



Society of St. Andrew REPORT



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GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SoSA plants the seed so that more are fed

The following story comes to us from a former *Harvest of Hope* participant, Alissa Watkins, who was inspired through her experience with the Society of St. Andrew to start a gleaning ministry in Washington state.

From Alissa Watkins — “Several years ago, I attended a *Harvest of Hope* weekend

event on the Eastern Shore of Virginia with eight junior high students from our church in Chester, VA. Little did I know that the weekend would lead me into a new calling. During the event, we learned so much about hunger in our world and local communities. The Bible studies, gleaning experience, videos, and hunger awareness meal – all of it left a powerful impact on our kids and myself. I



A Fields of Grace gleaner loading corn into a travel-bin

remember how empowered our kids felt when they helped glean over 17,000 pounds of potatoes. How awesome it was to make a difference to hungry families who would receive those potatoes!

In June 2005, my family and I moved from Virginia to the eastern part of Washington state. I was amazed to find so much agriculture here and felt sure there had to be a gleaning organization in the area. I called SoSA to find out how I might find an organization and they suggested I call the local branch of Feeding America. When I called, the director said that they had been looking and even praying for someone to spearhead a gleaning ministry here in



A happy carrot gleaner in WA

From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



It seems there are a thousand reasons to despair these days. Massive and persistent unemployment, a sluggish stock market, a war that seems to have no end and no solution, severe weather extremes winter and summer, and oil in the Gulf of Mexico. It's enough to make you want to just skip the evening news altogether. Which brings me to the point of this little piece. The unreported good things that happen in this country are both more encouraging and more significant than all the over-reported bad things.

The incredible skill and bravery of our military in very difficult circumstances is a testimony to the character and strength of us all. The response of our fellow citizens at times when the elements put their neighbors in peril is truly inspiring. The outpouring of volunteer help offered to the residents of the gulf coast has been so large that not all the volunteers can be utilized. The stories of neighbor helping neighbor in hard times would, and probably should, fill an encyclopedia. Some of those stories you will find in the pages of this newsletter. As you read them you will come to see that several unreported facts are true.

You will see, as we have seen through your unwavering support of our ministry, that even in the worst of economic times, when presented with a challenge that threatens our neighbors, we respond with overwhelming compassion. We do this as a people for two reasons.

We care what happens to our neighbors, whether they live across the street or across the country. And because we care, we have to act.

We are blessed to live in a country where most of us are able to come to the aid of our neighbors, near and far. And because we can, we must.

Your support of our efforts to come to the aid of our common neighbors has been inspirational. I believe that working together there is no challenge too big, no need too great, no problem too complex for the American people. We are proud to be part of the unreported solution to hunger in America. We are proud and humbled to have you as a partner in this important work. And we pledge to persevere until all of our fellow citizens, especially the children, go to bed each night well fed. ♦

Continued - see SOSA PLANTS SEED on page 5

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-July 2010

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:

➤ Gleaned Produce	7,854,984 lbs	▲ 26.3%
➤ Potato & Produce Project	3,385,947 lbs	▼ 32.3%
➤ Events	1,210	▼ 0.6%
➤ Volunteers	11,836	▼ 17.2%
➤ Total Pounds	11,240,931	▲ 0.2%
➤ Total Servings	33,722,793	▲ 0.2%

SoSA stories from around the states

ALABAMA

- The gleaning season in Alabama is in full-swing. There are many opportunities to glean a variety of produce throughout the state. There is a particular need for volunteers on Saturdays in the Birmingham area to work with the East Lake Farmers' Market packing and delivering boxes of produce to low income seniors.
- The Montgomery Area Farmers' Market welcomes volunteers to pick up a variety of produce and baked goods to provide a consistent source of nutritious food for local agencies. If interested, contact Teresa Jane Seevers at teresajane@bellsouth.net.
- The 5K/1 mile Fun Walk at the North Alabama United Methodist Annual Conference was a great success. \$3,500 was raised for several missions including SoSA. Next year's event will be held in Madison, AL in June – watch for more information in this newsletter or contact Rachel Gonia at sosaal@endhunger.org.

FLORIDA

- Blueberry, strawberry, and cantaloupe gleaning events kept the Florida Gleaning Network volunteers busy in May and June, as five new farmers partnered with us to eliminate waste and

provide food for the hungry.

- Volunteers are currently picking watermelon in the Floral City area. Call the Florida office at 407-650-1956 and speak to Amanda Rich about gleaning in Florida.
- The Fall gleaning season is just around the corner: we begin in October gleaning sweet corn in Central Florida and the citrus season begins across the state in November. Plan now to gather your group for gleaning the fields and groves to feed the hungry.

GEORGIA

- Despite weather adversities, Georgia farmers have been generous and donated over 823,000 lbs. of produce that would have otherwise gone to waste.
- Groups from Buena Vista, Moultrie, Columbus, Brooks County, and Thomas County braved the high temperatures to glean the fields and bag produce. It was a moving and inspirational month!
- If you would like to be part of the Georgia Gleaning Network, please contact Janet Sheldon at gleanga@endhunger.org or call 229-386-5800.

MISSISSIPPI

- The Mississippi Gleaning Network had a very busy start to the gleaning season. So far this year we have already saved nearly a million lbs. of various produce that has gone out to numerous feeding agencies. Thanks to our farmers and hard working volunteers!
- We are so proud of all of our volunteers and would like to give a special thanks to Leonard Blanton and Jim Sibley for their unending efforts to help us glean all the produce possible from our generous farmers.
- Watermelon gleaning is starting in Port Gibson, MS and squash and okra are also available across the state.
- We can always use volunteer help so please contact Jackie Usey at gleanms@endhunger.org or 769-233-0887 for more information on getting involved.



NORTH CAROLINA

- The 2010 Lott Carey Youth Seminar participants set an all-time record for gleaning the most corn in the shortest amount of time – over 52,000 lbs. in 2.5 hours! Each of the three teams of young adults worked diligently to outperform the others and glean the most corn.
- Our partnership with Farmer FoodShare, a volunteer and farmer-led community giving program at farmers' markets, has been quite successful. Both of our organizations have benefited from this great partnership. Keep an eye out for the Farmer FoodShare booth at your local NC farmers' market and help SoSA support them and your local farmers.
- Mark your calendars for the 20th annual Yam Jam on Saturday, October 9th. Contact Kate Pattison at sosanc@endhunger.org for more information.

VIRGINIA

- The gleaning season has started in Virginia. Broccoli, cauliflower, beets, squash, and zucchini have been gleaned in the Tidewater area. Green beans, sweet corn, and blueberries are right behind.
- Thanks to employees of Genworth Financial and Genworth Foundation in Lynchburg, VA for purchasing and cutting over 7,000 bags in two days during the Genworth Month of Service. The bags will be filled with apples from Bedford, VA to feed the hungry in that area.
- As summer continues, let us be in prayer for the farmers and orchardists who share their bounty with those who are hungry. As always, everyone is welcome to glean with us. Contact Sarah Ramey at vaglean@endhunger.org or 800-333-4597 for more information.

WEST

- In the first half of 2010, SoSA West moved over a million pounds of produce to food banks and feeding agencies in 5 states.
- SoSA West is working with volunteers in Minnesota, Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, and western Kansas to establish new gleaning operations.
- Gleaning has begun in the Midwest. A wet spring made for a slow start, but SoSA West gleaners have already picked greens, lettuce, zucchini, cucumbers, and strawberries. ♦

Bottom l. to r.: Potatoes were provided to area food banks every week in May by Malta UMC in OH as part of their "Potatopalooza." Unloading red cabbage in GA. Gleaning potatoes on the Eastern Shore of VA.

Harvest of Hope summer events underway

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

Brain and Tyler are practicing "I shall call upon the Lord" and in the background others are debating if we should sing the "butterfly" song. The sound of pots and pans from the kitchen let me know that preparations for the Hunger Awareness Meal are well underway. Some might



Worship at the Eastern Shore high school event

look around and conclude that this room is chaos, but in reality it is free time during the Eastern Shore Harvest of Hope event. Sixty high school students have gathered together to

learn about hunger and do something tangible about it.

The group had the opportunity to meet a wonderful farmer named David Long who has shown such radical generosity, allowing us to harvest nearly 20,000 lbs. of potatoes.

When you combine farmers like Mr. Long with hospitable churches (feeding us lunch) and youth willing to sacrifice their time and energy to gather food for the hungry — you have something incredible. *Harvest of Hope* is truly a special time for those involved in it.

We are joined this year by our summer intern, Annie Blewett. Annie recently graduated from James Madison University with a degree in Media Arts & Design. After being involved with the event planning on her college campus, she was looking to find comparable professional experience with a non-profit. SoSA seemed like a perfect fit! Originally from Bel Air, MD, Annie is passionate about eating local and sustainable and is looking forward to the many new and exciting experiences this summer will bring. In the fall, Annie will be moving to Spain for 10 months to teach English. ♦



Annie Blewett

Intergenerational Weekends

Gaston, SC	August 13-15
Fincastle, VA	September 24-26
Dahlgone, GA	October 15-17
Palmyra, PA	October 22-24

College & Young Adult Weekend

Keezletown, VA	October 1-2
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Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato & Produce Project* saved and distributed 1.3 million lbs. of produce from April through June of this year.

Cabbage out of Florida and Georgia were delivered into Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. White potatoes out of Wisconsin and Maine were delivered to Illinois, Indiana, Maine, North Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Loads of seed potatoes were delivered into the northern part of New York, Ohio, and Virginia. Watermelons coming out of Florida were distributed by the *Potato & Produce Project* in Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia and by SoSA's Regional Gleaning Networks in 7 other states.

Folks have been extremely excited over receiving watermelons in this summer heat. The melons are a real treat and a nutritious product for many who cannot afford fresh fruits. ♦



Getting married?



Oftentimes, SoSA supporters include us on their special day by bringing attention to our ministry and asking for gifts for others rather than themselves. Recently we heard from two couples who celebrated their wedding day in just such a selfless way. One couple asked their guests to make a donation to SoSA in lieu of gifts, while the other couple handed out potato pin favors and information about our hunger ministry. For more information on these and other alternative gift ideas contact the Society of St. Andrew. ♦

Watermelons, Watermelons, just in time for summer ...

Recently, the Society of St. Andrew was blessed by a very generous produce donation from Long & Scott Farms in Florida. We saved 560 tons of watermelon that were unable to be sold due to market forces. We distributed 28 tractor-trailer loads to agencies in 10 states as far west as MO and as far north as NY. The following is a quote from Anna Sciarrino of Long & Scott Farms about why they are happy to donate excess crops for the hungry.

"A while back we had a truck driver on the dock who was delayed all day. Usually, they get pretty grumpy, but this fellow was as cheerful as can be. I thanked him for being so patient and asked him how he kept such a good attitude. He said to me, 'I'm hauling food - that is God's work. You grow food - that is also God's work. We should never forget this.' I took his words to heart because, after all is said and done, that is what we are here for. It is gratifying to us to see this food distributed and in the spirit of that truck driver, I'd say we are pretty lucky to be of such service." ♦



Loading watermelons in a walk-in cooler at a food bank in Lovington, VA.

Donations to SoSA in recent months:

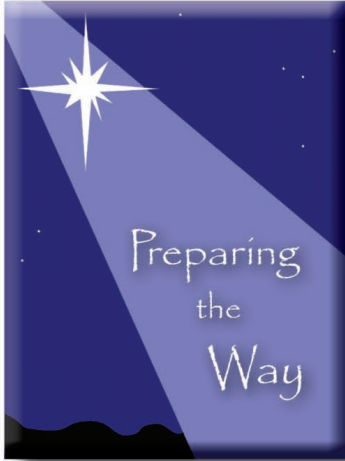
IN HONOR OF - Timothy W. Canty ... Mr. & Mrs. James Hewitt ... Frank Jonte ... Lorraine Leftwich ... Jerry Lipscomb ... Colleen Meiser ... Brandon & Lee Ann Robbins ... Southern Hand Therapy's new office

IN MEMORY OF - Mary Beckett ... Ginny Chandler ... Mavis Garris ... Mrs. Mary Guernsey ... Zack Jones ... Evine King ... Marcella Lemke ... A. Walton Miles ... Mrs. Geraldine M. Scott ... Elizabeth Sedler ... Charles H. Silco ... Martha Walker ♦

Preparing the Way — Advent Devotion Book

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR, CHURCH RELATIONS

Throughout his ministry, John the Baptizer prepared the way for Jesus' coming. This year, the Society of St. Andrew's Advent devotion booklet is based on Matthew 3:2-3 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The



voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!'"

As we know, the season of Advent is about the broader sense of the coming of Christ. Be inspired by the personal stories of our writers as you discover through their devotions how, in the midst of the secular world's version of Christmas, our authors prepare the way for Jesus

as represented in His birth, in our lives, and the coming of Christ again in glory.

All devotion materials are FREE. Use the back page order coupon to get your Advent devotions packet or church starter kit and begin thinking about the many different ways you might prepare the way for Christ to enter into your life this Advent season. ♦

SOSA PLANTS SEED

Continued from page 1

eastern Washington. After that phone call, I knew in my heart that this was God's purpose in calling me to Washington.

It didn't take long for Fields of Grace to fall into place. SoSA provided wonderful materials that helped us organize a gleaning ministry in partnership with a local church. Since 2006, we have trained over 700 gleaning volunteers, provided over 700,000 individual servings of fresh, locally grown produce for our area food banks, and are operating as a 501(c)(3) organization.

SoSA provided the seed through *Harvest of Hope* that is now blessing folks in eastern Washington. I am so thankful for SoSA's guidance, support, and continued interest in Fields of Grace. Not only are we feeding hungry families, but we truly are feeding hope!"

For more information about Fields of Grace check out their website — www.fields-of-grace.com. ♦



Alissa Watkins

New faces at SoSA

The Society of St. Andrew welcomes Amanda Rich to the Florida office as the new Program Coordinator. Amanda comes to us from Virginia where she has been volunteering with SoSA for a couple of years. Amanda's gifts include her enormous passion for the hungry and her desire to "end hunger in my lifetime". We are delighted to have her join the Florida team! ♦



Hunger Action Month

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR, CHURCH RELATIONS

"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Luke 3:11 These words of Jesus are a simple reminder to us that those who have been so richly blessed are required to extend their hands and hearts to those who are without.

Last year, about 47 million of our brothers and sisters went hungry while 96 billion pounds of food went to waste. You don't have to be a mathematician to see by these numbers that God has provided way more good, nutritious food than is needed to feed every hungry man, woman, and child in the United States.

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

The Society of St. Andrew has numerous FREE resources including sermons, children's moments, youth skits, litanies, prayers, and other activities to use in your local church. Also available is a prayer calendar for each day in September that uses scripture, fasting, activities, hunger statistics, and prayer as part of each day's devotion. This calendar is intended to get each member of your congregation engaged in the important work of feeding our hungry brothers and sisters. All of these resources are free and can easily be downloaded from our website at www.endhunger.org.

For more information or additional sample sermons and 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 remember our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. *"Let us love not only in words, but in deed and in truth."* 1 John 3:18 ♦

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Preparing the Way — Advent Devotions



Preparing the Way includes daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers. To obtain a free sample church packet or personal packet of our Advent devotion and giving program, please call 800-333-4597, email church@endhunger.org, or go online to <http://www.endhunger.org/advent.htm>.

Please send my FREE Advent starter kit today!

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