

Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 24

NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2008

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



Seed Potatoes Go Even Further

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO PROJECT DIRECTOR

This is the time of year we begin to hear reports about the results of our folks planting the seed potatoes that we distributed in February and March. We understand that most have had good growing seasons for their potato plantings.

This spring we gave away 482,500 pounds of seed potatoes to 8 agencies in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, and North Carolina. These agencies gave out the seed to their regular clients that have family gardens. Each year these folks look forward to planting potatoes and then having a good yield to store and use through the fall and winter months. Many share the potatoes they grow with family and friends in need.

SoSA has to buy the seed potatoes and then pay for the freight from Maine to the agencies that receive these seed. Our cost is around \$65,000 for the purchasing and shipping of the seed. The estimated yield of 482,500 lbs. of seed is approximately 3,860,000 lbs. of

Continued - see SEED POTATOES on page 5

It's summertime and the temperature is rising. Food and fuel costs are rising as well. In fact, both are up by about 4-5% over last year and fuel costs have tripled in the last three years. Also on the rise is the demand on service and feeding agencies. In fact, across the board, agencies are seeing about a 25% increase in demand. All of our offices are hearing weekly from agencies that are struggling more than ever to keep food on their shelves. However, all these challenges have not slowed SoSA down! We are continuing to salvage produce and look for new sources of excess food. Throughout this newsletter you will find quotes from various agencies addressing these concerns.

From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



Well, here we are. This is the very first article I have the honor of writing as Director Emeritus. So far I have enjoyed the new routine immensely. It provides for me to be involved with SoSA on a part time basis, and provides ample time for me to pursue other interests as well. I

"Higher numbers of agencies are coming in, agencies are reporting more requests (for food) and our transportation cost is 40% over what it was a year ago."

*- Shay Merritt
Second Harvest Food Bank*

must say here, publicly, how much I appreciate the efforts of my co-workers in making this transition a smooth and enjoyable one. You folks (Board and staff) have been very kind to me, providing me with not one, but two send off celebrations,

thereby heaping on me more praise than I probably deserve and generating a fair amount of publicity for SoSA into the bargain. (Very nicely done.)

On a not so cheery note, I went to the grocery store last week. Some of you know that I live in the country and a round trip to town is about 40 miles. I'm sure I don't need to inform any of our readers that gas is a wee bit expensive these days, and food prices have shot through the roof. The point is that when these things get *our* attention (most of us are very well off when compared to America's poor) you can imagine how they affect our less fortunate brothers and sisters. All the while our economy continues to flounder and jobs are becoming scarcer by the day. There is even talk in Congress about a second "stimulus package" to try to pump up consumer spending to help jump start the faltering economy. If that happens, and the government sends me another unexpected check, I intend to give the money where it can do poor folks the most good, to SoSA.

This is because I know we can still turn a dollar into about 15 pounds of fresh vegetables, and stimulate the economy to boot! At the end of the day poor folks need my "stimulus" dollar way more than I do. I hope you feel the same way. ♦

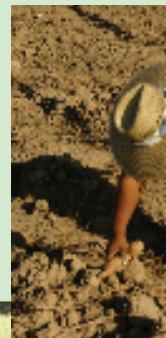
SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-June 2008

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:	
➤ Potato Project	4,125,000 lbs.
➤ Gleaned Produce	5,880,201 lbs.
➤ Events	1,095
➤ Volunteers	10,196
➤ Total Pounds	10,005,201
➤ Total Servings	30,015,603

SoSA is working even harder and smarter to meet the growing need

It's summertime and the living is easy but not for America's poor, that's why SoSA continues to Glean America's Fields and Feed America's Hungry. ♦ The SoSA West headquarters is just gearing up, having officially opened its doors for business on May 15th. We have already made lots of contacts with farmers, growers and packers in western states, with some exciting results. Our first farmer, a potato grower from Holyoke, CO, called the day he received our letter. He said he's tired of feeding perfectly good potatoes to the hogs, and he is looking forward to getting us our first load in August. We also look forward to working with potato growers in the San Luis Valley in CO this August. Additionally, we contacted a watermelon grower in AR who will donate his fields for gleaning in mid-August. ♦ The Georgia Gleaning Network had a miraculous spring season this year with almost a million pounds of produce salvaged from the state. Numerous times there was so much produce available that we were able to share with our neighboring states. Sadly, a portion of this bounty has come about as a result of the super high costs of trucking for the farmers; sometimes it simply did not make economic sense to ship the crops. The high cost of transportation has also impacted how far a recipient could go to pick up the donation. The farmer has generously donated the produce but asking them to donate the bins and pallets is too much to ask. We are having

a greater financial challenge than ever before to move the produce that is available and grown in Georgia. ♦ The Alabama Gleaning Network has partnered with P.E.E.R., a Birmingham community development organization, to provide fresh produce to a residential facility for the elderly. P.E.E.R. sponsors a farmers' market where SoSA volunteers pack boxes with 10-15 pounds of mixed produce and deliver them door to door to 70 residents in Villa Maria. Alabama has had an abundance of blueberries. Peaches are starting to become available and we will be gleaning corn in north Alabama and peas and squash in south Alabama. Potential volunteers should contact the Alabama Gleaning Network to have their groups put on the gleaning calendar, 205-838-1927. Also, the Alabama Gleaning Network would like to welcome Allison Comer, a senior at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, as our new Montgomery Area Gleaning Coordinator. ♦ The Mississippi Gleaning Network has some exciting news. We are moving our office from the Wood Institute in Mathiston to Jackson. Robert Fritchey, Regional Director for Mississippi, says, "I believe that this move will give our MS office even more opportunities to grow and expand and to attract more farmers and volunteers. I also know that with all the foundations, church headquarters and state political offices located in Jackson we will have the opportunity to work with these organizations at the highest level. This will give the Mississippi Gleaning Network the visibility needed to gain additional funding and open doors to include SoSA in addressing all hunger issues in the State." Also in Mississippi, the ground work that has been laid in Arkansas is starting to pay off. Arkansas Senator Blanch Lincoln continues to be a strong supporter of our efforts. She continues to give us access to her staff and has provided one of her staff to participate in our advisory group, which we have put together with the help of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. After our first meeting at the end of May, we were given a great connection with a major grower in the southern part of the state and netted 4,600 pounds of cabbage. He is now willing to have our volunteers come back as the season



progresses to pick tomatoes, peppers and other produce as it comes along. ♦ The North Carolina Gleaning Network has salvaged well over 2 million pounds of fresh food so far in 2008. They continue to work hard to meet the ever increasing need of agencies in North Carolina. One such agency, Feed My Sheep, has increased their efforts from serving about 20 households once a month to serving about 100 households twice a month. What a delight it is to call Julius Davis, director of Feed My Sheep, and offer fresh produce, no matter what it is, and the response is always the same, "What a blessing." I hope Julius realizes our response is the same toward his work and all the work that goes into making sure everyone has nutritious food. What a blessing. ♦ The Florida Gleaning Network was the proud recipient of a unique fundraising project when College Park Presbyterian Church came up with their own version of "The Big Give" based on the Oprah Winfrey show and project of the same title. Pastor Jeff entrusted members of his congregation, including one youth, with \$100 each, with instructions to take it into the community and do something good. The youth, Rebekah Erwin, decided to multiply her \$100 by asking friends and family to match it in part or in whole her \$100. Rebekah was amazed by the generosity of others and was able to more than quadruple her original \$100. She used part of the money to buy books for children in an inner city school and donated enough money to SoSA to purchase bags for a Potato Drop. Because this all took place in April, the money was included in the Feinstein Challenge so her money went even further. Recently a farmer in Florida who sells grapefruit at a farmers' market noticed a dramatic drop in demand. After discovering this was because of an advisory warning against combining grapefruit with popular cholesterol medications he donated a significant amount of the citrus to SoSA, netting the hungry over 16,000 pounds. Where humans fail to show up, God never fails to show up. 45,000 pounds



of potatoes did show up at a drop in Fort Myers, FL but the largest food bank in the area simply forgot to pick up 20,000 pounds. At 11am on Saturday most of the volunteers had come and gone – only a few were left with 20,000 pounds on the ground and no place for them to be delivered. So the faithful volunteers loaded the spuds into 10 pickup trucks and SUV's and started rolling. They found some small food pantries, soup kitchens, rescue missions, a benefit for someone in need, neighbors, preachers, shelters, and the list goes on. Everyone was so grateful for the sweet spuds and all the volunteers came back with empty trucks and a story to tell. It was quite a "God Thing" and when they spoke about their experience on Sunday, not a dry eye could be found in the room. What an amazing God we have! ♦

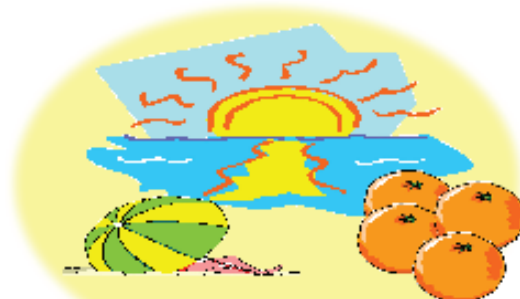
Bottom l. to r.: Proud recipients of sweet potatoes in Fort Myers, FL. P.E.E.R. in AL volunteers packing boxes for a residential facility. 2 young girls enjoy gleaning in FL. **Top l. to r.:** Youth bag sweet potatoes from our first SoSA West Potato Drop. A youth takes a box of strawberries from a VA gleaner. An example of true gleaning in MS.

News from Harvest of Hope

By SARAH NAGY, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

Hello from your new *Harvest of Hope* director! To say that I am excited to be on board is an understatement. The Holy Spirit is present and moving every day through SoSA's ministry, and I am both proud and humbled to be a part of this great team of people. Many thanks go out to the entire SoSA community, as I have felt only welcomed and embraced since I arrived!

As I write this, many folks are getting ready for vacation (or "staycation" these days) and a break from work or school, but not Harvesters of Hope! Kicking off our busy summer season are a junior-high weekend and a senior-high week on the Eastern Shore of VA. Also, our first-ever Arkansas event will be a senior-high week in Bald Knob, AR. These Harvesters are looking forward to salvaging potatoes, sweet corn, melons, and more! A junior-high weekend will be held in Shawsville, VA, and wrapping up the summer will be an intergenerational weekend in Johns Island, SC. Unfortunately, Phase II and the Ashland, VA senior-high event had to be cancelled due to low registration, but don't worry, both events will be back in 2009! All summer events are already full, but we hope to see your youth group or parish team out in the fields with us next summer.



Spring Break '09

Hot off my desk, announcing...SPRING BREAK '09! I'm very excited to offer *Harvest of Hope's* first Alternative Spring Break trip for college students! The trip will be held February 27-March 8, 2009 in Jacksonville, FL. We'll spend most of the week gleaning but also have plenty of time to relax (how does a day at the beach to end the week sound?). More information coming soon...

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 in need 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! I look forward to serving with you to do something about hunger! ♦

Register Today

Intergenerational Weekends

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

800-333-4597 ♦ sosahoh@endhunger.org
endhunger.org/hoh_schedule.htm

Finding Christ in the midst of CHRISTmas!

By JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, CHURCH RELATIONS DIRECTOR

As the Christmas season approaches, retailers will have us wrapped up in the hoopla of what they interpret to be the important things of the season.



The theme of SoSA's 2008 Advent devotional program focuses on ways and places to find Christ in the midst of that chaos. Through scripture, daily devotion, and prayer, readers will have an opportunity to discover new ways to bring Christ to the center of their lives as they weave through the maze

of what the world's expectations are of Christmas.

Be inspired by the personal stories of our creative and thoughtful writers as they help you, through their writings, reflect on the joy and promise that God made to us through the birth of one small child.

The daily devotions encourage you to share in Jesus' call to care for the poor and hungry with donations to SoSA's hunger ministry. All materials are FREE. Use the back page order coupon to get your Advent Devotions packet or church starter kit and share Christmas with the hungry! This Christmas may Christ be the center of your life! ♦

"Americans have been blessed with safe, abundant and very affordable food for many, many years, lulling us into an unfortunate sense of complacency. But now, we're getting a wake-up call in the form of higher food prices. In some countries, food prices are up 50% or more. Hunger is all around us, at home and abroad, a constant reminder that 'To whom much is given, much is required.'"

*-Lew Middleton
The Hoosier Farmer*

New Virginia Gleaning Director

We are deeply privileged to have Sarah Ramey join us as the new Virginia Gleaning Network Director. Sarah and her husband, Skeeter, come to us from Stephens City, VA where they have been active gleaners since 1994. They have also attended several Harvest of Hope events including a trip to D.C. for Phase II. Sarah taught school in Warren County for 8 years. She is a welcome addition to the ministry as Judy Bair, who has served this position for 10 years, retires. We wish Judy well. ♦



Sarah Ramey

"We're feeding realtors, bankers, contractors, people who were never before out of work."

*-Kristen Langen
Central Florida Second Harvest*

"We had to turn away 200 people yesterday! We ran completely out of food and that has never happened."

-House of Hope on Merritt Island, FL

Donations to SoSA made in recent months to:

HONOR - Mrs. Nadine Abbott ... Joe Bartelsmeyer ... C. Jill Carr ... Marriage of Margaret Ann Graves and Audie Ray Lambert ... Mrs. Sandra Gisiner ... Jim Hampton ... Rick Harrell ... Margaret Sessa-Hawkins ... Jo Heins ... Jim Holben ... Jerry Lipscomb ... Rev. John Pinkney ... Mary C. Sienkiewicz ... Jack & Mary Strong ... Sandy Tilley ... Rev. Murry & Frances Unruh ... Rev. Rhonda VanDyke-Colby ... Mrs. Ann F. Via ... Kitty Warlick ... Wilhemina Wintemberg

IN MEMORY OF - Junior Andersen ... Virginia Beeler ... Coble Smith Blakenay, Jr. ... Bud Curtis ... Henry Devers ... Shirley Helbling ... Lynda Hewitt ... Eva Mae Jessup ... Robert Johnson ... Evine King ... Dr. William Michael Lordi ... Mrs. Mary McCown ... Margaret Sola McCune-Planty ... Bill Schminkey ... Betty Sherbon ... Sandy Shoemaker ... Mrs. Brenda Smith ... Ms. Sara Wheless ... Mrs. Ruby Dunkum ♦

SoSA on the www

endhunger.org/newsletter_subscribe

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

youtube.com/societyofstandrew

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

apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/44602

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

endhunger.org/kenblog/blog

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

myspace.com/societyofstandrew

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

Leaving a Legacy

By WADE MAYS, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

You enjoy making a difference in the lives of others. Leaving a legacy that will continue on for years after your time on earth is finished is one way you can continue this mission. Don't delay. Check out how the Society of St. Andrew's planned giving can help you fulfill the dream you have.

There are many ways to leave a legacy. Charitable Gift Annuities, Pooled Income Funds, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Bequests are just a few of the many ways that you can help continue to make a difference for years to come. Please contact Wade Mays, SoSA's Planned Giving Advisor, for more information: development@endhunger.org or at 800-333-4597. ♦

"A couple of weeks ago we had 225 people in our lobby. We had a 36% increase in the number of people we have to turn away for emergency rent, mortgage or utility assistance (the highest turn-away number in our history). We are having people show up from the housing industry who have been without income for months (mortgage bankers/underwriters, real estate workers, etc.). Plus renters whose owners are in foreclosure so they are getting kicked out and they can't readily afford to move into a new place."

*-Carol Hardison & Raquel Lynch
Crisis Assistance Ministry*

It's a Resolution!

By JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, CHURCH RELATIONS DIRECTOR

At the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the 992-member body of elected clergy and laity voted to formally recognize the Society of St. Andrew as an official partner in the alleviation of hunger in the United States. This is great news for The United Methodist Church, the Society of St. Andrew, and most importantly for our brothers and sisters who are hungry or food insecure.

The resolution will be listed in the 2008 United Methodist Book of Resolutions. It states in its entirety: "Be it resolved that The United Methodist Church commend the Society of St. Andrew, a national Christian hunger-relief ministry, as a partner organization with the United Methodist Church in the alleviation of hunger in the United States. Furthermore we commend this partnership between local churches and the Society of St. Andrew through volunteer service and gifts through the Advance Special."

Our prayer is that every congregation of all denominations in the United States will heed these words and join with us in ministry through prayer, gleaning, and financial support and follow the example of our Lord, who commands us in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." ♦

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 ♦ development@endhunger.org

"During the winter our numbers (for lunch) per day jumped from an average of 275 to 350/375 per day. We had 349 today for lunch. We expect 400 tomorrow. I've been here 15 years and I've never seen it this bad."

*-Sandra Smith
Urban Ministries/St. Peters Soup Kitchen*

SEED POTATOES

Continued from page 1

nutritious potatoes. You can do the math: \$65,000 divided by 3,860,000 lbs. comes out to 1.6 cents per pound for the finished product!!! Now, where else can you receive such a marvelous deal?

You donate the money to purchase the seed potatoes and to ship them to agencies that give them out to folks living in impoverished conditions. They plant them, care for and tend them in their gardens. The result is millions of pounds of potatoes for people to eat during the fall and winter months. This is good nutritious produce that they might not normally have access to.

INCREASING NEED

Here at the Society of St. Andrew we are getting more and more calls from feeding agencies asking for potatoes. Those calls come in every week. We are hearing from food banks and other feeding agencies that we haven't heard from in years. It is our hope and prayer that giving away nearly 500,000 lbs. of seed will help the plight of some of our most disadvantaged in addition to the over 4 million pounds of donated potatoes and other produce that have been distributed from January through June this year.

Constantly rising fuel costs continue to impose a growing financial burden on SoSA's hunger-relief work. Your financial help and prayers are needed more than ever ... and are so very much appreciated by this ministry as well as by those we serve. ♦

Society of St. Andrew
Telephone: 1-800-333-4597
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Finding Christ in the midst of Christmas

This Christmas prepare for the coming of the Christ Child with SoSA's Advent Devotions guide using daily scriptures, reflections, and prayers. You'll be challenged each day to deepen your walk with God and given the opportunity to help feed the hungry, as He commanded, with donations to SoSA's hunger-relief ministry. To order your personal packet or a church starter kit mail this coupon or call 800-333-4597, email church@endhunger.org, or go online to www.endhunger.org/advent.htm. All materials are FREE.

Please send me a FREE Advent 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 8/08)

***The NEED is rising and so are
food and fuel COSTS. We need
your help to get food to the
plates of those who need it.***

I know the need is great and I want to help!

☐ \$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 8/08)

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