Why be a volunteer?

Any number of dynamics can go into the make-up of or reasons for being a volunteer. Giving back. Helping others. Community service. Obeying God. Setting an example. Self-discovery. Self-gratification. Selflessness. The whys and wherefores are as varied as the volunteers themselves. Whatever the motivation, volunteers are an integral, even indispensable, part of organizations that reach out and help “the least of these.” Indeed, without them, the Society of St. Andrew would not be able to glean millions of pounds of fresh produce every year; would not be able to get that food delivered to critical feeding agencies; would not be able to bridge the hunger gap in this country between excess food that will go to waste and the tens of millions of people who live with food insecurity and hunger.

The following “testimonial” letter is from a young woman who lives in one of the many neighborhoods in Orlando, Florida, where people struggle to put food on the table. In it she describes her experiences of volunteering with and giving to SoSA and seeing the work and results of other volunteers among those in need. It’s a story of caring and sharing. And we offer it to you, our faithful volunteers and supporters, as a “thank you” for all that you do to help the Society of St. Andrew feed the hungry, and to encourage you to keep on helping until hunger is no more.

One young woman’s experience!

From Morgan Cook — “I live in Holden Heights in Orlando, Florida. Here I am consistently confronted with people who are hungry, whether that be the homeless people I talk to on the streets, the people who knock on my door offering to wash my car or cut my lawn to earn some money, or my neighbors who eat mostly canned products.

“Society of St. Andrew left a wonderful impression in my mind when they came to a neighborhood event with a trailer-full of corn that we distributed to eat right then and for people to take home with them. We were able to give people 8 ears of corn, and it felt so wonderful to do this at an event where we sang

Continued - see WHY VOLUNTEER? on page 5
SoSA stories from around the states

**ALABAMA**
- In preparation for the upcoming gleaning season many volunteers will be needed throughout the state to glean a variety of produce.
- The Birmingham area is in need of volunteers to work with the East Lake Farmers’ Market delivering produce boxes to low-income families by September.
- The Montgomery Area Farmers’ Market is also in need of volunteers to help provide a consistent source of food for local agencies.
- Join us for a 5k fun run at the North Alabama UMC Saturday before Easter. The white and red potatoes arrived around his strawberry plants to protect them from the cold.
- An early harvest of turnip and collard greens resulted in a big gleaning the second week of March. The turnip and collard green gleaning was a result of the farmer planting the greens everywhere in between.
- More than 2 dozen agencies in several states have received the gleaned peaches.

**MISSISSIPPI**
- Picking strawberries near Meridian – contact Jackie Usey to get involved: gleanms@endhunger.org or 601-850-4018
- Delivered apples to an underserved elementary school for students to take home and also to learn a great deal about nutrition.

**NORTH CAROLINA**
- Attended the 2010 Southern Farm Show at the state fair grounds in Raleigh.
- An early harvest of turnip and collard greens resulted in a big gleaning the second week of March. The turnip and collard green gleaning was a result of the farmer planting the greens around his strawberry plants to protect them from the cold.
- Forty-five gleaners worked three hours and picked over 2,300 lbs. of greens.

**VIRGINIA**
- Mountain View UMC in Forest hosted a potato drop the Saturday before Easter. The white and red potatoes arrived in 2,000-lb. totes and were then bagged into 10-lb. bags for 9 Virginia agencies to pickup. A total of 36,000 lbs. were distributed across the state.
- Florida experienced the coldest winter in 52 years, which resulted in the citrus ripening quickly and early – fortuitous for all those new volunteers.
- An unusually plentiful strawberry harvest this year resulted in a large strawberry gleaning with hundreds of volunteers taking to the fields to gather the excess of this nutritious crop.
- Spring break has become a popular time for gleaning in Florida. Groups from North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia took advantage of the nice weather, available crops, and satisfying activity of gleaning for the hungry.

**GEORGIA**
- Received a very generous donation of over 400,000 lbs. of dried peaches, which were bagged into zip lock bags for easy distribution by volunteers from Georgia to Missouri and everywhere in between.
- The dried peaches are a very valuable commodity as they require no refrigeration, have a long shelf life, and are high in fiber and protein.
- More than 2 dozen agencies in several states have received the gleaned peaches.

**WEST**
- Missouri state Senator Jolie Justus presented a proclamation on behalf of the Missouri General Assembly to Lisa Ousley, SoSA West director. The proclamation was in recognition of SoSA West’s efforts in providing 4.5 million lbs. of fresh produce to Harvesters Food Network in Kansas City, MO in 2009.
- In the first quarter of the year SoSA West moved over a half million pounds of produce to food banks and feeding agencies in 5 states.

**HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATES**
- David McCleary moved 194 bushels of winter storage potatoes at a drop in VA.
- Potato Drop in VA. Volunteers bag helper at the Mountain View UMC on spring break glean citrus in FL. Picking greens in NC. A little helper at the Mountain View UMC Potato Drop in VA. Volunteers bag potatoes at a drop in VA.
- Top clockwise: Volunteers old and young glean peaches in KS. A spring breaker gets it right to glean a tall grapefruit tree in FL. SoSA West director Lisa Ousley (FL) is presented with proclamation by MO senator.

A gleaning celebration took place in Winchester at Stephens City UMC. Betty Heiselman, Winchester Gleaning Network Coordinator, organized the event that brought together volunteers, agencies, and farmers.

**WORLDWIDE**
- Florida’s hungry.
- 660,000 lbs. of fresh produce gleaned and distributed to 4,818 volunteers in the first 3 months of 2010 (2,000 lbs. on June 5th. For more information contact sosaaal@endhunger.org

- Harvest of Hope — discover life through service

**SoSA Statistics at a Glance**

**Gleaning America’s Fields ~ Feeding America’s Hungry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Pounds</th>
<th>Voluntees</th>
<th>Gleaned Produce</th>
<th>Total Servings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,398,149 lbs.</td>
<td>1,919,408 lbs.</td>
<td>6,546</td>
<td>2,398,149 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,919,408 lbs.</td>
<td>6,546</td>
<td>4,317,557</td>
<td>12,952,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,398,149 lbs.</td>
<td>1,919,408 lbs.</td>
<td>4,317,557</td>
<td>12,952,671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Phase II Week**

- Washington, DC .......................... June 20-26
- Senior High Weekend
  - Exmore, VA ............................... July 4-10
  - Ashland, VA .............................. July 11-17
  - Winston-Salem, NC ........................ July 18-24
  - El Dorado Springs, MO .................... August 1-7

- Junior High Weekends
  - Exmore, VA ............................... July 24
  - Shawsville, VA ........................... July 30-August 1

- Intergenerational Weekends
  - Gaston, SC .................................. August 13-15
  - Fincastle, VA ............................... September 24-26
  - Dahlonega, GA ............................. October 15-17
  - Patrojea, PA ............................... October 22-24

- College & Young Adult Weekend
  - Keezletown, VA ............................ October 1-2

**Bottom l. to r:** College students on spring break glean citrus in FL. Picking greens in NC. A little helper at the Mountain View UMC. Potato Drop in VA. Volunteers bag potatoes at a drop in VA.

**Top clockwise:** Volunteers old and young glean peaches in KS. A spring breaker gets it right to glean a tall grapefruit tree in FL. SoSA West director Lisa Ousley (FL) is presented with proclamation by MO senator.

**Discover Life Through Service**

**Harvest of Hope — discover life through service**

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“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren ...”

The Harvest of Hope Alternative Spring Break event made this passage about life very real for me. Fifty-five extraordinary college students committed to spend a week in Orlando, FL picking produce for others in need. Some of the numerical results from the event are: 2,250 lbs. of rutabagas, carrots and beets along with 16,000 lbs. of grapefruit were picked and distributed. We sorted, boxed and shipped 34,000 lbs. of canned goods for a local food bank. To cap off the week we made 100 meals, which we distributed in a beautiful downtown park, a local hang out spot for many homeless individuals.

Though numbers are important they only tell a fraction of the life-giving story. Typically it would have taken the food bank a month to box and move the amount of canned goods we handled in a day. Derrick, volunteer coordinator for the food bank, was filled with life as he watched the students’ incredible energy level and joy while they worked so hard. I saw life in the eyes of the farmer as he shared his story while we picked his rutabagas. As the college students spent time talking with the homeless in the park I saw sparks of life as relationships were formed. The homeless stopped being an abstract statistic and became real people with real lives to share.

This Harvest of Hope group brought life to many people through their generous and helping actions. Yet, it was our lives that received the most. There is life to be found in helping others, as we pour out our lives we find that we receive more then we ever give. One of the young ladies on the trip brought life to me when she wrote, “It has been a great enlightening experience. On the last day, sitting in the park with Edgar (homeless gentleman), I think I found a new kind of faith that I never thought I would experience in my life. Thanks for opening me up to a spiritual reality that I wouldn’t have seen if I didn’t come.”

As we spent a week in Florida serving others we found life everywhere — and God must have loved it! 1 John 3:18.

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VBS Mission Project

“Out Of This World” vacation bible school mission project is designed to supplement your own church’s VBS program and can be easily adapted to any theme. Daily activity sheets for all ages contain short scripturally based stories, facts about hunger and SoSA’s ministry, potato trivia, “go green” facts, and pencil activities. Each day your VBS students will be sent on a mission activity which will put them on the front lines of learning the importance of the healthy-eating revolution, sharing with others, caring for God’s creation, and how they can use their hands to help God’s hungry children.

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 to end up on the plates of hungry Americans. At a nickel a pound, that’s a goal of $50. Make your goal out-of-this-world – some pastors have been good sports and promised to eat a worm, shave their legs, get pied in the face, or live on top of the church if their students exceeded their goal. Why not see if your pastor is willing to do something out-of-this-world crazy and challenge the students to reach high.

The money donated by your VBS will help to feed the hungry through SoSA. The fresh produce that SoSA saves is delivered to feeding agencies across the land at a cost 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 nearly 200 churches used SoSA’s VBS program. VBS kids enthusiastically answered Jesus’ call to feed the hungry by donating over $24,000 – enough to provide more than 1 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 there is no obligation. Order materials: online at www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm; or call 800-333-4597; or email church@endhunger.org. If your materials do not arrive within two weeks of ordering, please call our office.

Donations to SoSA in recent months:

IN HONOR OF - Eleanor Weston Brown ... Rev. Robert T. Casey ... Eva Curtis ... Susan B. Custer ... Zoe Grace Dillon ... Julie Eckerlin ... Mrs. Judy Erps ... John Geer ... Jim Hassmer ... Glynis Hopkins ... Steve Kowalsky ... Baird Lewis ... Ralph Lewis ... Maudelle Martin ... Matt Miller ... Reg Roberts ... Lee Ann Schmidt & Brandon Robbins ... Sandy H. Tilley ... Barbara Waldmann Ward ... Jack Weston ... Don Yelton

IN MEMORY OF - Dorothy & Robert B. Andrews ... Mary B. Barnes ... Alma Blank ... Wallace Cundiff ... Bud “the Spud” Curtis ... “Ernie” ... Mavis Garris ... Thomas L. Hansen ... Lynda Driver Hewitt ... Roscoe J. Jamison ... Wallace Jennings ... Harry Harley Jones ... Olive Karch ... Garland Keeler ... Dr. Henry Larzelere ... Audrey Levy ... Verona Draper Lipford ... Bill McDonald ... Rev. Jack H. Pettyjohn ... Audrey Powers ... Jimmy Powers ... Sophie Suthard ... Bill Swan ... Dan Simmons ... Robert D. Troll, Sr. ... Rex White

SoSA is a top-rated food and shelter nonprofit

GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user-generated ratings and reviews of nonprofits, announced Society of St. Andrew was one of the top-rated charities in their first ever Food and Shelter Awards. The reviews and ratings were provided by those who have actually experienced the work of the charities. SoSA is one of the top five charities with a 5-star rating by our volunteers and donors. Thank you!

All reviews by SoSA volunteers and donors can be seen at www.greatnonprofits.org/foodandsHELTER/ or at SoSA’s listing on GuideStar.org, the premiere source for donor research on nonprofits, or by clicking on the GreatNonprofits “badge” on SoSA’s home page at www.endhunger.org. You can also write a review of your experience with SoSA at GreatNonprofits.

Here is what some of our volunteers and donors had to say

Diana Hatzenbuehler, Kansas City, MO – “I learned about the Society of St. Andrew and their efforts through my volunteer work with Harvesters (food bank) in Kansas City, MO. Working with (the SoSA staff) and the other volunteers gleaning beautiful vegetables and fruits was not only a lot of fun but something to brag about to my friends and family. Driving to the country on a sunny autumn morning with a group of people out to have fun and glean truckloads of food for families in need is a beautiful thing and I cannot wait for next season. I’m sure many were grateful for the perfect pumpkins and the plump tomatoes and everything else we gleaned this season at the Amish farms and the backyards of churches! I’m proud to say I was a part of that.”

R. L. Icard, Executive Director, Foothills Service Project – “Working with the Society of St. Andrew has made it possible for us to provide tons (literally) of food for those who are hungry. I am thankful to partner with them to spread the joy.

Jamie Sellers, Rosman, NC – “I participated in the gleaning of veggies and fruits when they were made available from April ’09-November ’09. I can’t begin to recount how many hungry and hurting people benefitted from the distribution. The Lord knows how many saw the face of Jesus through these giveaways. I will always make myself available to help and see that the produce offered does not go to waste. Thank you for your organization.”

IN MEMORY OF - Dorothy & Robert B. Andrews ... Mary B. Barnes ... Alma Blank ... Wallace Cundiff ... Bud “the Spud” Curtis ... “Ernie” ... Mavis Garris ... Thomas L. Hansen ... Lynda Driver Hewitt ... Roscoe J. Jamison ... Wallace Jennings ... Harry Harley Jones ... Olive Karch ... Garland Keeler ... Dr. Henry Larzelere ... Audrey Levy ... Verona Draper Lipford ... Bill McDonald ... Rev. Jack H. Pettyjohn ... Audrey Powers ... Jimmy Powers ... Sophie Suthard ... Bill Swan ... Dan Simmons ... Robert D. Troll, Sr. ... Rex White
God’s praises in the park. I was moved by SoSA again when I volunteered in gleaning last spring (5/9/09), picking corn. I was amazed at the amount of corn we picked. And it was neat to have the farmer teach us about the nature of corn. Many of my friends, who also live in Holden Heights, have volunteered and had just as wonderful experiences.

“In October I received an email from SoSA about the Advent devotionals and was moved to action. I know that SoSA benefits people that are in need of fresh food — the very people whose hunger I am confronted with. Having been a part of the organization “Dribble the World,” I knew that dribbling a race was a way that I could benefit SoSA and help feed the hungry around me. I knew that it would be an act of sacrifice (I am not a basketball player or runner, so it took a lot of practice), but a sacrifice that would change me and help others.

“On December 12, 2009, I dribbled a basketball while running the 5k Reindeer Run through Maitland. I dribbled the 3.1 miles with my roommate, spreading awareness of SoSA as we went. Check out the website www.dribbletheworld.com to see my race experience. I am so grateful that God has given me a way to feed those around me, and a way to raise more for you guys than I could have given myself.

“Thank you for all that you do to feed the people here in central Florida. Through meeting people’s physical needs you help to spread the gospel and help people know that God loves them and is a provider. I am amazed by SoSA and am so glad that I get to be part of what you guys are doing!” ◊

**Hunger Action Month**

Plan now to observe National Hunger Action Month in September. Here are some things you can do to observe the day:

♦ Fast and pray each Wednesday at lunchtime during the month of September to remember those who don’t have enough to eat. The money you save can be donated to SoSA.

♦ Design a worship service focused on hunger and the Biblical imperatives to do something about it. SoSA has free resources to help.

♦ Volunteer with a hunger-relief agency. SoSA coordinates gleaning events in many locations.

♦ Give an offering to SoSA, out of thankfulness for your blessings and concern for America’s hungry.

♦ Educate your congregation about hunger. SoSA offers a 12-week adult Bible study entitled, *The Fast That I Choose*. Society of St. Andrew is a National Hunger Action Month supporting organization. For more information or to obtain Hunger Action Month resources, go to our website at www.endhunger.org, call 800-333-4597, or email church@endhunger.org. ◊

**Potato & Produce Project**

**BY MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR**

The *Potato & Produce Project* has been busy this spring providing seed potatoes to areas in need of fresh produce and have the means to grow food for their communities. We have shipped over 450,000 lbs. of seed potatoes to Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia. The seed potatoes were distributed to hundreds of families, food banks, churches and other charities that feed the hungry and have access to land to grow the potatoes. All of these plantings can amount to over 3.5 million pounds of potatoes that will help many people have access to good nutritious produce. ◊

**These charts tell the story of how SoSA’s ministry stepped out on faith and did more in 2009 while others were doing less**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of food saved &amp; distributed</td>
<td>20,226,741</td>
<td>23,463,924</td>
<td>26,526,088</td>
<td>+13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce growers/food sources</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>+66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies receiving food</td>
<td>1,906</td>
<td>1,989</td>
<td>3,417</td>
<td>+72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>27,772</td>
<td>31,712</td>
<td>34,624</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gleaning &amp; potato project events</td>
<td>2,692</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>4,062</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What's inside?

- Why be a volunteer? 1
- From the Sheep Shed 1
- News across the nation 2
- HOHers discover “life” 3
- SoSA top-rated by volunteers 4
- Out Of This World VBS 4
- Seed potatoes provided 5
- Hunger Action Month 5

Out Of This World VBS Mission Project

Out Of This World is designed to supplement your church’s VBS program. It can be easily adapted to any VBS theme. To obtain a VBS kit, call 800-333-4597, email church@endhunger.org, or go online to http://www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm. All materials are free.

4.4% overhead means we make your donation go even further.

Donate now — www.endhunger.org/donate.htm

Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew

Please send my FREE VBS 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