



# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 27

NUMBER 1

WINTER 2011

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

## Faithful to the Purpose

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For most people and organizations, 2010 felt a lot like the year before, as the economy staggered along for a second full year. At SoSA, we deal with so many variables that no two years ever feel the same. Weather, crops, farmers, volunteers, financial support, feeding agencies, and transportation are all variables that not only change from year to year, they usually change within a single year. Nothing we deal with is constant. This makes planning a challenge, and life exciting.

Staying faithful to the purpose of this ministry is what makes the difference. That is how, once again, when most others were doing less, SoSA found a way to do more. Some new records were established and the ministry was expanded along the way. This is particularly important as the number of hungry people in America grew for the second year in a row.

Here are the big numbers: over 28.3 million pounds of food saved and distributed by more than 30,000 volunteers in over 3,700 separate gleaning events – in just one year! Try to picture all that activity. The Gleaning Network gleaned over 18 million pounds of fresh produce, which is a new historical record. We also expanded the ministry with a new office in Tennessee. And in just its first few months, the Nashville office has distributed food in 83 of the state's 95 counties. Overall SoSA food distribution was increased by 7% over the previous year. Ultimately what all that means is that over 85 million servings of highly nutritious fresh produce ended up

**"The Gleaning Network gleaned over 18 million pounds of fresh produce, which is a new historical record."**

on the tables of the poor in this country. And all of that food would have gone to waste were it not for SoSA and you. Try to picture all that food going to waste and

think about what that means in a nation with 40 million people who don't get enough to eat.

By staying faithful to the purpose of this ministry, the constancy of God's grace was able to reach millions of Americans in need of food. This trumps any set of variables we could possibly face.

And yet, even as you read this newsletter in a brand new year, SoSA is already dealing with a new set of variables and feeding the hungry across this land. All indications are that the need for what SoSA does will only increase in 2011. We'll remain faithful and strive to meet that need regardless of the challenges — the mission to serve calls for nothing less. ♦

**"Staying faithful to the purpose of this ministry is what makes the difference."**

## From the Sheep Shed

By KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Well, winter is definitely here. Complete with snow, ice, and much colder temperatures than we are used to seeing here in central Virginia. I was out in my shop a few nights ago, trying to get some woodworking done, and wasn't having much success. Mostly I was noticing that my little propane heater was having no luck whatsoever at warming the place up. It was then that the thought struck me – best be thankful you're not homeless tonight.

It was the kind of night that went past uncomfortable, all the way into dangerous. Temperature in the teens, wind blowing half a gale, and if you couldn't get out of the wind and find some sort of fire, you could die. I thought about the poor souls without a home that night. I said a prayer of thanks for the folks who were providing shelter to those who had none that night. And another, in hopes that all the homeless folks had found one of those shelters.

What comfort there was in my ruminations that night came with the realization that when those homeless folks got to their shelters, there would be something to eat, as well as a warm place to sleep. The "something to eat" component is partly due to the work that Society of St. Andrew does in rescuing vegetables from being wasted, and delivering them to shelters and other agencies that feed the hungry in our country.

It's hard work, but it's good work. And it's never more needed than in months like these, when winter is definitely here and you'd best be thankful you're not homeless tonight. Thanks to the Society of St. Andrew staff, volunteers, donors and farmers. You are literally saving lives this winter. ♦

## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-December 2010

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

➤ Gleaned Produce	18,102,627 lbs ▲	15%
➤ Potato & Produce Project	10,022,738 lbs ▼	7.1%
➤ Events	3,700 ▼	8.9%
➤ Volunteers	30,552 ▼	11.8%
➤ Total Pounds	28,125,365 ▲	6%
➤ Total Servings	84,376,095 ▲	6%

## SoSA stories from around the states

### ALABAMA

- Although winter is a time when many fields in AL are fallow, the Montgomery Area Farmers' Market pick-ups continue! Volunteers 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. For more information, contact Teresa Jane Seevers at [gleanmontgomery@endhunger.org](mailto:gleanmontgomery@endhunger.org). During the winter months, the AL Gleaning Network is busy planning for spring and summer! If you are interested in gleaning in AL please contact our office to get on the calendar – [gleanAL@endhunger.org](mailto:gleanAL@endhunger.org) or 205-838-1927. Strawberries and blueberries are the first crops that we glean in May and June. Gleaning at the East Lake Farmers' Market in Birmingham begins in Mid-June.

### FLORIDA

- Despite the cold weather FL experienced early in the year, 2010 was another record breaking year – over 3.5 million lbs. of fresh food distributed across the state! That healthy accomplishment was achieved with the help of nearly 8,000 volunteers and was delivered to over 350 agencies across the state.
- In December, students across the country representing the Alpha Zeta Honor Agriculture Fraternity held a retreat with SoSA. The students participated in gleaning, helped distribute the gleaned produce to local agencies, washed & cut citrus to serve to the homeless community, participated in a hunger awareness meal and toured the local farm-worker ministry. This was a first for this fabulous group of young people and they all claimed the week left them with a great deal of insight into hunger and homelessness, food waste, unfair distribution of food and ideas on ways to get involved in their own communities.

- Presbyterians Day in the Grove (not just for Presbyterians) has become an annual event attracting congregations from Central FL Presbytery as well as folks from other church groups. The volunteers stayed for an afternoon of hunger education and the day ended with a very moving worship led by the Presbyterian Youth Council and Rev. Dan Turk who is currently serving in Madagascar.

### GEORGIA

- Despite the freezing temperatures, gleaning continued in GA in the late fall. Cabbage and green beans are the produce of choice when the winds blow record cold temperatures. Friends at Tifton First United Methodist Church gleaned over 3,500 lbs. of cabbage. The donated cabbage heads, some weighing 13 lbs., were taken to local food banks, soup kitchens and shelters, providing nourishing warm meals.



Gleaning cabbage in Georgia

- So what happens when it's too cold to glean? The children's ministry at Tifton First UMC found a creative way to stay warm and help SoSA. They "gleaned" 6,200 pennies while participating in a hunger education lesson.
- The GA Program Coordinator invites you to glean with us as the warmer weather returns. Contact Janet Sack at [gleanGA@endhunger.org](mailto:gleanGA@endhunger.org) or call 229-386-5800 for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

### MISSISSIPPI

- Let's shout for joy! In MS we salvaged over 2.6 million lbs. of produce in 2010. That is a record for us and more importantly that is a lot of food to feed our fellow Mississippians who are hungry. We could not have done it with the help of the many great volunteers who donated their time and energy to pick the produce and the generous growers who allowed us to share their harvest. Thank you!
- We want to end hunger in MS and people like Mr. Randy Mathis are helping us do that. Mr. Mathis planted 1,000 strawberry plants for SoSA this past year providing much needed fresh fruit for those struggling with poverty in the Meridian area. It is not only the commercial growers who are being generous; in November several families opened their backyard gardens to SoSA. The produce that was picked from



A tiny glean



# FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

these gardens helped complete Thanksgiving meals for struggling families. Every bit – no matter how big or small – of donated time, money, and food make's a difference in this hurting world.

- If you are interested in getting involved please contact Jackie Usey at (769) 233-0887 or gleanMS@endhunger.org.

## NORTH CAROLINA

- NC is proud to be the top producer in the U.S. for sweet potatoes. Unfortunately, torrential rains hit our state just as the crop was ready to be harvested, and sweet potato production was adversely affected. Some of our long-time donors were hit hard and had no excess sweets to donate, but were kind enough to connect us with new farmers.
- The Markey family have been supporting SoSA for ten years but it wasn't until the Markey's daughter, Asha, opened her lemonade stand this summer that they learned the true meaning of sharing. Asha and a friend braved the hottest summer on record, selling lemonade on a busy city street corner. At the end of the summer, the two added up their profit and decided to buy a few things for themselves. Asha, however, felt strongly that she wanted a portion of her earnings to go to Society of St. Andrew, where she had volunteered since she was a toddler. Asha proudly presented \$15.00 to Marilyn Marks, Western NC Coordinator. Thank you, Asha for showing us that everyone can help feed our neighbors.



Asha Markey in North Carolina

## TENNESSEE

- As of this writing, agencies in 83 of TN's 95 counties have received produce from the Society of St. Andrew since mid-July, 2010. It's a great start, and we plan to extend our reach in 2011 to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to people at risk for hunger in every county in the state!
- Live in TN? Want to make a difference? Come glean with us in 2011! Contact gleaning coordinator Linda Tozer, gleanTN@endhunger.org. Let us know where you are and we'll let you know about gleanings in your area. A couple of hours of your time can yield hundreds of lbs. of produce to feed hungry people nearby. Gleaning is a great experience for civic, work, school, family, and church groups!
- Invite us to speak to your congregation or civic organization! We're lining up dates now for the rest of 2011. Whether you have a Wednesday evening church dinner, a Tuesday morning Rotary club meeting, or a weekend mission fair, we can be there to tell what SoSA is doing, with presentations of any length, tailored



er in Tennessee

to your group. Contact Lynette Johnson at 615-878-6134, or sosaTN@endhunger.org.

- Where's the produce? We're looking, and we'd like for you to be our eyes and ears, too. Hook us up with people you know in TN who work with fruits and vegetables: farmers, distributors, extension agents, coop leaders, farmers' market managers, and packing houses. Just telling your friends about SoSA goes a long way in helping us make critical connections that get produce to hungry people!

## VIRGINIA

- In Riner, VA volunteers were able to glean over 100,000 lbs. of turnips before the snow began to fall. A total of over 143,000 lbs. of turnips were gleaned from all over the state before the ground froze. Thanks to all the volunteers that gleaned with us this season! A very special thanks to all the providers who donated the fruits and vegetables that were given to the many hunger relief agencies this season!
- Becky Freemal from Fox 21/27 Roanoke/Lynchburg joined us to glean a total of 2,288 lbs. of turnips in Riner. There were students from VA Tech and Radford University as well as gleaners from Roanoke that participated. The turnips were picked up by the Roanoke Rescue Mission that day. This was broadcast on Becky's segment called "Out and About" that showcases activities that are happening in the Central VA region.

## WEST

- SoSA West moved more than 2.6 million lbs. of fresh produce in 2010 to serve people in need in states west of the MS River. We surpassed last year's totals of nearly 2.5 million lbs.
- On Oct. 14, SoSA West hosted its second annual After the Harvest fundraising event, serving a hearty breakfast comprised largely of donated, locally grown items. About 145 guests enjoyed a breakfast and learned more about the Society of St. Andrew. Some of SoSA West's key partners gave brief descriptions of how and why they work with us. SoSA West raised over \$9,000 through this event.
- SoSA West is gearing up for a busy year in 2011. If you live west of the MS River and want to glean with us, please contact Bernie at 816-921-0856 or gleanKC@endhunger.org. We're looking forward to growth in several states, and would appreciate the opportunity to work with you. Also, if you know of farmers, growers, or produce handlers who would be willing to work with us, please contact us at the above-listed phone number or email address and let us know how to contact them. ♦

# Harvest of Hope — Looking forward to 2011

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

The sky outside might be gray but there is excitement in the air. In just two short months, *Harvest of Hope* will head to sunny Florida to host the 3rd annual Alternative Spring Break event. During the week of March 6-12, a group of adventurous college students will join us in central Florida to learn about hunger and how we can end this disgraceful problem. Together, we will harvest thousands of pounds of fresh fruit. How sad it is that so many people, who live amongst the citrus groves of Florida, can not afford to buy this fruit at the supermarket. Imagine not having enough money to feed your family and yet seeing all that fruit hanging on the trees — knowing it would go to waste.

*Harvest of Hope* events are filled with both sadness and satisfaction. There is the privilege of meeting many people for whom hunger is very real, and in this country of plenty, that is a sad situation. Yet at the same time, the opportunity to work alongside so many wonderful people who want to make a difference is greatly satisfying. They give their time and energy trying to make sure that no one goes hungry. Life is never boring when you are joining with others to do something about hunger. Please consider joining us this year as we continue to fight hunger in America. ♦

## College

Fruitland, FL.....March 6-12

## Senior High Week-Long

Exmore, VA.....July 10-16

Ashland, VA.....July 10-16

Wilmington, NC.....July 17-23

## Junior High Weekends

Exmore, VA.....July 24-26

Shawsville, VA.....July 29-31

## Intergenerational Weekends

Wilmington, NC.....June 24-26

Chelsea, AL.....August 5-7

## Donations to SoSA in recent months:

**IN HONOR OF** - Pastor Joe Barber ... Betty Beckwith ... Oleta Blalock ... Matthew Burgess ... Kailey Elder ... Logan Ende ... Bea Fowler ... Ginny Fowler ... Stephen Geisz ... Cathy Hughes ... Christine Mathis & Matthew Husson III ... Pat Jones ... Brieann Lyda-McDonald ... Clarence Mabe ... Christina Martin ... Nancy Mayhew ... Mimi Owen ... Catherine S. Thigpen ... Sandy H. Tilley ... Bill Walker ... Meredith Wyche ... Jennine & Christopher  
**IN MEMORY OF** - Katheryne Adams ... Bobby Arrington ... Louise Barnes ... Bill Burroughs ... Rev. Monsignor Peter Anthony Chiara ... Bud Curtis ... Bruce Deland ... Ralph Engel ... Doug Gist ... Alexander P. Grice, III ... Beverly Harvey ... Mary Virginia Irby ... Harry H. Jones ... Leroy Koppenhaver ... Evelyn Leftwich ... Esther Sue Ligon ... Dennis Logan ... Dorothy Loving ... Donna Mitchell Lowery ... Clarence Mabe ... Rev. Jane Meyers ... Marion & Marjorie Newman ... Harlen L. Price ... Betty Mae Bedell Willis ... Gail S. Wood ♦

## ORDER UP! — VBS Program

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR, CHURCH RELATIONS

ORDER UP! Vacation Bible School mission program is based on Galatians 5:22-23, 25. "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (vs 25) Each day, SoSA's VBS mission program will introduce a different fruit of the



spirit along with a bible story that demonstrates to your students how the biblical character in the story used one of their "fruits" to help them achieve the work God set before them. ORDER UP! is designed to work with any theme and includes daily activity sheets for all ages, facts about hunger and SoSA's ministry, potato trivia, "go green" facts, and fun pencil activities. In addition, each day your VBS students will be sent on a mission activity which will put them on the front line of learning the importance of eating healthy, sharing with others, keeping God's world beautiful, 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 that will end up on the plates of hungry Americans. At a nickel a pound, that's a goal of \$50. Some pastors have been good sports and promised to eat a worm, shave their legs, get a pie in the face, or live on top of the church if their students exceed the goal. Why not see if your pastor is willing to do something to inspire your VBS students to strive higher to feed more hungry children?

Last year, over 350 churches used SoSA's VBS program. VBS kids enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry by donating over \$26,000 — 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 at: [www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm](http://www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm), [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org), or 800-333-4597. ♦

## THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE 2011

Each year the Feinstein Foundation divides \$1 million among participating hunger fighting charities nationwide, using it to help them raise funds during March and April. Last year SoSA received \$18,765.

The more money donated and pledged to SoSA from March 1 thru April 30, the larger a share of the \$1 million we will receive. The \$1 million will be divided proportionately among all participating agencies, exponentially increasing each donor's gift! So now is the time to be as generous as possible to help stop food waste and feed the hungry! **You can pledge now and pay later in the year, but please pledge before April 30. Use the coupon on the back page.** Thank you!



# Small Hands do Great Work

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, Church Relations

Can one person really make a difference? Does one little 5 year-old girl have the ability to change lives? If your name is Mariah Jackson, the answer is YES!

It all began with a trip to Washington D.C. Five year old Mariah Jackson accompanied her mother and Grandmother on an errand, when at a gas station, a man knocked on their car window asking for money. Later that day, Mariah watched as another man dug into a trashcan for food. Mariah was deeply affected by these events and begged her Mother and Grandmother to give the man money to buy food. Mariah's mother explained to her that it was more effective to give money to organizations that provide food for the poor and homeless than to just hand it out to folks on the street. Coincidentally during this time, Mariah's Grandmother's church, Pleasant Valley United Methodist in Loudoun County, Virginia, was conducting a mission drive for Society of St. Andrew.

Mariah took a Society of St. Andrew coin box and waited patiently outside the doors of her church asking parishioners to contribute to the important ministry work of Society of St. Andrew. Mariah was hoping to collect \$100, but soon realized that she had collected far more. With the permission of her teacher, Mariah brought her coin box to school and invited all of her kindergarten classmates to bring in their pennies to help feed hungry children across the United States. Mariah collected \$363.43 and donated it to Society of St. Andrew.

Shortly after receiving the collected money from



Mariah Jackson

Mariah, part of SoSA's staff had the honor of meeting Mariah Jackson and her family at a potato drop at Fairlington UMC in Northern Virginia. Mariah was excited to witness first-hand how the food is distributed to local organizations and provided for the hungry and homeless. Not only had Mariah collected money for the hungry, she also got a chance to bag potatoes and load the food bank truck.

Mariah's generous spirit and hard work touched SoSA so deeply that her story was submitted to Cokesbury, the United Methodist publishing company, to be featured in its 2011 "Shake it Up Café" Vacation

Bible School program. In addition to reading about Mariah's great work in Cokesbury's 2011 VBS program, you can learn more about Mariah through SoSA's website at [www.EndHunger.org](http://www.EndHunger.org), and by requesting a free copy of the Society of St. Andrew VBS mission program, ORDER UP! at [www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm](http://www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm)

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Luke 18:16) Mariah heard these words of Jesus, and through her small hands and her big heart did indeed do great works for the Kingdom of God by feeding God's hungry children. ♦

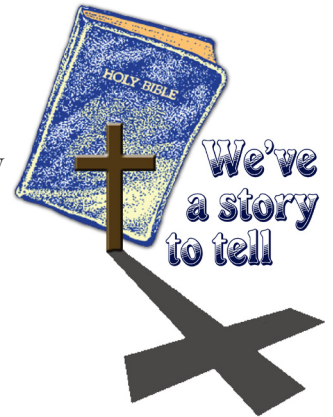
# We've a Story to Tell — Lenten Devotional Program

The Society of St. Andrew is known for providing nutritious fresh produce to feeding agencies across the United States. As part of our mission, we also offer spiritually nourishing devotions each Lent and Advent season. This Lent season we offer a daily devotional booklet called, *We've a Story to Tell*. The devotions are inspired by the Christian journey and its impact on our personal lives. These daily devotions were contributed by a variety of writers from different denominations who share how their personal walk with Jesus impacts their lives.

Through daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers, this program offers an opportunity to strengthen your walk with Christ while joining in ministry to feed the hungry. All materials are offered at no cost and there is no obligation. However, participants are asked to seriously consider giving sacrificially – a donation of just \$1 a day during the season of lent – \$47 – would enable the Society of St. Andrew to salvage over 2,000 servings of fresh produce. That is because the Society of St. Andrew's low operating costs allows fresh nutritious produce to be saved and delivered for only 2 cents a serving. Last year's Lenten Devotions program was responsible for providing over 2 million servings of food to families in need in our nation.

An optional "Good Friday Fast" booklet is also available for use in partnership with the daily devotions or as a stand-alone program.

All materials for the Lenten devotional program are free from the Society of St. Andrew. To order a church sample kit or a personal packet: [www.EndHunger.org/lent.htm](http://www.EndHunger.org/lent.htm), [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org), or 800-333-4597. ♦



## Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Potato and Produce Project saved over 10 million pounds of produce in 2010! That produce would have been otherwise wasted but we re-routed it to 83 feeding agencies that were in desperate need of food. There was quite a variety of produced saved last year including bananas, cabbage, cantaloupe, citrus, corn, potatoes and watermelon. All that delicious and nutritious produce ended up on dinner plates in 24 different states.

We are receiving daily calls from agencies looking for food their clients. There have been times when agencies couldn't handle a whole truck-load of produce – now they can use two loads at a time. The need is out there. We appreciate all that our supporters do that helps us to help others. Let's continue to work together to feed our brothers and sisters. ♦

Society of St. Andrew  
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Big Island, Virginia 24526  
800-333-4597  
[www.EndHunger.org](http://www.EndHunger.org)



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## Society of St. Andrew **REPORT**

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## "We've a story to tell" Lent Devotions



To obtain a free sample church packet or personal packet, use the information below to order or contact our office at 800-333-4597, [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org), or [www.endhunger.org/lent.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/lent.htm).

### Please send my FREE Lent 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 02/11)

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

Donations received between March 1st - April 30th  
are counted toward the Feinstein Challenge!

☐ \$500 ☐ \$365 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)

☐ This is my pledge for payment later in 2011.

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**

(NL 02/11)

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