



Society of St. Andrew REPORT



VOLUME 26

NUMBER 4

AUTUMN 2010

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SoSA expands to save more food

All through the recession most nonprofits have cut program activity to weather the financial storm. Society of St. Andrew, however, has continued to do more to help meet the needs of the growing number of Americans in need of food.

So far this year the Gleaning Network has increased by 28%! That is an amazing achievement. We continue to enlist the support of dozens of new farmers and growers who open their fields to our tens of thousands of volunteers to simply pick the good food left behind after harvest. So far this year Society of St. Andrew has saved and distributed over 22 million pounds of food, and we still have three months to go.

We are also very pleased to report that we have expanded this successful ministry into the state of Tennessee. In July we opened a new office in Nashville that will establish and conduct a statewide gleaning network to feed the hungry in the Volunteer State. Office space was generously provided by Inglewood United Methodist Church, which will help keep our operating cost down and enable us to focus our resources on feeding the hungry. The Nashville office of Society of St. Andrew will save millions of pounds of highly nutritious fresh produce and distribute it to vital feeding agencies throughout the state. This is food that was not previously available to feeding programs so it represents a huge boost in the amount of food going to those living in poverty in Tennessee. Already in just the first couple months we have saved and distributed over 126,000 pounds of food which is a wonderful start.

Society of St. Andrew's success continues to grow even in these tough economic times. You, gentle reader, have been an important part of that success by being part of this amazing ministry. ♦

From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



The deer that frequent my yard have changed color from tan to grey. They do that every year in the fall. It makes them harder to see in the woods after the greenery is gone, as it soon will be. It's comforting to know that life does in fact go on naturally for most of creation in spite of all the difficulties that humans engender, and bemoan, with reference to our own lives. There are days, and this is one, when I think we could learn a thing or two from the deer.

They don't compete for food. When there's plenty, they all eat their fill. When there's not enough, they all eat their share. They have adopted this way of eating because it keeps the herd as strong as it can be given the resources at hand. We humans, on the other hand, seem to think that some are entitled to abundance (those with lots of bucks, pun intended) while others are destined to go hungry (due to a lack of the aforementioned bucks). Apart from the obvious fact that this practice departs radically from our best and most moral instincts (traits that the deer neither possess nor require) it also weakens us in ways that are hardly calculable. You'd think we'd figure this out eventually.

The deer are not picky about their food. When the apples are gone, they move on to the acorns. When the acorns are gone they browse on whatever is available until spring comes again. No food is rejected, nothing is wasted. We humans, on the other hand are very picky, when we can afford to be, and tend to be extremely wasteful as well. Again, you'd think we could figure this out at least as well as your average deer.

With the poverty rate at a modern high and hunger stalking more people now than at any time in the recent past, apparently we still haven't got the sense that God gave the deer. Well, some of us do. The good folks at the Society of St. Andrew are busy providing food for those who have none by salvaging vegetables that would otherwise go to waste, as they have been doing for years. In fact, more and more of us humans are catching on. When we started SoSA we were pretty much the whole show as far as the salvage of fresh vegetables was concerned. Now there are many more produce salvage programs and ministries than I have room to mention here!

And then there's you. You are reading this newsletter, which proves that you care about hungry people, and you don't care for food waste. In the pages of this little newsletter you will see how we're salvaging food and feeding people around the country. You will also see ways you can be involved in this effort. When you do, take advantage of the opportunity. You can help us create a world where no one goes hungry. And that's the way it should be, naturally. ♦

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-October 2010

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:

➤ Gleaned Produce	13,119,599 lbs ▲	28.3%
➤ Potato & Produce Project	7,593,551 lbs ▼	8.8%
➤ Events	2,259 ▼	5.1%
➤ Volunteers	17,406 ▼	20.0%
➤ Total Pounds	20,713,150 ▲	11.6%
➤ Total Servings	62,139,450 ▲	11.6%

SoSA stories from around the states

ALABAMA

- The Gleaning Season is winding down, but there are still opportunities to glean a variety of produce which will be available throughout the state. We are particularly in need of volunteers for the first week of November!
- Pumpkin Pickin' time! Once Halloween is over, many pumpkins are left in the fields. Volunteers—especially those with pickup trucks—are needed to help us glean the left over pumpkins which can be used for food not just jack-o'-lanterns!
- Montgomery Area Farmers' Market volunteers have continued to pick up produce and baked goods from various locations in Montgomery. NEW volunteers are always welcome to participate in this ministry of providing a consistent source of food to local agencies. If interested, contact Teresa Jane Seevers at teresajane@bellsouth.net

FLORIDA

- Although August is usually a slow gleaning time in FL, we were able to save sweet nutritious watermelon on a weekly basis throughout the summer for area feeding agencies thanks to Global Produce in Lake Wales.
- On one hot July morning, a Lutheran group gathered 45,000 pounds of potatoes for the We Care Food Pantry in Citrus County. The potatoes were distributed directly to families as they picked up their groceries.
- North FL Gleaning Coordinator, Sandi Newman, works with the Univ. of FL Potato Research Facility to salvage their often very colorful varieties



Colorful potatoes in FL

of potatoes. The facility tests established and new varieties of potatoes to see which ones grow well in particular areas and which varieties to recommend to farmers for specific markets. SoSA volunteers actually participate with the



Saving sweet potatoes in MS

university in research projects like condition of potatoes when sliced/fried and used in a variety of recipes. Sometimes 20-30 varieties of these "test potatoes" are donated to SoSA for distribution to the hungry.

- Volunteers are needed for gleaning in a variety of locations around the state now and the beginning of the year will bring 4 big citrus drives in various locations. Contact the FL office, 407-650-1956 or fl-gleaning@endhunger.org for more information.
- Society of St. Andrew sends heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the Joel Hunter family at the death of little Ava Hunter (5). The Hunters and their churches (Northland and Summit in Orlando, FL) are faithful volunteers with SoSA, little Ava will be greatly missed by all whose lives she touched.

GEORGIA

- Apples! Apples! Apples! There are apples ready to be picked in north Georgia. If you are interested in gleaning apples with us, please email us at gleanga@endhunger.org for more information.

MISSISSIPPI

- Weather mercies graced the MS and AR produce growers this year. In the month of July alone we were able to glean and salvage almost one million pounds of sweet corn, squash, potatoes and watermelons. As of this writing, your MS Gleaning Network has moved over 2.25 million pounds of wonderful produce to our hungry neighbors. Thanks to our farmers and hard working volunteers who have made it all possible.
- Our sweet potato farmers have started picking and it looks like they are going to have a very good year. This will give us lots of opportunities for our volunteers to glean in over a dozen fields in the Vardaman, MS area. Potatoes should be available for us to glean until the first hard freeze, so don't hesitate to call Jackie Usey at 769-233-0887.
- This has been a great year for the SoSA Mississippi office and it could not have happened without the generous farmers we have on board and the volunteers that gave their time and effort to help in our fight to end hunger. If you are interested in volunteering with us or would

like for us to come speak at your church or function, please contact Bob Fritchey (sosams@endhunger.org) at 601-850-4018 or Jackie Usey (gleanms@endhunger.org) at 769-233-0887.

NORTH CAROLINA

- We are grateful to the churches across the Carolinas that participated in Feed Your Neighbor Sunday. Congregation members participated in worship centered on hunger issues, brought fresh fruit and vegetables to church, and delivered the produce to local feeding agencies. Congratulations to St. James UMC in Raleigh for collecting the most produce (286 pounds)! Anna Overton, age 10, from St. James, submitted the winning drawing in our art contest! All of the Feed Your Neighbor Sunday artwork will be used as the background for certificates for awards and acknowledgements from the Society of St. Andrew-Carolinas over the coming year.



A tiny citrus gleaner in FL

- Grace Covenant Community Garden in Asheville, NC is partnering with local farmers and the Society of St. Andrew to grow cabbage for area food pantries and Gulf Coast food pantries. Grace Covenant coordinated the distribution of 10,000 cabbage plants, and volunteers will harvest the cabbage for distribution in December.

TENNESSEE

- Society of St. Andrew is proud to announce the opening of the new regional office in TN. You can contact Lynette Johnson, Regional Director, at 615-878-6134 & sosatn@endhunger.org or Linda Tozer, Program Coordinator, at 615-878-9233 & gleantn@endhunger.org for ways to get involved in TN. Please look for more news about in TN in this section in the coming months.

VIRGINIA

- Gleaning throughout VA is in full-swing! We have gleaned sweet corn, tomatoes, blueberries, cucumbers, green peppers, cantaloupe, eggplant, peaches and squash this summer. The gleaning will continue with apples, pumpkins, winter squash and turnips through the fall season.
- Later this fall, we will have many turnips to be gleaned in the Riner area, southwest of Roanoke. Everyone is invited to come out and help with harvesting to feed many hungry people in central Virginia and

surrounding areas.

- Join us in the fields. Contact Sarah Ramey for more information about gleaning in VA; vaglean@endhunger.org or 800-333-4597.

WEST

- Summer 2010 was a busy one for SoSA West. Though tomatoes suffered through a heat spell and weren't as abundant this year, sweet corn and watermelon more than made up the difference. Our partnership with Good Natured Family Farms has once again provided an abundance and variety of produce for people in need in the Kansas City area. In KS, Depot Market, Tinberg Farms, and Geiringer Orchard have provided generously for people in need in the state of KS. On the MO side, growers selling their produce at the Central MO Produce Auction have been generous in their donations to SoSA West to feed people in their area. And Martin Goedken donated his entire harvest of pears (more than 200 trees worth) to feed hungry people in St. Joseph and Kansas City.

- SoSA West worked with Saint Andrews Christian Church, Hillcrest Christian Church, and Prairie Baptist Church to host a Potato Drop at Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, KS, in August. Thanks to terrific organization on the part of Donetta Shaner of Saint Andrews Christian Church, the drop went like clock work. Volunteers from all three churches worked together to distribute 36,000 lbs. of potatoes to feeding agencies all over the Kansas City metropolitan area, and Harvesters – the Community Food Network – picked up the final 6,000 pounds at the end of the event.

- SoSA West is looking to establish gleaning operations in states west of the MS River. If you're interested in gleaning in your area, please give us a call at 816-921-0856 and talk to Lisa or Bernie. We'll get you going and give you the opportunity to help feed people in your community with fresh, nutritious produce!

- If you live in the following areas: Kansas City, Manhattan, Courtland or Wichita, KS; Central MO; Northfield, MN; or Antelope Valley and Shasta Lake, CA; and you're looking for a gleaning opportunity, please call 816-921-0856 and we'll get you connected. There are many opportunities to glean. ♦

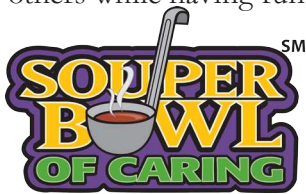


Gleaning green beans in KS

Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge — GO TEAM!

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR, CHURCH RELATIONS

There are so many ways to share your blessings with others while having fun at the BIG Super Bowl game.



Why not consider one of the events listed below and get your entire congregation to join in the celebration and make a difference at the same time?

- ♦ Host a chili cook off.
- ♦ Use two large soup pots, one for each team in the Super Bowl, and invite the congregation to place dollars in the soup pot of the team they want to win.
- ♦ Use the children's moment at church to inform the congregation about the work of SoSA's ministry.
- ♦ Have the children take up a noisy offering using soup pots to collect the donation.
- ♦ Host a potato luncheon and encourage the congregation to donate to SoSA for their lunch.

Be creative. Inform. Invite. Publicize. Share.

After the big game, total up your collection. Send a check to SoSA along with a short note on how your congregation celebrated "Souper Bowl Sunday."

Each church that participates in our Souper Bowl of Caring challenge, will receive a special certificate that recognizes the effort and financial gift of the congregation. Your team can make a big difference! ♦

Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

A variety of food was saved and distributed to agencies across the United States during the third quarter of this year. Well over 1 million pounds of food were saved and distributed to 20 critical feeding agencies in 14 states. Watermelon, potatoes, corn, cabbage, cantaloupe, and bananas provided an array of options to agencies.

Agencies reported back how thrilled their clients were over receiving summertime produce like corn, watermelon, and cantaloupe. For many people, these items are considered "treats" but also a very healthy food.

By this time the seed potatoes that were planted this spring have been harvested. Families throughout North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio have dug their potatoes and stored them for the winter. Many share with neighbors and the elderly who are unable to plant a garden of their own. We estimate that our "hand up" program yielded over 3.4 million pounds of potatoes for use in the coming months.

As winter approaches, we look forward to shipping potatoes from our produce donors to feeding agencies across the country. Potatoes are a staple in most homes and help fill the plates of millions of hungry people. Thank you for helping to make this happen by your prayers, connections with growers and feeding agencies, and financial assistance to pay for bagging and freight costs. ♦

Harvest of Hope—feeding people, changing lives

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

The summer *Harvest of Hope* season is finished, and the insane busyness of the season is fading away. It is time to reflect on the past season in preparation for the fall events.

The thing that stands out to me most is how much youth love to glean. A typical *Harvest of Hope* day involves working in 90+ degree weather in a dusty potato field or a humid corn field. Once a bag is filled with harvested potatoes it weighs in the neighborhood of 80

pounds. In all honesty, it is very hard work filling the bags and carrying them to the pick up location. Yet as I read the evaluations from the events nearly every participant lists gleaning as their favorite activity. Many wish they could have gleaned longer. Why is that? Why would someone volunteer to go into a field get all hot and dirty, straining muscles that probably have not exercised in years just to pick produce? The answer lies in Jesus' example; He demonstrated that sacrificing of self is the way to overcome the problems of this world.

We just feel it, and understand that when we sacrifice for another it is good and right. These youth are working with their hands, picking produce to feed others, and they know in their hearts that it is good and right. So far this year *Harvest of Hope* participants have gleaned over 70,000 pounds of fresh produce. That food has feed a lot of people in need. That food has also changed the lives of those who picked it. I ask you to continue to pray for the fall *Harvest of Hope* events that lives may continue to be changed as we feed those in need. ♦



Intergenerational Weekends

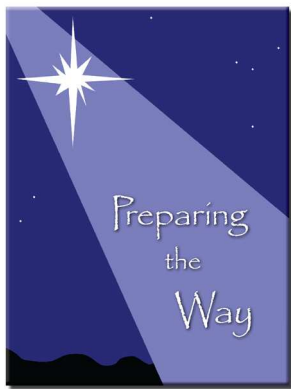
Dahlonega, GA October 15-17

Palmyra, PA October 22-24

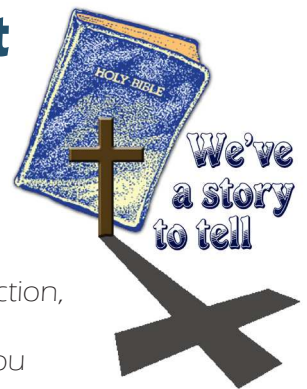
Donations to SoSA in recent months:

IN HONOR OF - Robert Anderson ... Dianne Bittikofer ... Wallace B. Bruce ... Cyndi Croft ... Victoria Hebert ... Rev. Jim & Mary Alice Hewitt ... Ken Horne ... Cathy Hughes ... Thomas Hughes ... Vicki Lemon ... Jack Martin ... Russell & Sammie Lee Stone ... Ann & Connie Via

IN MEMORY OF - Mr. Robert Acord ... Peyton Baird ... Dana Basel ... Bud Curtis ... Betty Fulcher ... John Grow ... Lynda Hewitt ... Michael Darin Jeffreys ... Evine King ... Harvey Little ... Harold Novotny ... Leo Pfannes ... Cecil Shelton ... Paul R. Strickland ... Josie Wallis ♦



During Advent, Christmas & Lent make feeding the hungry your mission



• Advent Devotions

Daily scripture, prayer, and reflection on the coming of Christ.

- Reflect on and share in the work and mission of the baby in the manger who is Immanuel ...“God with us”.
- Nourish your spirit and feed your hungry neighbors.
- \$1 donation per day (\$24) provides about 1,200 servings of nourishing food for hungry families.

• Lenten Devotions

Program of daily spiritual reflection, prayer, and giving.

- Reflect and pray about how you might become more Christ-like.
- Take seriously scriptural injunctions to care for the poor.
- \$1 donation per day (\$47) provides over 2,000 servings of fresh produce to those who don't have enough to eat.

- All materials for both devotional programs are free
- No obligation
- Order sample packets today
- Call 800-333-4597
- Email church@endhunger.org
- Or order online:
- ADVENT at www.endhunger.org/advent.htm
- LENT at www.endhunger.org/lent.htm



Your honor
gift to feed the
hungry will be
announced with
SoSA's exclusive
Christmas Card

It wasn't just another baby born that night in Bethlehem.
It was the Infant Godhead come from heaven to His earthly home.
It wasn't just a star-crossed night with angels singing from above.
It was God's song to all the world proclaiming His infinite love.
It wasn't just three wise men bringing precious gifts from the East,
But a lesson in holy devotion, of giving our hearts to Christ.

Because you are special and loved, a gift in your honor
has been made to share God's love to others by providing
food to the hungry through the Society of St. Andrew.
This gift, made by _____

will help feed the hungry by providing about
600 servings of fresh, nutritious food to those in need.

*The Child of Bethlehem
The Infant Godhead*
**Your \$12 gift donation in honor of
special people will put 600 servings
of food on the tables of the hungry!**

Christmas Gift Donation Card

Minimum donation gift for each card is \$12

Do not send cash through mail. Donations tax deductible as allowed by law.

Make check payable to "Society of St. Andrew" or

Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

PLEASE PRINT Total enclosed or charged: \$ _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Send _____ cards TO ME for personalizing and mailing.

OR ☐ SoSA send out the following cards on my behalf:

In honor of _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sign this card: _____

(Use separate sheet for additional names and addresses) (ACC-NL)

Orders must be received by Dec. 3 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

We will make every attempt to expedite late orders. Mail to:

Society of St. Andrew, 3383 Sweet Hollow Rd., Big Island, VA 24526

Finish your gift shopping in the next 10 minutes.

We'll send your honorees our Christmas Gift Donation Card ~ 16th in a series ~ designed exclusively for and donated to SoSA by Virginia artist Annis McCabe. The full-color, 7"x5" card features original art on the front and an original inspirational verse inside proclaiming the Child of Bethlehem as the Infant Godhead bringing us God's infinite love. This one-of-a-kind card announces your generous gift to feed the hungry in the name of your honorees. You'll also receive the card with our thanks and confirmation of your order. It's the perfect gift for the person who has everything and a super stocking stuffer. No other gift can do so much for so many with so little! So finish your gift shopping and Christmas card list today by mail, phone, fax or on line!

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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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(NL 10/10)

**Put feeding the hungry at the top
of your Christmas list this year.**

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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 _____

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3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD, BIG ISLAND, VA 24526

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