as land that can grow corn, are being diverted for ethanol purposes. Dog food companies that relied on corn as part of their product are shifting to other crops, such as sweet potatoes. Potatoes are also starting to be used in cereals and other products as grain prices escalate. While this is good for farmers and the agricultural business, many of our top produce donors are having much less excess produce that SoSA can use to feed the hungry. Other factors such as weather trends, greater growing and harvesting efficiency, rising fuel costs, and product marketing have combined to further reduce produce available to SoSA. So many things are connected!

The challenges are many, but the SoSA

## From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



Well, here it is. This is my first article written for this space as your new Director Emeritus. As most of you are aware I semi-retired at the end of April. Now my association with SoSA is one of advisor and advocate on a part time, as needed basis. This is a momentous change for me, and it's enough to put a fellow in a reflective mood.

First, let me say that I have been honored to be executive director of such a fine organization. I cannot adequately express my gratitude for, and admiration of the folks who make up the staff of SoSA. I have had the opportunity to travel all around the country, and see many of our sister hunger organizations "up close and personal". In over 25 years of observation I have not found any that are able to produce more results, with fewer resources, than SoSA does. Most organizations don't even come close. My sincere thanks to the entire SoSA staff for making my job so easy to do for all these years.

I also need to thank our Board of Directors, past and present, for their support and encouragement along the journey. Our Board, which has grown with the organization, has created a situation where I can step aside with confidence that SoSA will continue to enjoy wise governance and much needed support. When I reflect on the fact that I have seen our Board grow from a small local "Advisory" group to a very broad based governing Board complete with its own very prestigious Advisory Board I am thankful past expression for all their efforts on SoSA's behalf.

Finally I want to point out how proud I am of our accomplishments over the years. In addition to salvaging over half a billion pounds of vegetables and delivering them to feeding agencies all across the country, we have achieved a fundamental change in the way our country deals with surplus produce. When we began 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 these accomplishments would have been possible without the continued support and generosity of our farmers, donors, and volunteers. You folks have made an incredible difference for the better over the years and it has been my privilege to work with you on behalf of the hungry of our country.

So, what has changed? As of May 1st I am Director Emeritus and Mike Waldmann, who has been Director of Operations since 1995, is Executive Director. I have every confidence that Mike will provide excellent leadership for SoSA going forward and I encourage each of you to give him your full support and cooperation. The excellent work that SoSA does will continue. I'll be around for advice and support when and where it is needed. You'll even see me in this column regularly. God bless you all, and thank you. ♦

Continued - see THE SOSA CONNECTION on page 5



## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-April 2008

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:	
➤ Potato Project	2,500,000 lbs.
➤ Gleaned Produce	1,770,317 lbs.
➤ Events	504
➤ Volunteers	3,553
➤ Total Pounds	4,270,317
➤ Total Servings	12,810,951

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

We start another gleaning season with an excitement about what God will do through us as we secure His resources in order to feed the hungry in our midst. Again, we must trust that God's resources transcend the vagaries of the weather, and market prices, providing the opportunity to stretch our faith and service to new levels. As more people are thinking 'green', and are more aware of the waste as well as need in the world, we have been able to "enlarge the tents" of our mission and ministry. ♦ The Georgia Gleaning Network has been busy making contacts including one who said, "I will be able to provide for you all the culls you can transport. We dump tons each season. I'm really looking forward to working with the Society of St. Andrew." ♦ Since

the beginning of the year, Joe Iman, coordinator in the Hampton Roads, VA area has gleaned and distributed over 93,000 lbs. of collards and other greens with 60 events and 232 volunteers. ♦ Also, in the Virginia Gleaning Network, the Winchester area hosted a Harvest Celebration in February during which Betty Heishman received a plaque for her many years of faithful service as coordinator for SoSA's Northern Virginia Gleaning Network. Richard Clem, a regular weekly gleaner in the Winchester area for many years, who passed away March 31st, also gave a beautiful speech at the celebration event on why he loved to glean. ♦ Rain, rain and more rain has been the common theme in Mississippi so far this year. Although sometimes it might be an inconvenience for us, it is exactly what our generous farmers need for a successful harvest and, in turn, generous donations of produce to SoSA. We have already heard from a number of our farmers who are hoping for a very good and bountiful year. That means there will be lots of opportunities to glean! ♦ Don't tell anyone, but January to April is the slow gleaning season in North Carolina. The North Carolina Gleaning Network is delighted that farmers did not get that message. In the first quarter of 2008, field gleaning was plentiful; we gleaned produce from A to Z – Apples to Zucchini! More than 40 types of produce, equaling over 800,000 lbs. have been distributed so far. This could not have been done without the faithful hands of nearly 700 volunteers. The need has never been greater in the sixteen-year history of this regional office. A deep debt of thanks goes out to all of those in North Carolina who truly do serve "in deed and truth." ♦ The Alabama Gleaning Network started off the gleaning season with an event in Talladega. Collards and Rutabagas were gleaned and distributed by the Isaiah House. June is going to be a very busy month for Alabama. Peach bagging in Chilton county on Tuesdays and Fridays and blueberry picking in Tuscaloosa county on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays will begin early June. ♦ The Florida citrus season will wrap up in May, but what a season it was! We held 3 citrus drive events and gleaned & distributed over 250,000 lbs. of citrus throughout the state. Thousands of homeowners donated their backyard trees for picking this fresh, delicious fruit for the hungry. ♦ Long & Scott Farms in Zellwood, FL, a faithful





## Harvest of Hope - new, new, new

BY LAUREN HOLCOMB, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

partner to Society of St. Andrew, planted hundreds of acres of cabbage, after which the market for cabbage plummeted. Their loss was our gain; instead of letting this wonderful cabbage be plowed under, the Florida Gleaning Network organized hundreds of volunteers to go into the field and save it from ultimate demise! Thus, thousands of hungry Floridians were delighted to receive this high quality product. In addition, Long & Scott donated two truck loads of citrus to SoSA for national distribution. ♦ The Georgia Gleaning Network Director Janet Sheldon's recent speaking engagement to staff and students at Heritage Preparatory in Atlanta generated much enthusiastic support and plans are underway for a group of students to come out to the fields to glean. Afterwards, everyone went to the City of Refuge in Atlanta to see where food is boxed for the hungry. They took a tour of their facilities, including the soon-to-open hot soup kitchen and the commercial kitchen for training people in restaurant skills. The City of Refuge is eagerly awaiting their first load of fresh produce from the Society of St. Andrew, both for their use and to distribute to surrounding food pantries. ♦ As you are driving on I-40 between Wake and Johnston Counties in North Carolina, keep an eye out for a message from Society of St. Andrew. The North Carolina Outdoor Advertising Association donates a certain amount of billboard space to charitable organizations and the Society of St. Andrew has been chosen to be a beneficiary of this gift. The simple message the billboard will carry will reach thousands of people. So, turn your eyes to the sky! ♦

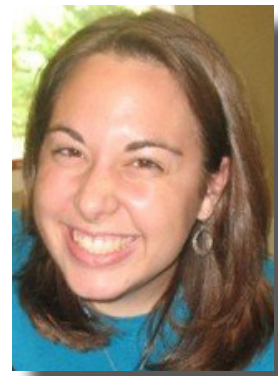
We are excited to welcome Sarah Nagy on board this month as our new *Harvest of Hope* Director. Sarah is a recent graduate of Mary Washington University with degrees in Religion and Sociology. She has lots of great experience as a Youth Ministry Teams leader for the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and as a participant on many mission trips, and we know she will bring new energy and talents to *Harvest of Hope* events this year! Please join us in welcoming her as she learns the ropes this summer. Previous Director Lauren Holcomb is relocating to Richmond, VA in June but will continue to work with SoSA and HOH in a volunteer capacity for many years to come.

This year's summer intern is Zach Baker, a Virginia Tech student who is a member of Chester UMC in Chester, VA. Zach has traveled to different locations for *Harvest of Hope* events but has a special place in his heart for gleaning potatoes at the Eastern Shore weeklong events in Exmore, VA.

Meanwhile, in March, we had our first 2008 *Harvest of Hope* event at a new location in Starke, FL. It was a great success! Participants from several churches joined with Central Florida Presbytery staff and SoSA staff to salvage about 12,000 lbs. of cabbage for the Brighter Days Mission in GA. These first-time harvesters of hope were so excited to learn about gleaning's impact on hunger that some of them have already fulfilled their covenant to go gleaning locally after returning home!

As always, HOH goes forward through the year impacting participants' sense of responsibility, care for God's creation, awareness of the plight of our brothers and sisters, and devotion to serving others. Come join us to see how much you can learn and make a difference in just one weekend or week!

We have 13 *Harvest of Hope* events lined up for 2008. The next event is Phase II in Washington, DC June 22-28. Some summer events still have room, so give us a call to check on availability and get your group together as soon as you can! Fall events are filling up, too, so start planning now to attend. ♦



Sarah Nagy  
HOH Director



Zach Baker  
HOH Summer Intern



Bottom l. to r.: *Harvest of Hope* participants design their "Empty Bowls". A youth group in FL proudly poses after gleaning citrus. A group of children glean collards in NC. Top l. to r.: Even the smallest gleaners lend a hand at a FL citrus drop. Sometimes the smallest gleaner works the hardest - a young girl in NC carries an armful of collards. A class visit to the Heritage Prep School in Atlanta, GA. The NC I-40 SoSA Billboard.

### Intergenerational Weekends

Johns Island, SC ..... August 1-3  
Fincastle, VA ..... Sept. 26-28  
Milroy, PA ..... Oct. 10-12  
Dahlongega, GA ..... Oct. 24-26  
Johns Island, SC ..... Nov. 7-9

### College & Young Adult Weekend

Keezletown, VA ..... Oct. 3-5

### Senior High Weeks

Mathiston, MS ..... July 6-12  
Eastern Shore, VA ..... July 6-12  
Ashland, VA ..... July 13-19

### Junior High Weeks

Eastern Shore, VA ..... July 4-6  
Shawsville, VA .... July 25-27

### Phase II Week

Washington, DC .... June 22-28

# Blessed with Potatoes

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato Project* has just completed the first quarter of 2008. Historically we give away tractor trailer loads of seed potatoes in the spring so that folks who have access to land can plant potatoes for themselves to be stored and used throughout the winter. Many also share their bounty with friends and family. This year was no different. We delivered 11 tractor trailer loads of seed potatoes to agencies in Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. Every pound planted yields an average of 8 lbs. of spuds. Folks have been waiting for spring so that these seed potatoes that you, our supporters, have helped purchase and ship can be planted; and they are eagerly awaiting the harvest in late summer.

Along with seed potatoes, we have been distributing table stock potatoes. With your help and the help of our donors, we have so far delivered food into Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, North Dakota, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Two colleges in Virginia, Sweet Briar College near Lynchburg and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, sponsored Potato Drops this spring along with raising funds for the freight cost.

This was Sweet Briar's first potato drop and was well received by different campus groups. Pink work gloves were furnished by the college for the all-female students. As we know, bagging potatoes can be a dirty job!

For the College of William and Mary's Wesley Foundation this was their 10th year for sponsoring a Potato Drop on campus. The students and faculty endured the 12 hours wait for the truck, which had mechanical problems before reaching VA. We appreciated their tolerance and flexibility with the event running so far behind. Agencies that came to pick up potatoes for their clients also waited patiently for them. Many food banks have empty shelves and each day we hear how badly they need food. So it seemed to be worth the wait for these feeding agencies.

We are anxiously awaiting sweet potatoes to be donated to SoSA for spring deliveries, but if this year is like last year, there will be fewer loads than usual. In 2007 we were 1 million pounds under what we delivered in 2006. The sweet potato market has changed considerably the past two years. There is now a big market for the culls or pick outs that are normally given to us. Lots of them are being used as additions to baking mixes and even dog food!

Despite having fewer potatoes and higher fuel costs, we are blessed to have been able to furnish over 1.3 million lbs. so far this year to those in need. Lots of folks have had food on their plates that might not have been there without the partnership of our financial donors, produce donors, and the agencies that feed the hungry. Blessings to all of you. ♦

# National Hunger Awareness Day

By JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, CHURCH RELATIONS DIRECTOR

The Society of St. Andrew invites you to participate in National Hunger Awareness Day (NHAD) on Tuesday, June 3, 2008. This day is recognized each year on the first Tuesday in June.

Set aside Sunday, June 1 or Sunday, June 8, as Hunger Awareness Sunday in your church and use this opportunity to teach your congregation about hunger and how each person can be part of the solution. To help you prepare for this special NHAD service, the Society of St. Andrew offers several resources for your use in planning your worship service. They are:

- ♦ Bulletin insert with a responsive reading and information about National Hunger Awareness Day
- ♦ Sample sermons
- ♦ Children's time idea
- ♦ Short skit that could be done by several youth
- ♦ Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and list of scriptures related to caring for the poor
- ♦ National Hunger Awareness Day Fast

In addition to these resources, SoSA has available "The Fast That I Choose," a 12-week Bible study on hunger. This bible study and any of the above resources can be downloaded from our website at [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org) or can be ordered by contacting Jennifer Vestal Moore at 800-333-4597 or email at [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org).

Please take this opportunity to join your congregation together in prayer for the 36 million children and adults nationwide who live at risk of hunger each day. ♦

## Donations to SoSA made in recent months to:

**HONOR** - Dr. William Blackman ... Mary Margaret Brown ... Dr. Stuart Brust ... Don Dunn ... Jordan Elizabeth Gray ... Steven Long Gray, Jr. ... Dr. James Hengerer ... Lynda Hewitt ... Dr. Janet Hickman ... Dr. George Hurt ... Pat Inge ... Bernice Irvin ... Nelle Neczypor ... Dr. Wade Neinman ... Michael Rakes ... Dr. William Ramsey ... George Richards IV ... Kathy Spradlin ... Lee Spradlin.

**IN MEMORY OF** - John Bunch, Jr. ... Rose Christian ... Henry J. Devers ... John Hart ... Lillian Helbig ... Joseph Kevin Johnson ... Paul Maguire ... Lyla Mangum ... Marian Nash ... Bill & Dot Schminkey ... Mrs. Joan Staneff ... Steve Story. ♦

## SoSA on the www

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Get this monthly e-newsletter with updates delivered right to your email inbox

[youtube.com/societyofstandrew](http://youtube.com/societyofstandrew)

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

[endhunger.org/kenblog/blog](http://endhunger.org/kenblog/blog)

Ken Horne, Director Emeritus, blogs about hunger, social and justice issues

[apps.facebook.com/causes/view\\_cause/44602](https://apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/44602)

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

[myspace.com/societyofstandrew](http://myspace.com/societyofstandrew)

You can become our friend and keep up-to-date with our ministry



# Thanks Uncle Sam! Now what?

By **KEN BRADFORD, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Starting in May, the U.S. Treasury Department will begin sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million American households. To receive a payment, you must have a valid Social Security number, at least \$3,000 of income, and have filed a 2007 federal income tax return, even if you were not required to file. The Internal Revenue Service will take care of the rest. Eligible individuals will receive up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples), and parents will receive an additional \$300 for each eligible child younger than 17.

The reason for the rebates is to stimulate the slumping economy. But we need to remember that those affected most during difficult economic times are those on the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. While all of us are hit with higher fuel costs, higher food costs, and higher medical costs, those with the least ability to absorb them are being hit the hardest. And those who cannot absorb the higher costs of life's necessities often have to turn to organizations like ours to meet their needs.

In a sense, the anticipated rebate will be a windfall for most of us. After all, before the stimulus package was approved in January nobody expected to be getting an extra \$600 from Uncle Sam. And as luck would have it, most of us will be receiving our rebate checks just as the demand for food assistance is expected to increase. Perhaps each of us receiving a rebate might consider donating a portion of it to help meet the needs of our brothers and sisters hit the hardest by the economic downturn. ♦

## The SoSA Connection

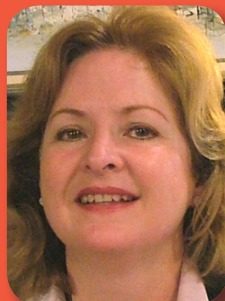
Continued from page 1

network is working hard to overcome these hurdles. We're seeking new produce donors and have already increased our field gleaning by 17% this year. While we can't control fuel costs, we are exploring more advantageous relationships with those in the trucking business. We've also found that keeping our financial supporters aware of these challenges has enabled them to respond and help keep the ministry growing. And the SoSA staff always tries to be creative in every aspect of what we do to ensure we feed as many people as possible.

The need is great. Right now, as you read this, food banks, feeding centers, and thousands of food providing programs across the country are experiencing severe shortages. Many shelves simply don't have food on them. What that means is that people who have no other access to food are going without – in America! That is why the SoSA network works so hard to provide millions of pounds of food at less than 10% overhead costs. We who have so much are connected to those among us who have so little. You, as part of the SoSA network, provide that connection to the hungry in our country to ensure that their need for food is not just met, but that it is met with highly nutritious fruits and vegetables. So many things are connected. ♦

## New faces at SoSA

Four new people have joined the Society of St. Andrew's family.



**Lisa Ousley**  
SoSA West Director



**Becky Norton**  
FL Program Coordinator



**Bill Youngblood**  
MS Program Coordinator



**Larry Woodward**  
MS Program Coordinator

**Lisa Ousley** is a graduate of the College of the Ozarks in Missouri with a degree in English and Journalism. She brings to SoSA experience in communication, event planning, public relations and marketing with expertise in project management. She also brings with her experience with Foodchain - The National Food-Rescue Network where she worked with more than 150 food rescue programs. She is currently a co-chair for the Board of Directors for the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. "I believe that Society of St. Andrew is performing two very critical services all across our country - preventing nutritious food from going to waste and putting it into the hands of people who need it most. I am honored to work with SoSA to launch a western headquarters in Kansas City and help to extend the mission more fully to the western half of the country."

**Becky Norton** received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations in May 2005 from Rowan University, NJ. While there she served on the Executive Board of Public Relations Students Society of America and received Leadership and Presidential Citations. A member of the Student Government Association, a writer for the Rowan's school newsletter and an active member of the cheerleading squad, she is accustomed to multi-tasking and taking an active role in leadership.

Becky is an advocate for issues such as misuse of natural resources, waste and world hunger, and is eager to share her passion and knowledge through her work at Society of St. Andrew.

**Bill Youngblood** received a Bachelor of Arts at Asbury College, a Bachelor of Divinity at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

He has served pastorates in both the Florida and the Louisiana United Methodist Annual (regional) Conferences. He has also served as a Vice President and Trust Officer at banks in Mississippi and Louisiana.

He and his wife, Nanci, have retired to Hattiesburg where they live near their two grandchildren.

**Larry Woodward** is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Political Science. Larry is a very active member of First United Methodist Church in Louisville and currently serves as Lay Leader of the Starkville District. He is active in the North Mississippi and Koinonia Emmaus Communities. He was selected as Winston County's Man of the Year in 1999 and he is President of the local Cattlemen's Association and a member of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Larry has been married to his wife, Margaret, for 25 years; they have two children, Patrick and Sarah. They live on and operate a small cattle farm.

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# Society of St. Andrew REPORT



## www.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 potatoes 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 5/08)

**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)

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 5/08)

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For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • sosausa@endhunger.org • www.endhunger.org