



Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 28

NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2012

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

2.6 million pounds of potatoes saved thanks to an emergency appeal

Thanks to many who responded to the call for help, the Society of St. Andrew moved 60 truckloads – more than 2.6 million pounds of sweet potatoes. Donors generously gave nearly \$40,000 to help move the sweet spuds from the farm in North Carolina to food banks, agencies, and drop sites in states from New York to Florida, Michigan to Kansas.



From the Sheep Shed

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aren't you glad SoSA is around?

If you are reading this, you care about hunger and food waste, especially in the U.S. where there should be no hungry people. But what would you do if someone called you and offered to donate 6 million pounds of sweet potatoes and gave you three weeks to do something with them?

Even at SoSA that kind of call gets your attention. And that is exactly what happened back in late May. After hanging up and catching your breath you immediately start thinking of the myriad details involved in moving a regular truckload of food. Then you figure out how to multiply that by about 100 over a very short period. Where are they located? How are they packed? How many trucks will I need? What type of trailers? Where can we get all the trucks? What type of off-loading? What will it cost? Where can we send them?

Sadly, because the need is so great and so many people simply need food, the last question was the easiest to answer. We had no trouble finding places that needed those potatoes and wanted them desperately.

But this situation required an organization-wide response to deal with this unexpected but wonderful opportunity. Everyone at SoSA in every SoSA location shifted their thinking and focus to save and distribute as much of those sweet potatoes as possible. It was remarkable to see SoSA respond with great flexibility and creativity to save and distribute nearly three million pounds in just a four week period.

Since the sweet potatoes were located in North Carolina, our NC office took the lead in coordinating this big effort. Our other offices throughout the Southeast also identified receiving agencies and arranged truckloads that reached nearly every state east of Kansas.

Cost is always an issue, and as you know, SoSA provides food at a cost of about two cents per serving. But how to pay for it all with an average freight cost per load of about \$2,000? Our creative staff found ways to get transportation donated or have receiving agencies share in the cost whenever possible. Still, many of the loads had to be shipped at full commercial rates. Our development and communications staff put out a special appeal for funds to help move this food. SoSA pledged to use 100% of all donations for these food shipments – even forgoing our extremely low 3.5% overhead cost. Our faithful donors responded with nearly \$40,000 in about a one-week period. This covered about a third of the shipments, which was an enormous help.

The coordinated response of the food donor, thousands of volunteers, receiving agencies, financial supporters, staff, and board members was both amazing and successful. Nearly three million pounds were saved and distributed. SoSA has never done so much in so short a time. Many records were set.

So what would you do with several million pounds of potatoes? Aren't you glad SoSA is around and that you are a part of it? We certainly are glad and so are those who simply need food.

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January – July 2012

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:

Gleaned Produce	10,723,629 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	3,455,300 lbs
Events	2,552
Volunteers	15,544
Total Pounds	14,178,926
Total Servings	42,536,778

SoSA stories from around the states

ALABAMA

- Five loads of N.C. sweet potatoes fed hungry Alabamians in Oxford, Oneonta, Talladega, Madison, and Dothan this May. Hundreds of volunteers pitched in to bag and distribute the potatoes, making a real difference for those in need.
- The children at Marion UMC's Vacation Bible School and their pastor, Misty Roberts, had a dream to feed the hungry in Perry County, and they brought that dream to life in June, with a load of fresh-picked Tenn. green beans. They bagged thousands of lbs. of beans and distributed them, all in one morning.
- Pepper Place Market in Birmingham now welcomes SoSA gleaners each Saturday, where generous farmers share their end-of-market produce. North Ala. Gleaning Coordinator Mary Lynn Botts says farmers are giving 1,000 lbs of good, fresh, nutritious food every week and local agencies like the Community Food Bank of Central Ala. are delighted to receive it.

FLORIDA

- SoSA welcomes Samantha Smyth-Chandler to our SoSA family. Samantha will be serving as Area Coordinator for the Pensacola and West Fla. area. Samantha has been volunteering with the St. Mark's UMC this summer, gleaning greens, corn, and snap beans with much more to come. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities in the West Fla. panhandle, please contact Samantha at: samantha.smythchandler@gmail.com
- SoSA Fla. extends a heartfelt thanks to the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation for its support once again this year. The Frueauff Foundation support enables SoSA's Fla. programs to provide about one million servings of nutritious food for the hungry statewide.



GEORGIA

- What a joy it is to report that over 1 million servings of sweet potatoes have been placed into the hands of the hungry in Ga. within the first 6 months of 2012! Along with the sweet potatoes, other fresh produce such as broccoli, cabbage, cantaloupes, corn, tomatoes, and watermelons have been gleaned and placed into the hands of the hungry all around the state.
- A similar theme is being played out this year in Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, St. Marys, Savannah, and Tifton – feeding agencies and volunteers with fantastic “can-do” attitudes and recipients willing to arrive and wait for hours before the scheduled time just to receive a bag of potatoes to feed their families.
- Our work is far from over. As the temperatures begin to subside this fall, gleanings are already scheduled for apples, cabbage, pumpkins, and other fresh nutritious vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. The Ga. Gleaning Network has been blessed to have generous farmers and growers, able and willing volunteers, “can-do” feeding agencies, and gracious financial donors. Together we can and must continue to feed our hungry Ga. neighbors – won't you do your part today? Contact Janet Sack, Ga. Program Coordinator for details at 229-386-5800 or gleanga@endhunger.org.

MISSISSIPPI

- The Miss. office of SoSA has had a great start to its gleaning season. Even with the extreme heat, we have been able to glean blueberries, squash, zucchini, purple hull peas, sweet corn, and peaches. So far this year we have salvaged over one million lbs. of produce that has been delivered to agencies all over Miss., Ark., and La.
- We are hoping the weather cooperates and we will have many more gleaning opportunities over the next couple of months. If you would like to get involved please contact Jackie Usey at 769-233-0887 or gleanms@endhunger.org.

NORTH CAROLINA

- On May 4, we got a phone call about the availability of millions of sweet potatoes from a distributor in Faison, N.C. With help from all SoSA regional offices, we moved more than 2.6 million lbs. in May and June. Many thanks to all of the fantastic churches and volunteers who responded to this abundant blessing! Here are a few highlights:
 - Walls Chapel UMC in Raeford had a great turnout at the potato drop and at worship the following Sunday. Rev. Shawn Mitchell told us it was the first time that the sanctuary was full.
 - At least six churches that hosted potato drops were new SoSA partners.
 - Rev. Paul Thombs in Winston Salem got an anonymous phone call from a father thanking him for the potatoes. He would not have had anything to feed his children that night without them.
- For those of you who missed out on the sweet potato fun, have no fear! We will open online registration for Yam Jam,

FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

our annual sweet potato gleaning in Johnston County, in early September.

TENNESSEE

- This spring was all about sweet potatoes for SoSA in Tenn. In May, we distributed 7 tractor-trailer loads of N.C. sweet potatoes in Morristown, Nashville, Chattanooga, Hixson, Bristol, Knoxville, and Franklin. So many churches and agencies stepped up to host potato drops — and their work put 840,000 servings of health, nutrition, and hope on the tables of our hungry brothers and sisters!
- In addition to all the N.C. sweet potatoes, a Lincoln County farmer gave his surplus potatoes to us in pickup-sized loads, just right for distribution in small-town and rural areas from Shelbyville to Tullahoma to Fayetteville, and Pulaski. We match the donation to the area where it can meet the greatest need.
- Memphis-area gleaning coordinator, Tonia Anderson (whose first SoSA experience was a *Harvest of Hope* work camp in the 1980's), has hit the ground running, with farmers market and field gleanings in West Tenn. Recent features on TV and in newspapers in the Memphis metro area, have proved a real boost to our growing West Tenn. network.
- In East Tenn., Gleaning Coordinator Leigh Travis, is beginning to work with Grainger County tomato packers, acquiring unmarketable tomatoes for nearby hunger-relief agencies to serve their clients.
- For the second summer, Crossville green beans are feeding hungry people for hundreds of miles around. These green beans are 'culls' — simply not pretty enough to sell — and the grower shares them with SoSA daily from mid-June to mid-October.

VIRGINIA

- It is the beginning of a busy season for the Va. Gleaning Network. We have had cherries to glean at Crown Orchard in Batesville, corn to glean at Brookdale Farm in Va. Beach and peaches to glean at Cline's Orchard near Winchester. Along with cucumbers, yellow squash, zucchini, cabbage, green beans, beets, onions, and potatoes donated by providers throughout the state. I would like to thank all of the providers and the gleaners for helping to jump-start the season and for helping to feed those who are hungry!
- The Commonwealth Day of Gleaning will be held on Thursday, August 16 throughout the state. This will be a time when the First Lady of Va. will glean with us in the Richmond area. There will be gleaning sites throughout the state where volunteers can work to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to those hunger relief agencies in their areas.
- A special thanks to the Forest Farmers Market, Charlottesville Farmers Market, and the Harrisonburg Farmers Markets for donating to the gleaning network. This is such a unique opportunity for volunteers to get involved with the markets and with feeding those in their own community.

WEST

- We are picking produce weekly at Joe Jennings' and Joe Steineger's farms, who grow extra food for SoSA West. So far we've harvested leeks, onions, radishes, lettuce, turnip and mustard greens, kale, peppers, and potatoes with volunteers from Grand Avenue Temple and New Kingdom of Faith and Restoration leading the gleanings and taking the food to local pantries. And thanks to both farmers for also giving us produce they had already picked and were unable to sell at market — that's a double bonus!
- Sign up to glean today! If you represent a church or organization that wants to glean with SoSA West, please talk with your group to determine the dates they want to glean and email the dates to gleans@endhunger.org. We will have opportunities to glean on a weekly basis from now through Dec. 1.
- Dates for Potato Drops are filling up fast. If your church wants to participate in an event bringing 42,000 lbs. of potatoes to your community to be distributed among local feeding agencies, please call 816-921-0856. Pending a good potato crop, we are planning to schedule Potato Drops from September through November.
- At SoSA West, our mission is all about feeding folks in need with fresh produce, and April and May were banner months in that regard. We moved 515,787 lbs. of food in April and 229,493 lbs. in May, for a two-month total of 745,280 lbs. of wonderful fruits and vegetables that went to Harvesters and other food banks, as well as food pantries and feeding agencies in Mo. and Kan., and across the west.
- This year, we're giving you more opportunities to help SoSA West succeed. If you're looking to volunteer for SoSA West, you can choose from the following: *Weekend Gleaner, Weekday Gleaner, Field Supervisor, Truck or Van Driver, Adopt-a-Farm, Adopt-a-Market, Office Volunteer, Volunteer Ambassador, Farmer Ambassador, Gleaning Coordinator*. Call 816-921-0856 for more information, or go to EndHunger.org/sosawest.htm. ♦



Harvest of Hope

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

The *Harvest of Hope* season is well underway. By the time this newsletter is in your hands, *Harvest of Hope* will have completed 7 events and impacted countless lives. There are still 4 weekend events this fall with spaces available. Plan now to bring your group to an event and learn firsthand how to provide healthy food to those in need. ♦

Endhunger.org/HoH

**Harvest of Hope events
with space still available:**

Shenandoah Valley of VA – Oct. 5-7

North Georgia – Oct. 12-14

Eastern Shore of VA – Oct. 26-28

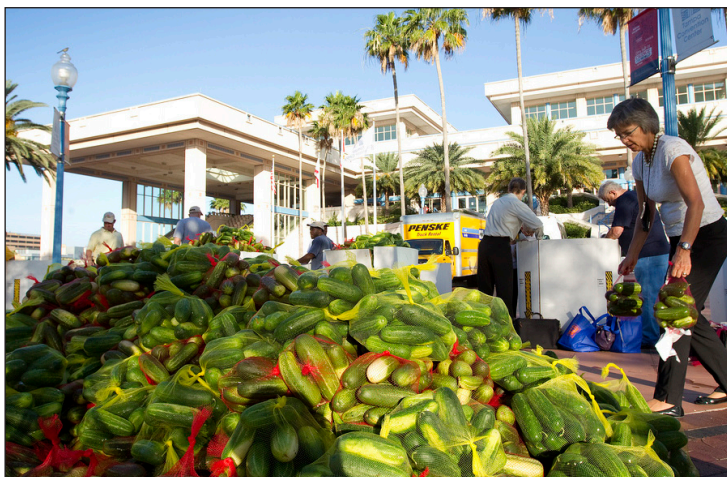
Central Florida – Nov. 2-4

Sign up today!

SoSA moves produce with top church leaders

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body, the General Conference, recently met in Tampa, Florida – setting policy and direction for the church. General Conference meets every four years and is the only entity that speaks for The United Methodist Church.

Society of St. Andrew was there to save and distribute 41,000 pounds of fresh local cucumbers and work with bishops, district superintendents, delegates and volunteers to bag and distribute the produce to local food banks and pantries - ultimately feeding the area's hungry. Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of the Mississippi Conference, and Gil Hanke, General Secretary of the United Methodist Men spoke at a press conference about the work of Society of St. Andrew. ♦



United Methodist Bishop, Hope Morgan Ward, lends a hand at the cucumber drop in Tampa, FL

The Potato & Produce Project — delivering food where it's needed most

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato & Produce Project's* second quarter of this year has been busy with delivering dozens of loads of bagged white potatoes, 9 loads of sweet potatoes, and several loads of yogurt and juice. Once again, farmers have been extremely generous with their donations. The produce is always welcome when we offer it to feeding agencies. With the need so great, we can always find a welcome home for the food. Agencies are ready and willing to receive our loads gratefully. Over 1.4 million pounds have been salvaged and delivered in just the past 3 months.

Soon we will be receiving loads of recently harvested white potatoes. Our fall season will begin and off we go feeding more hungry American's. ♦



A "Biggest Potato Contest" at a recent Potato Drop at St. Matthew UMC in Alexandria, VA.

Donations to SoSA in recent months:

IN HONOR OF - Hampton Bartlett ... Harriet Bryan ... Mary Nell Bryan ... Christine Elliott ... Jackie Evrard ... Jim Hassmer ... Mr. Henry C. Holswade ... J. Payten Harcum ... Rev. & Mrs. Stephen B. Hassmer ... Willis & Hope Kuecker ... Rev. Steven Lee ... Emily & Stuart Meeks ... Heather Messera ... Nelle Richards ... Jim & Judy Tongue ... Rev. Cliff Whitlock ... Alan Wilson

IN MEMORY OF - Kathleen Clark ... Bud Curtis ... Claude & Lucile Eskew ... Saimi Fausch ... Shirley Hawkins ... Evine King ... Audrey Levy ... Fred & Louise Mabry ... Jean Makoojy ... Dwayne Mead ... Rowena J. Pine ... Benjamin Ramey ... Andy Scott ... Ruth Seiple ... Gernith Louise Streu ... Clark & Erma Tankersley ♦

Joy to the world The Lord is come

Devotions for Advent

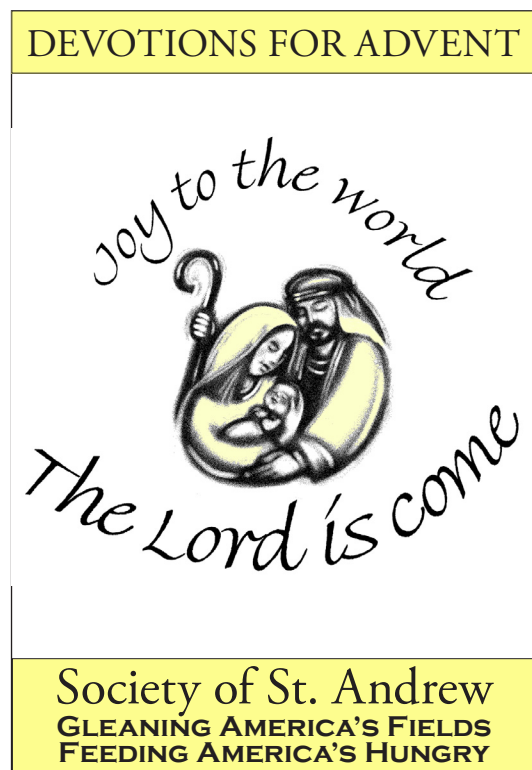
By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, Church Relations

The Society of St. Andrew invites your congregation to participate in our 2012 Advent devotion and giving program, "Joy to the World!" This unique devotion booklet, based on Luke 1:44, "For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy" 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 what makes each one of us leap for joy as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world this Christmas.

As we welcome Immanuel into our lives this Holy Advent Season, discover through the words of our gifted writers how they share the joy of Christ during the Christmas season and throughout the year. Through the scripture readings, 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 at church@endhunger.org ♦



September is National Hunger Action Month

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, 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, 45 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. These include 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:
EndHunger.org/NHAM**

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 National Hunger Action Month this September, remember our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat and *"Let us love not only in words, but in deed and in truth."* (1 John 3:18) ♦

Society of St. Andrew

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Society of St. Andrew **REPORT**

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Joy to the world

Advent Devotions



Joy to the world 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!

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 08/12)

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