

# Society of St. Andrew

# REPORT

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GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

## Society of St. Andrew gets recognized

Society of St. Andrew was recently recognized by Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell in her Opportunity Hall of Fame. The First Lady's FLITE Foundation (First Lady's Initiative Team Effort) recognizes organizations and individuals who are working to improve the Commonwealth. In 2010 and 2011, Society of St. Andrew was acknowledged by the First Lady's Opportunity Seal of Approval, with the additional honor of the Opportunity Hall of Fame in 2011. Society of St. Andrew was one of five organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be recognized as one that works to create "a commonwealth of opportunity ... doing great works of charity and sacrifice every day." This was the second year of the program, called the First Lady's Initiatives Team Effort (FLITE).

Society of St. Andrew's Executive Director, Mike Waldmann, accepted the honor on behalf of the organization during a luncheon held at the Richmond Marriott on December 16, 2011. The award included a \$2,000 grant from the FLITE Foundation to aid in the hunger-relief work of the Society of St. Andrew. The main speaker at the luncheon was Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, and former Republican candidate for governor of California. Mike Waldmann also spoke to the gathering after he received the award from the First Lady.



Mrs. McDonnell cited Society of St. Andrew for providing "healthy, nutritious produce to Virginia's hungry" as well as for "salvaging nutritious food, redirecting it to food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior feeding centers, hospice homes, and many other essential feeding programs." Governor McDonnell presented a vision for "A Commonwealth of Opportunity" in his Inaugural Address. The FLITE Foundation specifically recognized the Society of St. Andrew for their encouragement in "A Commonwealth of Opportunity for Preventive Health and Wellness."

## From the Sheep Shed

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Something seems to have caught people's attention. I've noticed in pretty much all types of media (print, TV, digital, radio) that the issue of food waste is capturing attention. You might even say it has gained the proverbial "buzz" status. People are shocked and amazed by how much food is going to waste. At SoSA we are thrilled that the world is finally catching on.

Earlier this month I was interviewed for a show on PBS to be broadcast in early spring. The host of the show really had no concept of just how much food goes to waste in this country, nor that much of the food wasted was perfectly good to eat.

Also, in January the Food Network Channel did a show called "The Big Waste". It was a challenge where four of their top chefs had to prepare meals for 100 food critics, but they could only use food that would be thrown away. Of particular interest to me was how the attitude of the chefs changed during the course of the production. It started off joking and lighthearted, but evolved into a deep and serious reflection about how much perfectly good food really does go to waste in this country. The chefs had no idea, and even realized that much of the food they normally "pass over" could actually be used in their own profession. It was a remarkable show and could have been filmed at any of our thousands of gleaning events. We're hoping to follow-up with the FNC on their very timely broadcast.

Food waste in America really is incredible – 96 billion pounds a year. Even after 25 years with SoSA, as a volunteer and staff member, I am literally astounded at how much perfectly good food we cast away. It is something you just never get use to – it is truly shocking. And it happens with every type of produce you can imagine. Last year, SoSA managed to save and distribute about 27 million pounds of highly nutritious fresh produce that otherwise would have gone to waste. Americans in desperate need of food were the beneficiaries of that nutritious bounty. Don't you just love this remarkable ministry?

As a supporter and partner of SoSA you helped make that happen. The way we go about preventing that food waste and feeding the hungry is also catching people's attention; as you see in the article to the left. SoSA has been blessed with some high level recognition lately. As a supporter and partner of SoSA you are part of all that as well. ♦

## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-December 2011

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

Gleaned Produce	15,521,824 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	11,421,199 lbs
Events	4,555
Volunteers	30,727
<b>Total Pounds</b>	<b>26,973,023</b>
<b>Total Servings</b>	<b>80,829,069</b>

## SoSA stories from around the states

### ALABAMA

- Ugly potatoes pack a nutritional punch, and in AL this October two truckloads of potatoes that just weren't pretty enough for grocery store sale provided 240,000 servings of excellent, belly-filling nutrition for low-income residents. Loaves and Fishes ministry in Florence and Manna House in Huntsville eagerly received and distributed these potatoes to thousands of needy families across.
- In early December, word went out in Montgomery that sweet potatoes were arriving, and on a chilly morning, people began to gather outside Christian Crusaders Mission, so they'd be on hand to receive some of the 20,000 lbs SoSA was supplying. Toyota Industrial Equipment generously donated forklift and driver for the endeavor.
- December is usually a time when we're not thinking about field gleaning, but Mobile-area SoSA volunteers turned out mid-month for Sunnyland Farm's gleaning for charity day, picking wonderful fresh satsumas for distribution by the Mobile Area Food Bank. December 30 brought a Wetumpka-area gleaning, where volunteers harvested 520 lbs of cabbage, cauliflower, and collard greens for Montgomery-area agencies.

### FLORIDA

- Over 320 Presbyterians showed up in 2 groves this year to glean over 32,000 lbs of citrus. Presbyterians Day in the Grove is an annual event in Central FL that also hosts folks from the homeless center — 7 men from Compassion Corner joined us this year.
- The Citrus Parade (now Fresh From Florida Parade) floats showcase tens of thousands of lbs of citrus,



A citrus float in the Fresh from Florida Parade

and this year added watermelons, squash, corn, and cucumbers. After the parade, hundreds of volunteers carefully packed the produce into boxes where SoSA trucks were waiting to pick up and distribute. About 120,000 lbs of parade fruit and vegetables were collected and distributed to about 40 feeding agencies in Orange, Lake, Marian, and Sumter Counties. SoSA received great media coverage when Fox News aired an interview with SoSA's FL Director and a write-up in the Orlando Sentinel.

- Sharing their time and their talents... the Hines family volunteered with several organizations while on vacation from Canada. After cleaning soap for Clean the World and before running in the Disney Family Fiesta 5K, this family of five gleaned oranges. A pickup truck of citrus was bagged and delivered to a local food pantry by the end of the day. Before leaving for their next adventure, the Hines's youngest daughter peeled an orange and said, "the people getting these [oranges] are lucky, they are really yummy!"
- While on a youth retreat weekend, hundreds of Lutheran middle school youth bagged corn for SoSA as their mission project. SoSA is involved every year in this event, and the students love participating in the bagging of produce, knowing that the food they bag will feed hungry people.
- When the United Methodist Men arrived for their annual mens' retreat in Fruitland Park this year, they found themselves up to their necks in pickles! Well, cucumbers that is! Part of their retreat time was spent bagging freshly graded-out cucumbers from Long and Scott Farm in Zellwood, delivered to them by SoSA.

### GEORGIA

- Big or small, the GA Gleaning Network can glean it all! From blueberries to leafy vegetables, cantaloupes to 13 lb cabbage heads, what an exciting season it has been, thanks to our generous Georgia farmers and awesome volunteers.
- In early 2012, we'll meet with farmers and growers at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah and the Plow Forward Georgia Organics Conference in Columbus.
- Over the next few months, we'll share how God is working through this ministry, in south GA at the Celebration of Faith Presbyterian Conference in Norman Park, and then with United Methodist churches in Northern GA.
- Whether you're a farmer or grower, individual volunteer ready to glean the fields, civic organization, church or even a feeding agency in need of fresh fruits and vegetables, it's never too late to get involved to feed the hungry in GA. Contact Janet Sack, GA Program Coordinator for more information.

### MISSISSIPPI

- I thank all of the farmers and volunteers that helped make 2011 such a great year. Even with the hardships of the weather, we still salvaged over one million lbs of produce

# FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

that went into the charitable food bank system. Without our generous farmers and hardworking volunteers this would not have been possible.

- The MS gleaning season usually begins in mid April with strawberries and goes until December ending with sweet potatoes and greens. If you would like to get involved in helping feed the hungry in our state, please contact Jackie Usey at gleanms@endhunger.org or 769-233-0887.

## NORTH CAROLINA

- Last year was a great year in revitalizing the Carolinas gleaning network; we worked with 125 new farmers/growers and distributed produce to 215 new recipients across North and South Carolina.
- Many thanks to Nicholas Cole, age 4, who collected and sent us enough money to provide 2,000 servings of produce just in time for Christmas! Over the summer, Nicholas had learned about SoSA and collected money during Vacation Bible School at Ocracoke UMC. We have been blessed to have the help of two Duke Divinity School interns since September. Nate Rauh and Johannes Amberg will continue working with us to glean and spread the word about SoSA until April.
- We attended the Carolina Farm Stewardship Conference for the first time in 2011 as an exhibitor and made exciting connections with new farmers and volunteers across the Carolinas.

## TENNESSEE

- You might think the fun of Halloween is done once November arrives, but pumpkins and winter squash were a real treat for agencies and their clients all across TN last fall. Volunteers in thirteen locations across the state, harvested pumpkins and squash in fields, and gathered pumpkins left after church and community sales. Their efforts netted 33,950 pounds of vitamin-rich food for at-risk Tennesseans. Thanks to our volunteers and produce donors in Hohenwald, Parrottsville, Maryville, Kingsport, Greenback, Knoxville, Shelbyville, Greeneville, Pikeville, Smyrna, Elora, Franklin, Hendersonville, Columbia, and Dresden!
- We've been expanding our connections this fall with Amish growers in Southern KY and Southern TN. In 2010, Perrytown Produce in Scottsville, KY surprised us with a large December donation of winter squash. Their generosity continued in 2011 with 9,700 pounds of spaghetti squash. Program Coordinator Linda Tozer spoke to a growers' gathering in Etheridge, TN this December, and those present were eager to share with SoSA. Within the next week, they invited SoSA volunteers to pick up 1,100 lbs of fresh, tasty sweet potatoes and turnips to feed hungry neighbors in Lawrence County.
- As we complete our first full year of gleaning Tennessee's fields, we are overjoyed at the response we have received from the generous farmers of this state. In the last six months, they have shared more than a half million servings of fruits and vegetables with SoSA, and we

have been blessed, in turn, to share that bounty with those in need. We count our relationships with these farmers a privilege, and we take seriously our call to be good stewards of their gifts.

## VIRGINIA

- Sometimes "the more things change, the more they stay the same" and so it goes with the VA Gleaning Network during 2011. The network had food pantries that came and gleaned, volunteer gleaners that worked in food pantries, and volunteers that bought mesh and cut bags for use in the fields. Farmers Darin Greear, Dan Bran, and Chuck King made a monetary donation to the gleaning network



A group of young turnip gleaners at Darin Greear's farm in Riner, VA

- in honor of the students that came and gleaned in their fields. Volunteer gleaner Daryl Bennett grows six acres of produce for the hungry people in his southside community. Produce was collected from a local farmer's market by volunteers. The changes these people and others made played a big part in the success of gleaning over 1.5 millions pounds of produce in Virginia this past year for those that are hungry.
- The network thanks all who helped with gleaning, all the farmers, and all of the hunger relief agencies that participated in 2011!
- **WEST**  
SoSA West had a challenging year in 2011. A poor potato crop in 2010 resulted in a shortage of storage potatoes through the first half of 2011. SoSA West moved only one load of potatoes in the first eight months of the year. Our Midwest farmers, were bombarded with catastrophic weather – hard freezes, high temperatures, drought, floods, tornadoes and wind storms. Our gleaning season was longer, running from mid-May through late November, but opportunities were fewer, and yields were greatly reduced. Thank God for a good potato crop in 2011. SoSA West moved many potatoes in the last four months of the year, resulting in a yearly total of 2,431,836 pounds of produce moved, and engaging the help of 1,515 volunteers at 140 events. Program Coordinator Bernie Schneider left SoSA West at the end of October to open his own business, but he will be back to glean in the coming years. Karin Page joined the SoSA West staff at the end of November as our new Program Coordinator. She's excited to be here and looks forward to gleaning in 2012. ♦

# Harvest of Hope

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

The purpose of a *Harvest of Hope* event is to raise participants' awareness of hunger in America and motivate them to help feed the hungry in their own community. In a classic example of "be careful of what you wish for": a participant, at a recent fall Harvest event, contacted the office wanting help organizing a hunger awareness meal for her church. Participants at Harvest events tend to form strong bonds with each other over the course of the weekend. Therefore, hearing that this participant wants to host a hunger awareness meal for her whole church was both encouraging and scary. The first instinct was to protect her from any potential negative reactions, which some in the church might exhibit. Raising awareness of hunger is a great thing, but hosting a hunger awareness meal and physically demonstrating to people that there are inequalities within our communities can be an emotionally volatile experience. She was adamant about having this meal – she believes her church is at a crossroads. Her feeling is that the church is starting to just go through the motions, and has lost its love for "others". God has called the church to care for those in need, and she wants her church to be part of that mission. At *Harvest of Hope* we want people to return to their communities and make a difference. In order to make a difference, you have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone. This participant is going to make a difference in her home town, even if the hunger awareness meal produces some negative responses. She is on a journey, following God who is determined to help those in need. It will be an exciting journey, a journey filled with ups and downs – but never boring.

Please consider joining us at a *Harvest of Hope* event this year. Join the Harvest family and help make a difference in the world. ♦

## North Carolina names new Program Coordinator

Anna MacDonlad Dobbs, the NC Program Coordinator, comes to the Society of St. Andrew having completed a Master of Divinity at Duke and a Master of Social Work at UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2011. She interned with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association in her final year, which provided a great introduction to North Carolina agriculture and many connections with local food and ag-related organizations across the state. Anna is a Durham, NC native and participated in gleaning and potato drop events as a youth through her church and high school.



Anna is married to Ryan, a mechanical engineer, and they have two Australian Cattle dogs, Zep and Stella. ♦

# Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The fourth quarter of 2011 was, by far, the busiest quarter of the year for the *Potato & Produce Project*. Over 2 ½ million pounds of produce found homes on the tables of our hungry brothers and sisters in 20 states during that 3 month period. Historically, we receive more requests for food during the last couple of months of each year. Feeding agencies are gearing up to feed more folks during the holiday season, serving hot holiday meals and giving away Christmas food baskets.

We were blessed to have tractor-trailer loads of sweet potatoes, canned tomato products, and cabbage to go along with our mainstay, white potatoes. The final number of pounds from the *Potato & Produce Project* are over 11,400,000 for 2011. Thank you to all of you who have made 2011 such a successful year in many ways. To those of you who contributed financially as well as with your prayers, the farmers and other folks that donated the food to us, and the feeding agencies that see to it that our salvaged food is put in the hands of those in need, we say, bless you.

January of our new year is proving to be a busy month. As I write this review for our newsletter, January 6, we have salvaged and shipped over 360,000 lbs. of food. Please continue to support us in our ministry as you have so faithfully done in the past. ♦

## Donations to SoSA in recent months:

**IN HONOR OF** - Dr. Dan Abbott ... Luis Alonso ... Diane Bittikofer ... Rev. & Mrs. O.H. Burton ... Rose B. Burton ... Candler & Bertie Cooper ... Sybil W. Darley ... B. Failes, Jr. ... Dr. Patricia Flynn ... Bea Fowler ... Virginia Fowler ... Ken & Martha Grimes ... Dr. Marietta F. Grundlehner ... Mike Hickcox ... Julie Holswade ... Ron Hopperton ... Danda Joelman ... Mr. Stanley Kaslusky ... Khaw Siblings ... Drew Lewis ... Erik Lewis ... Marilyn Marks ... Nancy Mayhew ... Kenneth & Pam McCullough ... Andrew Nawn ... Mrs. Susan Noble ... Rev. Steve Propst ... Ms. Marlene R. Reynolds ... Erika Schultz ... Phil Sutphin Family ... Thrasher Memorial UMC staff ... Sandy H. Tilley ... David Vaughan ... Bill Walker ... Rev. Robert Wood ... Missy Wright ... Sam Zamarippa

**IN MEMORY OF** - J. Smith Baldwin ... James Baumgarten ... Virginia Beeler ... Johnny Bernard ... Krystina Elizabeth Boone ... Linda Capasso ... Connie Claris ... Mrs. Lillie Costello ... Neil Cox ... Della Craven ... Bud Curtis ... Audrey Evarto ... Lynda Hewitt ... Evine King ... Jerry Lipscomb ... Dorothy B. Loving ... Mr. Frank Marsico ... Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert E. Mays ... Annis & Bill McCabe ... Marion & Marjorie Newman ... Ruth Griffin Jones Pittman ... Margaret Sherman ... Ryan Shoaf ... Rosa and Bolling Smith ... Zachary Tims ... Kitty Warlick ♦

# Living Proof — Lenten Devotion Program

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, Church Relations

In keeping with the traditions of Lent, the Society of St. Andrew invites your congregation to participate in a program of spiritual reflection, prayer, and giving. Our Lenten devotion program challenges the reader to take seriously the scriptural injunctions to care for the poor, while also providing an opportunity to feed our hungry brothers and sisters.



Jesus' work in the world is ongoing, often appearing in surprising and startling ways. When we are broken, Jesus heals us. When we are lost, Jesus finds us. When we are afraid, Jesus calms our fears. When we are seeking to enrich ourselves, Jesus overturns our tables. When we are feeding his sheep, Jesus multiplies the blessings. Where we seek vengeance, Jesus seeks peace & reconciliation. Where we seek comfort, Jesus seeks justice. This year the Society of St. Andrew offers the Lenten devotion booklet "Living Proof", based on Mark 11:15-18 "...And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers..." Each day during Lent, one of our gifted writers shares a devotion and prayer on where they have seen Jesus at work in the world. As you make the journey to the cross this year, use SoSA's devotion booklet and look for Jesus in the places you go and the people you meet. Then ponder the question: What is your "Living Proof" of Jesus Christ?"

To obtain a free sample church packet or personal packet of our devotion and giving program and the Good Friday Fast, call 800-333-4597, or email church@endhunger.org. An order form is also available on our website: <http://www.endhunger.org/lent.htm>. There is no charge for the program.

Through your involvement in the Society of St. Andrew ministry, you and your church can provide nourishing food to those most in need, especially during these cold winter months and economically challenging times. ♦

# VBS — It's a Miracle!

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, Church Relations

IT'S A MIRACLE! can be used either as a stand-alone program, or as a mission emphasis to compliment your church's Vacation Bible School program.

Each day, your students will be introduced to one of Jesus' miracles; from walking on water to helping the blind to see. IT'S A MIRACLE! is a complete VBS program that includes a Bible story, daily activity sheets for all ages, facts about hunger and SoSA's ministry, potato trivia, Go Green facts, and 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, and keeping God's world beautiful. Your students will be amazed to learn how they can use their hands to help feed God's hungry children.



Besides the fun and educational aspects of this mission project, the goal for each VBS is to raise enough money through student offerings for 1,000 pounds of fresh produce that will end up on the plates of hungry children and adults. 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 pied in the face, or "live on top of the church" if their students exceed their goal. Why not see if your pastor is willing to do something crazy that will challenge your VBS students to strive to feed more hungry children.

Last year, over 500 churches used SoSA's VBS program. VBS kids enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry by donating over \$28,000 – enough to provide more than 1 million servings of food to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. The fresh food will be donated by SoSA to feeding agencies across the nation to feed hungry children and adults.

All materials are free and available now. There is no obligation. You can order your materials online at [www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm). Or contact The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore at 800-333-4597 or church@endhunger.org; If your materials do not arrive within two weeks of ordering, please call our office.

Jesus is a God of miracles! Come and see how Jesus changed the lives of those he encountered and how he can change your life. ♦

## Society of St. Andrew gets the highest rating on Mainstreet.com

From the Mainstreet.com website: "The highest-rated national charity on this list, the Society of St. Andrew, takes a decidedly faith-based approach to ending hunger. Along with the group's ministry activities that aim to relieve spiritual hunger, Society volunteers gather leftover crops from farms after the harvest to distribute to food banks and other distribution groups. Gleaning these remaining crops, which would otherwise rot in the fields, provides more than 15 million pounds of nutritious food, the group claims, which is distributed to poor communities nationwide."

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## IT'S A MIRACLE!

### VBS Program



**IT'S A MIRACLE!**

**IT'S A MIRACLE** is designed as a mission emphasis to your church's VBS program or as a stand-alone program. It can be easily adapted to any VBS theme. To obtain a FREE VBS kit, please contact 800-333-4597, Church@EndHunger.org, or go online to <http://www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm>.

#### Please send my FREE VBS packet 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 02/12)

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

### What's your new year's resolution?

\$500  \$365  \$250  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)


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