



# Society of St. Andrew REPORT



VOLUME 26

NUMBER 2

SPRING 2010

**GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY**

## 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

## From the Sheep Shed

By **KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS**



It has occurred to me that many of our readers may not know the significance of the Sheep Shed. It's not just a quaint vestige of SoSA's past but rather a living symbol of the SoSA ethos that explains why SoSA partners remain so dedicated. SoSA followers of 10 or more years will most likely recall what the Sheep Shed is all about.

You see, when we initially started saving and distributing fresh produce some 30 years ago we were doing it out of the kitchen in the home where our two founding families lived. We soon out grew that and needed a better space from which to operate. We didn't want to spend money on office space (not that we had money for that purpose), so our eyes fell upon the sheep shed that was then occupied by some of God's warmest but dumbest creatures. The sheep were invited to leave the premises and, with the addition of a couple of electrical and phone lines, we had some new "upscale" space. Plumbing would come years later.

Although we outgrew the Sheep Shed in 1990, that character of good stewardship remains the essential component of everything we do. That is why our overhead costs are just 4.4 % (see chart on page five) and why we focus all our resources on feeding the hungry. It is also a big part of why SoSA is a ministry in which our tens of thousands of volunteers and partners truly believe.

A recently released study pointed out that our tough economic times resulted in a decrease of volunteering in America. Yet SoSA experienced a 9% increase in volunteers, over 34,600 volunteers last year! That same study showed that over 94% of respondents said it was important to be able to "believe in" the ministry or program they support. SoSA ranks at the top of the charts in that category.

The article to the left of this space is a perfect example of why we have over 34,000 volunteers and why each of our donors and volunteers "believe in" this amazing ministry. It is a compelling and unique story, a true story that is duplicated in a thousand unique and equally compelling ways each year. I hope you'll take time to read it, to savor it, and to grasp its full implications.

From our humble beginnings in the Sheep Shed to being the leading organization of its kind in the nation, SoSA remains a ministry of feeding the hungry by people who live their faith. ♦

## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-March 2010

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

➤ Gleaned Produce	2,398,149 lbs.	▲ 10.4%
➤ Potato Project	1,919,408 lbs.	▼ 26%
➤ Events	399	▼ 8%
➤ Volunteers	6,546	▼ 24%
➤ Total Pounds	4,317,557	▼ 9.4%
➤ Total Servings	12,952,671	▼ 9.4%

## 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 seniors from June to September.
- The Montgomery Area Farmers' Market is also in need of volunteers to help provide a consistent source of food to local agencies.
- Join us for a 5k fun run at the North Alabama UMC Annual Conference at Clearbranch UMC in Argo, AL on June 5th. For more information contact [sosaal@endhunger.org](mailto:sosaal@endhunger.org).

### FLORIDA

- 4,818 volunteers in the first 3 months of 2010 (2,000 more than the same time last year).
- 660,000 lbs. of fresh produce gleaned and distributed to Florida's hungry.
- Partnership with Disney's Give a Day Get a Day – a promotional offer that allowed participants who volunteered a day with a qualifying organization to get a free one-day pass to a Disney park – introduced over a thousand new volunteers to the good work of the Society of St. Andrew.

- 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 peas, which were bagged into zip lock bags for easy distribution by volunteers from Georgia to Missouri and everywhere in between.
- The dried peas 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 dried peas.

### MISSISSIPPI

- Picking strawberries near Meridian – contact Jackie Usey to get involved: [gleanms@endhunger.org](mailto: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.

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

### 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 apples from a warehouse owned by Doud Orchards to 16 feeding agencies throughout Indiana. ♦



**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 a lift to glean a tall grapefruit tree in FL. SoSA West director Lisa Ousley (r.) is presented with proclamation by MO senator.

# Harvest of Hope – discover life through service

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

“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 than 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! I John 3:14. ♦

### Phase II Week

Washington, DC ..... June 20-26

### Senior High Weeks

Exmore, VA ..... July 4-10

Ashland, VA ..... July 11-17

Wilmington, NC ..... July 18-24

El Dorado Springs, MO ..... August 1-7

### Junior High Weekends

Exmore, VA ..... July 2-4

Shawsville, VA ..... July 30-August 1

### Intergenerational Weekends

Gaston, SC ..... August 13-15

Fincastle, VA ..... September 24-26

Dahlonega, GA ..... October 15-17

Palmyra, PA ..... October 22-24

### College & Young Adult Weekend

Keezletown, VA ..... October 1-2



## VBS Mission Project

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE  
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

“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 pried 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](http://www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm); or call 800-333-4597; or email [church@endhunger.org](mailto: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/](http://www.greatnonprofits.org/foodandshelter/) or at SoSA’s listing on [GuideStar.org](http://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](http://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.” ♦

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](http://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!"

# Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

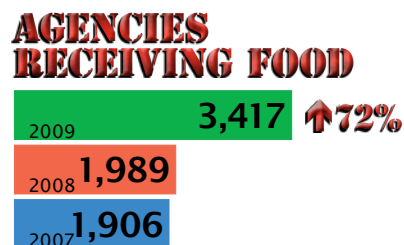
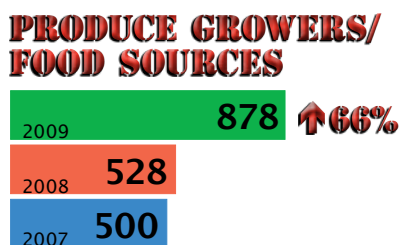
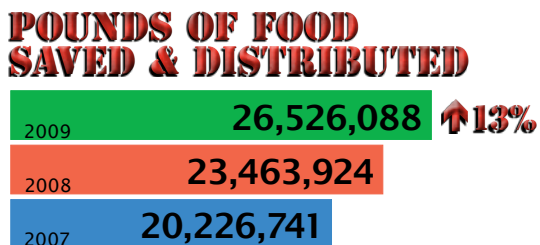
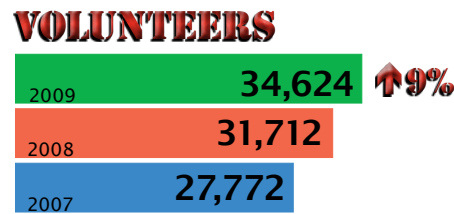
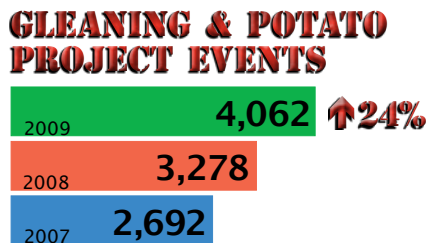
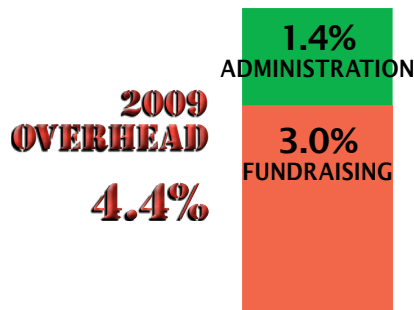
The *Potato & Produce Project* has been busy this spring providing seed potatoes to areas in need of fresh produce and have the means to grow food for their communities. We have shipped over 450,000 lbs. of seed potatoes to Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia. The seed potatoes were 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. ♦

## 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](http://www.endhunger.org), call 800-333-4597, or email [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org). ♦

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



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



NON-PROFIT  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 BEDFORD, VA  
 PERMIT NO. 3

# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

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.

**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**

(NL 05/10)

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

**Donate now —  
[www.endhunger.org/donate.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/donate.htm)**

\$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 05/10)