



Society of St. Andrew REPORT

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GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

Hunger Action Month

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

"If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need whatever it may be." (Deuteronomy 15:7-9) These beautiful words from Deuteronomy are a reminder to us that God expects all of us, especially those of us who have been richly blessed, to help those in need.

Last year, 40 million of our brothers and sisters went hungry while 96 billion pounds of good nutritious, healthy food went to waste. You don't have to be a mathematician to see by these numbers that God has provided way more food than is needed to feed every hungry man, woman, and child in the United States.

September is national Hunger Action Month. The Society of St. Andrew invites you to join us during this month to educate your congregation about hunger and how, when we work together, we can be part of the solution to solving hunger in America. Use the whole month or choose one special Sunday during your worship service to lift up hunger in the United States and make a pledge to "do something" to help those who so desperately need your help.

As a way of supporting clergy, church staff, mission committees, and church volunteers, the Society of St. Andrew has provided numerous resources; including sermons, children's moments, youth skits, litanies, prayers, and other activities on our website for you to download, review, and use in your local church free of charge.

In addition, you will also find a ready made 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 mission and important work of feeding our hungry brothers and sisters. All of these resources are free and can be easily 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) ♦

From the Sheep Shed

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The old sheep shed that served as our first office still stands just down the road. It serves as a reminder of how much can be done with so little. We eventually grew out of that sheep shed, thank goodness, but it left an imprint that is manifested in all that we do.

Those traits of simplicity, effectiveness, good stewardship, and faithfulness are woven throughout all that is involved in this amazing ministry. We bring these characteristics to bear against the unnecessary problem of hunger in a country that remains a country of plenty.

All the resources needed to feed every hungry person in this country already exist. You do the math, 96 billion pounds of perfectly good food wasted each year before it reaches consumers and 40 million Americans who need it. As a nation we are throwing away about one and a half tons of food for every hungry man, woman, and child in the country. It doesn't need to be that way; we let it be that way.

Of course, because you are reading this, you also know there is something being done about it. By coordinating resources that already exist, SoSA is feeding the hungry all across this nation and doing it with healthy and more nutritious foods. Our network of farmers, growers, and produce distribution centers number in the thousands. In the fields after harvest and in packing facilities billions of pounds of perfectly good fresh produce are graded out as not perfect enough for commercial markets. Our network of volunteers number in the tens of thousands who go into the fields and simply pick up the good produce left behind. Our transportation network includes volunteer, donated, and contracted trucking. We collaborate with a network of thousands of existing feeding agencies in all 48 contiguous states that desperately need this food to feed those who don't get enough to eat.

That is how the hunger gap is bridged in America. And at about 6¢ a pound that represents good stewardship of all resources, food, and finances. Simplicity, effectiveness, good stewardship, faithfulness, and you are feeding the growing number of Americans who simply need food. ♦

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-July 2011

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:

Gleaned Produce	5,324,449 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	3,300,000 lbs
Events	1,278
Volunteers	7,980
Total Pounds	8,624,449
Total Servings	25,873,347

SoSA stories from around the states

ALABAMA

- As part of our continuing disaster-recovery assistance, the Alabama Gleaning Network has recently distributed 60,000 lbs. of water and 10,000 lbs. of cantaloupes to Isaiah House in Talladega. Water supplies in Talladega were quarantined for more than a month after the Alabama tornadoes, so bottled water was much needed and truly appreciated there!
- The blueberries in Alabama are terrific this year. July brings the beginning of blueberry picking and field gleaning in many areas of the state. We need individuals, families, and groups to help us harvest produce and deliver it to agencies feeding the hungry in their local areas. Call or email (205-838-1927 or GleanAL@EndHunger.org) to volunteer!

FLORIDA

- The Florida Gleaning Network welcomed a new gleaning group in Orlando, First Presbyterian Church flooded the fields with 150 men, women and children one Saturday in May. Folks gleaned yellow squash, cabbage and onions while another group bagged almost 10,000 lbs. of potatoes – and all in only a couple hours!
- Mars Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church bagged and distributed a combined 13,500 lbs. of cucumbers and corn in Sanford, FL over Memorial Day weekend. The crowd was lively throughout the day making the scene especially welcoming for families coming to pick up the fresh produce.
- About 1.2 million lbs. of produce has been saved and distributed so far this year with the help of over three thousand volunteers. But none of this would be possible without our faithful donors; much thanks goes out to all the individuals and churches who continually support SoSA in Florida; and to the Lattner Family Foundation, Publix Super Market Charities, The Duckwall Foundation and the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation for your faithful support.

GEORGIA

- Over 15% of Georgia's population is food insecure. That is why the Georgia Gleaning Network is in full

swing gleaning tomatoes and peaches in South Georgia. Gleaners battled gnats, the not-so-refreshing smell of tomatoes, and hot sun to harvest over 700 lbs. of tomatoes and 600 lbs. of ripe delicious peaches in just one morning. By 11:30 the fields were gleaned and the food was on its



Beautiful and nutritious
peppers in Georgia

way to a local soup kitchen, whose local volunteers stood on the hot parking lot distributing the food into the hands of the hungry, just in time for lunch! Certainly a fast food stop can't compare to freshly picked tomatoes and peaches for lunch. It was rewarding, however, to know that on this Saturday

morning, over 3,900 servings of fresh nutritious food was harvested and delivered to food insecure Georgians.

- The Georgia Gleaning Network is experiencing many firsts this busy season, including the first gleaning in the southeast part of the state, the first peach gleaning, and the first time receiving a generous grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
- What are you doing today to help feed the hungry in Georgia? Can you arrange a speaking engagement with your local church or civic organization? Are you a grower who can donate a field for gleaning or have culls to donate? Can you volunteer your time in the gleaning network? Can you financially support our gleaning efforts? Together we can glean the fields and feed the hungry. Contact Janet Sack in Georgia at 229-386-5800 or GleanGA@EndHunger.org.

MISSISSIPPI

- Even though the weather has been extremely hot and dry our gleaning season has been quite prosperous. I have spoken with many of our farmers that have suffered total losses due to flooding in their fields in one part of the state, and others that are praying for rain in another. Our heart and prayers are with all of these hard working individuals.
- We have been busy gleaning sweet corn, squash, zucchini, blueberries, and tomatoes. I would like to thank all of the hardworking volunteers that have come out to glean even in these extreme weather conditions. I also had the pleasure of working with 50 youth from churches all over the state to help bag 25,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes that were donated to the Mississippi Gleaning Network.
- Mid-to-late August should begin our sweet potato season at several farms in the Vardaman area and should last until October. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Jackie Usey at 769-233-0887 or GleanMS@EndHunger.org.



Happy gleaners with sweet
potatoes in Mississippi

FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

NORTH CAROLINA

- We welcome Ashley McCoy-Bruce as our new part-time South Carolina Program Coordinator. Ashley came to work with Society of St. Andrew in September 2008 as our Upstate South Carolina Gleaning Coordinator and will now be coordinating our work throughout the state. Please contact Ashley at upstatescglean@EndHunger.org if you are in South Carolina and would like her to come speak to your group.



Harvest of Hope loading kale in North Carolina

➤ On Saturday, June 25, *Harvest of Hope* participants gleaned kale at Burch Farms in Faison, NC. Our Fayetteville Area Coordinator, Tricia Lounsberry, hosted the group and coordinated the gleaning for them and says the volunteers were fantastic. The group worked for over four hours collecting and bagging kale and loading it onto the 17 trucks. The group of 70

volunteers gleaned 12,780

lbs. of kale to help feed those in need in the Fayetteville area. Thanks *Harvest of Hope* and Tricia!

- The 2011 Yam Jam will be held on Saturday, October 15 in the Johnston County, NC area. Online registration will be available September 12 –October 7. Heavy rains caused the 2010 Yam Jam gleaning yield to be low despite the large volunteer turnout. We're praying that won't be the case this year!

TENNESSEE

- One Tennessee farmer planted a few acres of vegetable crops, but then his job called him across the country. The Society of St. Andrew mobilized some volunteers near Elizabethton to take a look at his neglected fields. They found a lot of weeds and some plants that needed staking, so they went to work. That first Saturday, they managed to harvest only 18 lbs. of produce, but their clean-up work is readying the fields for bumper crops of tomatoes and beans throughout the summer. Volunteers will return again and again to harvest, supplying great nutrition and delicious vegetables to hungry people in Carter, Johnson, and Sullivan Counties.
- The Tennessee Gleaning Network is swinging into action this summer across the state, with volunteers gleaning in fields, at farmers markets, and at CSA (community supported agriculture) pick-ups—and agencies in every area are beginning to have fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables to serve their clients. We are excited to be developing partnerships with faith communities and civic organizations in every county, so that groups of volunteers can be ready to glean as farmers and growers invite us into their fields.
- The Tennessee Regional Office is celebrating its first year of operation, during which (in conjunction with the *Potato & Produce Project*), more than 1 million lbs. of fresh fruits

and vegetables have been given, free of charge, to agencies serving the 22.8% of Tennesseans facing food hardship in 94 of the state's 95 counties—providing more than three million servings! The Society of St. Andrew makes a very real difference in the lives of hungry people across Tennessee

VIRGINIA

- The season is just beginning! Everyone is welcome to glean with us as an individual or bring a group to help feed those who are hungry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Let us continue to be in prayer for the farmers and orchardists who share their bounty with those who are hungry. Contact Sarah Ramey at 800-333-4597 or VAGlean@EndHunger.org

- One way that many volunteers can help is cutting the



Bins at Farmers' Markets collect excess produce



Preparing watermelons for distribution in Tennessee

mesh bags that are used in the fields. The bags of produce are delivered to hunger relief agencies for distribution. Thanks to employees of Genworth Financial along with the Genworth Foundation in Lynchburg for purchasing and cutting over 9,000 bags during the Genworth Month of Service. The bags will be filled with apples from the

Bedford area to help feed the hungry in the local area!

WEST

- The gleaning season began earlier for SoSA West this year, with strawberries, lettuce, kale, arugula, and spinach in May from Powell Gardens outside of Kansas City and a new partner farmer, Jim Thomas at Share Life Farm in Marshall, MO; and carrots, mustard greens, and sugar snap peas in June from Share Life Farm and Karbaumer Farm.
- Bear Creek Farm in Osceola, MO, donated more than 1,000 tomato plants, which were delivered to community gardens in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area and to gardens born in the aftermath of the tornado that struck Joplin, MO on May 22.
- If you are a farmer and would like us to glean at your farm, please call Bernie Schneider at 816-921-0856 or 816-649-8166. If you want to volunteer to glean, please do the same. If you belong to a church and would like to hear more about how you church can partner with SoSA West to fulfill its local hunger mission work, please call Lisa Ousley at 816-921-0856 or 816-284-5325. You can also learn more at www.EndHunger.org/sosawest. ♦

Harvest of Hope — Summer Events Underway

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

The long, hot, and dirty summer *Harvest of Hope* season has begun. It began with a journey to Wilmington, North Carolina where over 60 participants learned about hunger and gleaned kale. For most of the participants this



Gleaning kale in NC

was their first time to pick kale; really it was the first time they had seen kale outside of the grocery store. However, the biggest discovery of the weekend was the realization that a few people can make such a big difference. Working just a few hours on Saturday, this group picked and distributed over 13,000 lbs. of kale.

What a wonderful achievement for a group to salvage that much food. Please join us this fall and experience the sense of community, purpose filled community, which develops as we fight hunger together. ♦

Intergenerational Weekends

Chelsea, AL August 5-7
 Fincastle, VA September 23-25
 Gretna Glen, PA October 21-23
 Shawsville, VA November 4-6

Churches Change the World

On one weekend in May, hundreds of United Methodist churches joined together in the denomination's 2nd annual Change the World weekend. Local churches could choose anything they would like to make a difference in their communities – any service to benefit people in need. Many churches chose to work with Society of St. Andrew on a Hunger Ministry Weekend. Members of these churches made arrangements prior to the event with local feeding agencies. They purchased fresh fruit and vegetables on Saturday, and brought the food to worship on Sunday. The food was distributed to the local agencies on Sunday afternoon or Monday.

More than a dozen churches let us know they were participating, using resource materials provided on the SoSA website, EndHunger.org. These churches are in Arizona, California, Florida, Kansas, Missouri, New York, and Virginia. We hope this experience will encourage the churches to participate in further SoSA activities or to continue participation with local gleaning or community gardens to help feeding agencies in their areas. ♦

Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato & Produce Project* delivered food from Maine to Georgia and North Carolina to Utah during the second quarter of 2011. About half of the rescued food was white potatoes. Sweet potatoes and cabbage from Florida, and yogurt and juice were also donated to feeding agencies across the country.

The seed potatoes that were given out in the spring are growing now and will soon be harvested. Families will use these potatoes for the coming months to supplement their diets. Last summer brought us tractor-trailer loads of corn, cabbage, and melons. We hope that we will receive similar donations this summer.

Feeding agencies all over the country are in need of food for their clients. Large food banks like the Capital Area Food Bank in our nation's capital, Heritage UMC in Virginia, and Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota, are seeking food to distribute to their hungry neighbors.

We feel honored and grateful to have a part in eliminating hunger in this country. With all of us working together it is our hope that we will make a difference in the lives of those in need. ♦

Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference Potato Drop June 17

39,000 pounds of sweet potatoes were dropped onto the Roanoke Civic Center parking lot at 4:30 am on June 17. Soon, more than 240 delegates to the Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference gathered to bag the potatoes and put them in trucks and trailers bound for feeding agencies in Virginia and West Virginia. ♦



It all started with one man at 5:30 am

By 7:00 am there was quite a crowd



SoSA co-founder Marian Kelly talked to reporters

Passing the Peace Advent Devotional Program

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

The Society of St. Andrew invites your congregation to participate in our 2011 Advent devotion and giving program, "Passing the Peace." This unique devotion booklet, based on Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," can be used as a personal devotion booklet or as a catalyst for bringing about conversations within your Sunday School classes, small groups, or families — on how each of us can be an instrument of God's peace in our broken world.



As we welcome the Prince of Peace into our lives this Holy Advent Season, discover through the words of our gifted writers where they have witnessed, or where they have been an instrument of, God's peace in the world. Through the scriptures, daily devotions, and prayers, our Advent devotions program will nourish your spirit while also providing an opportunity to feed our hungry neighbors.

Advent is several months away, but now is a great time to examine the materials we offer at no charge and use them as a special mission emphasis in your church this Advent season.

For questions about SoSA's Advent devotion booklet or to order your free sample packet, please contact The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore at (800)333-4597 or Church@EndHunger.org. ♦

United Methodist Men gave \$168,196 to Meals for Millions in 2010. West Virginia Conference men received the award for the highest percentage increase in giving by leaping from \$4,684 in 2009 to \$17,195 in 2010. The award for the highest amount given to Meals for Millions went to the Detroit Annual Conference with a gift of \$20,741.

Meals for Millions contributions in 2010 increased for the first time since 2004. We wish to recognize United Methodist Men not only for their generosity but also for their faithfulness in supporting Meals for Millions.

The mission project was begun by the UM Men in 1989 to raise funds for the Society of St. Andrew Potato & Produce Project.



Fruits of the Spirit — VBS Mission Project

Fruits of the Spirit was SoSA's 2011 VBS mission program offered to churches at no cost. Many churches participated and this is just one story from a church in Florida.

Fruits of the Spirit was a big hit! About 30 children at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Titusville, Florida learned about love, patience, faithfulness, goodness, and self-control during their week of Vacation Bible School. Through crafts, music, Bible stories, and even snack time, the children dug deep into God's work to learn what it means to care for others. Each day the children marched in to the "Fruit of the Spirit Cadence" and placed their "nickels for potatoes" into the Potato Wagon for Society of St. Andrew hunger relief programs in Florida. With a goal set at \$50, the children celebrated each day as they not only surpassed that goal on the first day, but by the end of the week had brought in an offering of over \$233! That is a serving of potatoes for about 12,000 people in need! Thank you, children, leaders, and adult participants of St. Luke's for your faithfulness and willingness to show God's love by helping the hungry in your community. ♦



Donations to SoSA in recent months:

IN HONOR OF - Baby Noah ... Joyce Bobo ... Lise Brown ... Tim & Beth Gaskin ... Daniel & Joyce Harrington ... Ken Horne ... Mrs. Mildred Jolly ... Dr. & Mrs. Ray O. Jones ... Eugenia D. Jones ... Vicki Lemons ... Christina Martin ... Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Monroe ... Plateau UMM ... Louise Ruskin ... Mike Smith ... Kenneth & Yvonne Staiger ... Chrystal & Bobby Steele ... Kathy Taylor ... Sandy Tilley ... Walter & Betty Whitehurst

IN MEMORY OF - Kay ... Laura ... Agnes Barnes ... J. Smith Baldwin ... Krystina Boone ... Ruth Boyd ... Mary Lee Bridgforth ... Jim Buxton ... Wendell Ray Craig ... Bud Curtis ... Georgia Davis ... Frances Decker ... Jay Faircloth ... Wilson Waters Forrester ... Apostolos Paul Garofallou ... Clarence & Elizabeth Griffin ... Tom Guntherburg ... Shirley Hamel ... John Hanford, Jr. ... Lynda Hewitt ... Walter J. Hingle, Sr. ... Dorothy Ann Irby ... Harry Jones ... John Louis Keepers ... Evine King ... Audrey Levy ... Dorothy B. Loving ... Alan MacRitchie ... Rev. Harold Mann ... Donna McKarey Martin ... John H. Monger ... Merrill & Mary Myers ... Joyce Oppel ... Calvin Parrish ... Joan Philips ... Alice Pisano ... Lena Mays Pollard ... James P. Steinfels ... W. E. (Steve) Stephens ... Ann Stiff ... Carol Thornton ... Kenon Williams ♦

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Passing the Peace Advent Devotions



Passing the Peace 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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Donate now —
www.EndHunger.org/Donate.htm

Each donation provides nutritious produce to those in need.

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