



Society of St. Andrew REPORT



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GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SoSA pulls a magic trick!

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I was dealing with the state Chamber of Commerce earlier this week regarding some new state employment issues or something and the gentleman on the phone asked me how SoSA was doing in this economy. He asked if we were doing less, or laying people off and I replied "no and no". He said "What?! Nearly every nonprofit I've spoken to in the state is either doing less, laying people off or both, and some are closing their doors completely." He was simply astounded to find that SoSA was doing more than last year while encountering the same economic conditions as everyone else. With the economy down, donations down and most nonprofits cutting back program activity, cutting staff positions or closing up shop entirely, SoSA has actually done more. In fact, this year SoSA has saved and distributed 12% more food than we



did in the first six months of last year. Our number of gleaning events and volunteers are also well above last year. In 2009 that is a real magic trick.

I wish I could say it was due to superior leadership by the Executive Director, but I know better. You see, our staff, volunteers and financial supporters know the hungry in this country need

SoSA more than ever. And this network of dedicated and faithful people is finding a way to make it all happen. They are doers, people actually living their faith – not talking the talk, but walking the walk.

Sure donations are down this year, as they are for all nonprofits. And yes we've had to reduce our budget to compensate accordingly. But so far we've found a way to accomplish that with very little impact on our feeding programs. Part of the magic of SoSA is our 30-year history of good stewardship of food and other resources. When

From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



Well, here we are in the midst of a long hot summer. The economy is still in the doldrums, the health care system is still broken, the international bad guys are still bad, and it's HOT. After what seems like eons of time spent listening to the various pundits and politicians expound on our problems, I'm beginning to wonder whether the global warming isn't the direct result of all the hot air expelled with reference to the economy, the health care system, and the various international bad guys. Just a thought.

It also occurred to me that there are two kinds of people who make it their business to address our ongoing problems. There are those who expend lots of hot air telling us why we should be afraid of our problems, and who to blame for them. These, in my opinion, can and should be ignored. Then there are those who actually try to make things better, solve problems and move us forward. These folks should be sought out (generally they don't expend near as much hot air as the others, so you have to look for them). When you find them, you should support them because they are the real change agents in any society.

We at Society of St. Andrew belong to the second group. We always have. We have lived our entire corporate life with the underlying conviction that talk is cheap, and actions speak much louder than words. That is why even today, with all the economic woes that beset us and the hungry Americans whom we serve, we are taking a pass on the hot air, and expending all our efforts toward delivering more food to more people with the least expense possible. We are doing all this because that's what it takes to make the lives of the poor better, to solve the problem of hunger and to move us forward as a nation. If you are reading this newsletter the chances are pretty good that you're one of us already. If so, thanks for your support, especially in these very hard times. If you're not yet involved with us, you have in your hands a way to remedy that. In the body of this newsletter there are any number of ways you can get active on behalf of the poor, the hungry and the recently laid off. Take a minute to look us over and join with us in making things better by solving the problem of hunger in America. You can be part of moving us all forward. ♦

Continued - see MAGIC TRICK on page 5

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-June 2009

**Fresh food salvaged and donated
to feed the hungry:**

➤ Potato Project	5,000,000 lbs.	up	21%
➤ Gleaned Produce	6,220,186 lbs.	up	6%
➤ Events	1,217	up	11%
➤ Volunteers	14,292	up	40%
➤ Total Pounds	11,220,186	up	12%
➤ Total Servings	33,660,558	up	12%

Bless our farmers and our gleaners!

Please be in prayer for the farmers and the orchardists as they share their bounty with those who are hungry! ♦ The Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference Potato Drop was hosted by Ghent UMC in Norfolk. It took the group of 162 volunteers only 2 hours to bag the 35,000 pounds of sweet potatoes and send them off to hunger relief agencies around the Tidewater region. Thanks to George Langford for heading up the registration table after spending the night in his car so he could help with the bagging! ♦ Willie and Nancy Adams in the Richmond, VA area have been gleaned from local grocery stores and distributing to local hunger relief agencies. In the month of June alone they saved over 25,000 pounds of produce, deli food, and meats. Thanks for your willingness to share so that others may have something to eat!

♦ The North Florida Gleaning Network added a dedicated volunteer to their ranks this summer when 12-year-old Ryan Cox pledged to glean 1,000 lbs. during his summer break. A Junior Honor Society inductee selected by Duke University to participate in the Talent Identification Program, Ryan made this commitment as part of his community service covenant for Confirmation at Mandarin Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, FL. Not only did Ryan surpass his goal, but he also brought his family and friends into the SoSA family of

regular volunteers; they gleaned potatoes, zucchini, yellow squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and more for the hungry in their community.

♦ Bela Organic Hydroponic Farm, near Jacksonville, FL recently formed a partnership with SoSA and has already donated thousands of pounds of healthy beautiful vegetables from their packing house. Not only is the partnership providing fresh produce to those in need, it is providing them with the BEST produce. ♦ Our friends at Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church in Ft. Myers, FL continue to host a Farmers' Market in their church parking lot every Saturday. What started as a one month trial endeavor has turned into a year round event. Farmers set up every Saturday to sell their produce and then donate what is left to SoSA. Church volunteers take this wonderful fresh produce to the Community Soup Kitchen in Ft. Myers. ♦ The Alabama Gleaning Network started up the East Lake Farmers' Market Basket program on June 20th and it will run through Sept. 26th. Volunteers are needed EVERY Saturday morning to pack and deliver boxes of produce to seniors in Villa Maria. ♦ At Winala Farms in Talladega, AL, Paul Holmes has given his Christian agricultural ministry the name Bushels of Blessings. He grows a variety of produce including pink-eyed peas, tomatoes, squash, cantaloupe, and hydroponic lettuce just for volunteers with Society of St. Andrew to glean. ♦ The Alabama Gleaning Network would like to thank the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham for their recent generous grant. Many Alabamians in need will be fed through their generosity. ♦ The Gleaning Networks in North and South Carolina have already gleaned and distributed 2.3 million pounds of fresh produce in 2009. God is good indeed! ♦ The Lott Carey Youth Seminar is an event that helps young people prove that they can make a difference in the world. This year, the 55th annual event brought hundreds of youth from across the United States to Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. Gleaning was a major part of the event and Kristy Nash, SoSA North Carolina director, said "It was inspiring to see their



Top l. to r.: A young gleaner picking delicious blueberries in AL. Ryan Cox proudly displays the fresh produce he gleaned as part of his summer goal. **Bottom l. to r.:** A well attended Potato Drop at Trinity UMC in Richmond, VA. Two tiny tots glean spuds in NC.

eagerness to learn about gleaning, hard work out in the field, and competitive spirit to 'beat' the other teams in the number of pounds gleaned." These outstanding young people helped us glean about 20,000 pounds of corn and collards. ♦ Iseley Farms in Burlington, NC has been generous with their resources and has donated thousands of pounds of produce to SoSA and feeding agencies in their area. The owner, Jane Iseley, said, "We are a farm that grows fruits and vegetables to sell to the public at our Vegetable Barn, but we can also grow enough to share with those in our community who need help feeding themselves and their families. We are fortunate to have the land and the help to provide fresh produce for the hungry." Last fall, when it was time to order seeds and plan for the 2009 growing season, Jane made the decision to add additional plantings of tomatoes and other select vegetables in order to meet the hunger needs in their community. A big thanks to Iseley Farms and to all the community gardens popping up that are blessing so many by sharing their bounty. ♦ The Mississippi Gleaning Network has continued its growth throughout the state and into Arkansas. A new grower in Arkansas not only allowed us to glean greens and cabbage but also donated a semi-load of tomatoes. ♦ At the Mississippi United Methodist Annual Conference volunteers picked over 17,000 pounds of produce and helped distribute over 75,000 pounds of various produce including sweet potatoes, cucumbers, squash, and cabbage. ♦ After months of hard work, Jackie Usey, Program Coordinator for the Mississippi Gleaning Network, got permission to receive excess produce from the penitentiary in Parchman, MS. "This is a win, win for all; more produce for those in need, inmates giving back to the community and employment skills learned for when they get out," she said. "As we look toward the rest of the season here in Mississippi we are excited about the new growers, volunteers, and financial support that we are getting and pray that we will continue to grow as we help to feed our hungry neighbors." ♦ David Toler, Kansas Hunger Relief Advocate, led a Potato Drop in Baldwin City, KS, where 42,000 pounds of potatoes were bagged by 32 volunteers from the Kansas East United Methodist Conference and delivered to 45 agencies in the region. ♦ In Manhattan, KS, a new gleaning team led by volunteer gleaning coordinator Scott Arnold held three gleanings in one week. Braving the heat with lots of energy and enthusiasm, volunteers gathered sweet corn at Britt's Garden Acres. Special thanks to Rick and Angie Britt who own the farm and helped to make the gleanings happen. Flint Hills Breadbasket made short work of the donated corn, as area residents in need appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the same delicious sweet corn as their more affluent neighbors. ♦ A little further southeast, two gleanings in the Rich Hill area netted 5,572 pounds of zucchini and cucumbers from the farms of Matthew Brubaker and Wayne Maslin, two growers from Good Natured Family Farms, a cooperative of farms partnering with Society of St. Andrew. ♦ The Georgia Gleaning Network entered its third spring growing season this year and has been busier than ever. In May, the Georgia farmers outdid themselves in generosity; in 2008 they donated approximately 414,000 pounds, and this May, they donated over 936,000 pounds of delicious fresh vegetables! All of this has been despite an early heat, followed by late freezes, and then torrential rains that washed young crops right out of the fields. ♦

Harvest of Hope is off to a great start this summer. As the new *HOH* director, I have my first three events under my belt and I can honestly say that each event has been amazing. One of the constants of every event has been how inspirational it is to watch, and join with, hundreds of youth as they sweat and toil under the hot sun gleaning produce for the hungry. When people sacrifice their time and effort to help others in such a hands-on and dirty (yes, gleaning is dirty business) way you really begin to understand the scripture about the world recognizing us as followers of Jesus by the way we love one another. Harvesters showed their love of others by feeding the less fortunate; they also showed love by working and worshiping together as one community of faith, despite their varied backgrounds. Kathy Jackson, a long time *HOH* supporter and volunteer, shared that this year's Eastern Shore event was "one of the most amazing and diverse groups that have ever attended this event. Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists all sharing God's direction to feed his sheep."



Scott Briggs

These events could not take place without the sacrifices of the many dedicated volunteers – thank you! I pray that all the volunteers realize what a significant impact they are making for God's kingdom. I also need to mention the hard work of our dedicated and capable summer intern, James Hargraves. James is a rising junior at Old Dominion University and has been going on *Harvest of Hope* events since junior high. His experience and musical talent have been of immeasurable help as I have started my first summer as *HOH* Director. I am looking forward to events in the fall and hope that you will consider joining us as we *Do Something about Hunger!* ♦



James Hargraves

Intergenerational Weekends
Fincastle, VA Sept. 25-27
Dahlonia, GA Oct. 9-11
Palmyra, PA Oct. 16-18
Gaston, SC Nov. 6-8
Starke, FL Nov. 13-15
College & Young Adult Weekend
Keezletown, VA Oct. 2-4

Milestones from the past 30 years:



A few highlights and milestones from SoSA's 30 years of hunger ministry:

◆ June 8, 1979 – The Society of St. Andrew was founded in Big Island, VA. The Horne and Buchanan families moved into a hundred-year-old farm house and began their ministry of an intentional community

modeling a lifestyle of Christian responsibility, and leading “responsible living and hunger issues” workshops across the state. They adopted the name “Society of St. Andrew” from the role Andrew had in Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000.

◆ April 1984 – SoSA became an Advance Special mission program of the United Methodist Church (#801600).

◆ 1985-1997 – SoSA’s international program distributed food and self-help programs to: Jamaica (Seed Potato Project), Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Armenia, Brazil, Liberia, Guatemala, Cuba, Venezuela, Mozambique, India, and Zimbabwe.

◆ 1997 – SoSA’s domestic *Gleaning Network* surpassed 5 million pounds of fresh produce saved per year and distributed to the hungry across America.

◆ 2002 – Society of St. Andrew initiated and co-sponsored the first National United Methodist Hunger Summit bringing together church leaders and hunger workers across the nation to develop more efficient and effective ways for the UMC to lead in the fight against hunger.

◆ 2008 – SoSA’s *Potato & Produce Project* surpassed 400 million pounds of potatoes and other produce saved and distributed.

Watch for more SoSA successes and milestones in future newsletters. ♦

Donations to SoSA made in recent months to:

HONOR - Roy Daniel ... Nancy Farley ... Bob & Bea Fowler ... Mrs. Marolyn Geib ... Steven Long Gray ... Ruth Lucy ... Janet Sienkiewicz ... Linda Snipes ... Art & MaryBeth Strom ... Julie Taylor ... Rev. Rhonda Van Dyke Colby ... Dr. Donna H. West ... Wilhelmena Wintemberg ... Robin Yates

IN MEMORY OF - Mr. Aulcie Barnett ... Bill Burroughs ... Jane Carrier ... Frances D’Amato ... Bill Fors ... Jane Jones Hamilton ... Lynda Hewitt ... Reggie Kestel ... Jevine King ... Ester Sue Justis Ligon ... Lawrence McPherson ... Sonny Marks ... Nellie Viola Moore ... Kathleen Rafferty ... Elma Wilson ... Bea Worthington ... Vera Young ♦

The Wonderful World of Potatoes!

BY MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

Approximately 2.3 million pounds of good nutritious food were salvaged and distributed during the second quarter of this year. The *Potato & Produce Project* delivered roughly 57 tractor trailer loads of potatoes during this three month period.

Most of the produce was white and sweet potatoes along with several loads of bananas. We were also able to deliver squash, zucchini, and cucumbers to some of our agencies. All this wonderful food made it to 16 different states and provided 6.9 million servings.

Trinity UMC in Richmond, VA really made their recent potato drop a community event by inviting local Boy and Girl Scout Troops. They provided fresh produce to 6 agencies in the Richmond and central Virginia area and paid for the drop with their Lenten offering. Thank you Trinity UMC for following God’s command and making it a priority to feed His sheep.

The late summer months are historically slow months for the *Potato and Produce Project* because tractor trailer loads of produce are scarce. We will continue on, however, feeding America’s hungry and increasing our field gleaning during the harvest seasons across the country. Thank you for all your support. ♦

Leave a Living Legacy

BY WADE MAYS, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

The legacy of Winston Dinwiddie lives on and the hungry continue to be fed thanks to his forward thinking and generosity. You see, although Mr. Dinwiddie recently left this world, his deep and genuine concern for the hungry continues, after his passing, through a thoughtful gift to the Society of St. Andrew in his will. Over the coming years millions of hungry Americans will be fed because Mr. Dinwiddie was concerned enough to think of “the least of these” in his will. SoSA, and the hungry, are so thankful for Mr. Dinwiddie’s example.

There are a variety of estate planning options that you can use to follow Winston Dinwiddie’s example of caring for his family and those in need, even after the Lord calls us home. To leave a living legacy simply contact Wade Mays at SoSA’s main office via email at development@endhunger.org or by phone, 800-333-4597. ♦



Prayers of Hope – Advent Devotions

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director of Church Relations

As the light of day becomes shorter and the warm summer evenings quickly become cool brisk nights, our thoughts will soon turn to a beautiful baby who was born in a manger to bring hope to our world.

The theme of SoSA's Advent devotional program, "Prayers of Hope," will ask the question, "What do you hope for in the coming of Christ?"

Be inspired by the personal stories of our creative and thoughtful writers as you read through their devotions and what they hope for in Christ's coming. Through the daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers, use this book to take time to ponder what you hope for as you welcome the Christ child into your home and life this Christmas season.

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!

So, what do you hope for in the coming of Christ? ♦

United We Serve

Volunteer gleaning opportunities with the Society of St. Andrew are listed on the new Serve.gov website. This website is the driving force for the United We Serve summer service initiative to promote community service, which was launched June 22, 2009 by President and First Lady Barack and Michelle Obama.

As a member of the Alliance to End Hunger, SoSA was invited to upload its service opportunities to the Serve.gov website so that people across the nation interested in serving the greater good can find volunteer projects near them. The United We Serve summer service initiative runs through the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11th.

"There is a very clear recognition with this effort (United We Serve) that service is more than just a temporary measure," said Max Finberg, Director, Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for the USDA Office of the Secretary. Indeed, SoSA supporters and volunteers know that ours is a year-in, year-out, year-round opportunity to put their faith into action. When SoSA folk step up to save food from going to waste and donate it to feed the hungry among us, they are proving that we are, indeed, united to serve. ♦

Hunger Action Month

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director of Church Relations

Ready. Set. Go! Get moving and "do something" about hunger!

With 37 million of our brothers and sisters going hungry and 96 billion pounds of food going to waste each year, there's no reason for anyone in the United States to go without enough to eat. Yet hunger continues to be a problem of great proportion in our communities across the United States.

September is national Hunger Action Month. Please consider joining with the Society of St. Andrew and using Hunger Action Month as an opportunity to inform yourself and your congregation about hunger and how each one of us can be part of the solution to ending hunger in America. Use the whole month or choose one special Sunday during the month of September to lift up hunger in the United States during your worship service and make a pledge to "do something" to help those who are unable to help themselves.

In an effort to help clergy, church staff, mission committees, and church volunteers educate their congregations about hunger, the Society of St. Andrew is providing numerous resources, including sermons, children's moments, youth skits, litanies, prayers, and other activities on our website for you to download, review, and use in your local church — free of charge.

In addition, you will also find a ready-made prayer calendar for each day in September. Using scripture, fasting, activities, hunger statistics, and prayer, this calendar is intended to get each member of your congregation engaged in the mission and important work of feeding those who are hungry.

For more information and to request these FREE resources, please contact The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director of Church Relations at 800-333-4597 or at church@endhunger.org.

During Hunger Action Month this September, follow God's word and, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor." *Deuteronomy 15: 7-11* ♦

Magic Trick

Continued from page 1

you feed hungry people at just 2¢ a serving, you make every penny count. So we make sure that our financial and staff resources are focused on feeding the hungry. In fact, 96% of our entire staff is either fully or partially involved in our food providing programs. That's a big reason why our overhead is just 7% – yet another magic trick by SoSA.

As fortune would have it, we've had a spring and summer marked by a higher than normal amount of produce available to us at the same time donations are lower. More magic could certainly have happened. Answer the call of the hungry and be part of the magic that is actually God's grace. ♦

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Prayers of Hope – Advent Devotions



Be inspired by the personal stories of our creative writers as you read through their devotions and what they hope for in Christ's coming. Through the daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers, use this book to ponder what you hope for as you welcome the Christ child into your home and life this Christmas season.

Please send me an ADVENT 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 08/09)

***“What shall I return to the
LORD for all his bounty
to me?” Psalm 116:12***

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www.endhunger.org/donate.htm**

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