



# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 28

NUMBER 4

AUTUMN 2012

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

## Virginia First Lady declares Day of Gleaning in the state

Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell has taken a shine to the fine work of Society of St. Andrew. It all started when Society of St. Andrew was recognized by the First Lady's FLITE (First Lady's Initiatives Team Effort) two years ago with a Seal of Approval for our outstanding work in the state. Last year, the recognition went a step higher when we were recognized in the First Lady's "Hall of Fame." This year, we were contacted by the office of the First Lady wanting to do more to help with our work and promote our commonsense solution to the hunger problem. *A Day of Gleaning in the Commonwealth of Virginia* resulted from that connection, with an endorsement from the Governor.

On August 16, at seven locations across the Commonwealth, 143 volunteers gleaned 37,175 pounds of eleven kinds of produce. Green beans, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, apples, peaches, corn, and more were gleaned that day and went to feed those in need. Join with us every year in Virginia for the Day of Gleaning and make every day in every state a day of caring for our hungry neighbors. ♦



## From the Sheep Shed

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is a new study out saying that we waste about 52% of all the produce grown in our country\*. Think about that for a minute and about what that means. Of all the fresh produce that is actually consumed in the U.S., by everybody, there is that much again going to waste. We are actually producing enough nutritious fresh produce to feed our entire country – twice! But half of it is going to waste. Friends, we have defeated hunger in this country – we simply allow hunger to exist. It doesn't need to be that way; we let it be that way.

The answer to the hunger problem is all around us, and ironically enough the answer is ... food! We are swimming in it. I often tell folks that we waste more than enough food than is needed to feed every hungry man woman and child in this country. But according to this study, I'm wrong. In reality we are wasting more food than is needed to feed every person in this country, not just hungry people.

If that doesn't make you jump to your feet and want to do something I don't know what will. Here's a bright idea: why not simply use that excess food to feed hungry people? Please forgive my little rant, but you know where I'm going with this.

Feeding, of course, is exactly what you are doing through SoSA. Perfectly good and healthy food is being saved and distributed to the hungry all across America. All of it is coming from that 52% of all produce that is going to waste. And big things are happening this year.

So far this year SoSA has saved and distributed nearly 24 million pounds of food. That is 43% more than this time last year, and a new record for SoSA at this time in the year. But it also indicates just how great the need is in America. With work still so hard to find, the number of people in need in this country is increasing, not decreasing.

SoSA continues to do all it can to meet that growing need with healthy and nutritious food at just a couple pennies per serving. It is a solution ripe with commonsense and success. We know you are glad to be part of it.

If anyone ever asks you about hunger in this country, tell them you've got the answer and that you are doing something about it. ♦

\*Natural Resources Defense Council:  
<http://www.nrdc.org/food/wasted-food.asp>

# GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS

## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January – August 2012

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

Gleaned Produce	23,787,952 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	7,548,068 lbs
Events	4,040
Volunteers	23,700
<b>Total Pounds</b>	<b>23,787,952</b>
<b>Total Servings</b>	<b>71,363,856</b>

## SoSA stories from around the states

### ALABAMA

- Several large Ala. growers are now working with us, making weekly distributions of surplus produce in Central and Northeast Ala. Asbury UMC in Madison hosted a green bean drop on August 25. Nearly 400 volunteers came out, from as far away as Birmingham, to bag 20,000 lbs. of green beans and ready them for distribution to dozens of North Ala. agencies.
- Volunteer teams glean regularly at Birmingham's Pepper Place Market, Montgomery area markets, and a number of other farmers markets around the state. Market gleanings allow us to recover very short shelf-life produce that soup kitchens and shelters can utilize within 24 hours to feed their clients. Without SoSA intervention, this produce would go to waste. Market gleanings also give us a chance to put SoSA's mission in front of many growers regularly, building relationships that may lead to field gleanings or more significant produce donations down the road. Market gleanings yield several hundred to several thousand lbs. of produce every week.
- The ALFA Foundation again awarded the Ala. Gleaning Network a \$20,000 grant to support its efforts recovering fresh produce to feed hungry people. ALFA has been a major supporter of our work in Ala. since the Network began in 2005. Thanks, ALFA!

### FLORIDA

- SoSA welcomes Walter Hernandez to its Fla. office as the new Program Coordinator. Walter grew up in Central Florida, attended Winter Park High School and is a graduate of Rollins College. After spending a



Beautiful peppers in Ala.

year and a half in Honduras working with poor farmers and teaching English in an elementary school, Walter returns to the U.S. with a renewed sense of mission, and is excited to join the SoSA family. He brings gifts and skills in marketing, web design, volunteer coordination, and public speaking.

- Do onions make you cry? Over 1,500 lbs. of onions brought tears of joy to the volunteers of the food pantry in Fruitland Park when 13 youth and 3 adults spent a hot summer day sorting and bagging onions from Central Florida Nursery farm. "We never get fresh produce, this is such a blessing," the food pantry director told us through her tears.
- Gleaning season is upon us; we begin gleaning corn and cucumbers in October. Call the Fla. office to schedule your group – 800-806-0756.

### GEORGIA

- What a joy it is to report 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 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](mailto:gleanga@endhunger.org).

### MISSISSIPPI

- So far it has been a banner year for hunger relief activities of SoSA in Miss. and Ark. Already 2.5 million lbs. of fruits and vegetables have been distributed to feeding agencies in the region this year.
- The fall season is when the excitement really starts. It is sweet potato harvest time and volunteers are needed. Volunteer to harvest and bag potatoes for the hungry, or help by donating financially to cover the cost of transporting the potatoes to feeding agencies. Join us and help feed the hungry in Miss. and Ark.

### NORTH CAROLINA

- Sweet potatoes return! (They never really left.) We moved another 750,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes in July and



# FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

August with the help of all our Gleaning Coordinators, distribution agencies, and hundreds of committed volunteers. Way to go!

- We've also had a few really unique gleaning opportunities:
  - 400 lbs. of bite-sized hamburgers - perfect for soup.
  - Several hundred lbs. of muscadine grapes every week in August, courtesy of our Charlotte area gleaners.
  - Our yearly gleaning of apples in the orchard at Biltmore Estate yielded 3,500 lbs.
  - 40,000 lbs. of baby food and formula in Upstate SC.
- And if you thought sweet potatoes were on the way out ... The Yam Jam is just around the corner on October 20!
- Our SC Gleaning Network is really expanding this year with 21 new growers and 34 new agencies. We are excited about our growing relationships with the Church of Christ and the Orangeburg District of the United Methodist Church and have worked closely with both groups to host Potato Drops in SC.
- Two of our NC Gleaning Coordinators recently celebrated milestones with SoSA, and we're really grateful to have both Bills on board. For the past 10 years, Bill Waller in the Kinston area has distributed over 5.6 million lbs. of produce. Bill Walker has worked in the Asheville area for 5 years and salvaged over 174,000 lbs. of fruits and vegetables from local farmers markets alone.



A very proud strawberry gleaner in N.C.

## TENNESSEE

- In Maryville, 16-year-old Kyle Wright organized a potato drop for his Eagle Scout project, including mobilizing volunteers and lining up receiving agencies. One young man's vision put 126,000 servings of sweet potatoes on the tables of needy families throughout East Tenn. Thanks, Kyle!
- The Memphis Farmers Market has 115 vendors who share fresh produce with SoSA each week. This produce goes immediately to soup kitchens and shelters, where the nutritious, very ripe fruits and vegetables are quickly served to clients.
- A farmer near Carthage has opened his fields to SoSA gleaners five times this summer, sharing more than 20,000 ears of sweet corn!
- Our generous Crossville growers continue to share green beans. Two dozen churches, agencies, and civic organizations have worked with us to pick up, bag, and

distribute them. The green beans have traveled to feed hungry people in Tenn. and Ala. We will have beans available for distribution through early October, and we are always looking for more groups to help us.

## VIRGINIA

- Gleaning in Va. is in full-swing! We have gleaned sweet corn, tomatoes, blueberries, cucumbers, green peppers, cantaloupe, eggplant, peaches, and squash this summer. The gleaning will continue with apples, pumpkins, winter squash, and turnips through the fall season.
- The Va. Gleaning Network is collecting produce from several farmers markets across the state. The markets include the Forest, Charlottesville, and Harrisonburg Farmers Markets. Over 6,000 lbs. have been collected since the early summer season started.

## WEST

- SoSA West was recognized as Donor of the Year by Harvesters, the Community Food Network at its annual Circle of Hope Awards Ceremony.
- In July and August, in spite of the heat, 452 volunteers helped at 35 gleanings and picked up produce at 11 weekly farmers' markets yielding 127,579 lbs. We had multiple gleanings on several days, thanks to volunteers Bruce Bisby, Camry Ivory, David Toler, Erin Weir, Franklin Walker, Leslie Tremblay, and Sue Sommer taking the position of Field Supervisor. We are truly grateful to all of you for your dedication and service.
- SoSA West is a founding member of the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition. The coalition advocates for a strong local food system that provides healthy, sustainable and accessible foods for everyone living in Greater Kansas City serving a nine-county region.
- Mark your calendars now to attend SoSA West's annual After the Harvest Fundraising Breakfast on Thursday, Oct. 25, 8-9:30 a.m. in Founder's Hall at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 West 13th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. Come and enjoy a free and hearty breakfast featuring locally grown fresh food, and learn more about SoSA as we share our successes and recognize our wonderful partners. Bring your friends and share our good news with them! Please call 816-921-0856 or email [sosawest@endhunger.org](mailto:sosawest@endhunger.org) to let us know you're coming. ♦



Ever wonder what a tractor-trailer load of green beans looks like?

# Harvest of Hope

By SCOTT BRIGGS, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

*"The week is still having impact on my youth and we are starting to fulfill our covenant this September with ways to restock our own food pantry here at our church."*

Youth Leader - Wilmington, NC Event 2012

I have been a part of nearly fifty *Harvest of Hope* events; every event has been a unique and different experience. Of course there are some traditions that are a part of every event, yet no two events have been the same. It is the personalities of the participating groups that give each event its uniqueness. Some groups become upset when they realize how much food and other resources we waste; resources that could and should be used to help others. Other groups are amazed at how a simple activity like gleaning can produce so much food for those suffering with food insecurity. Many enjoy the sense of community that develops as the participants join together to make a difference. Most participants are shocked when they realize how many Americans go hungry. All these emotions are great, but without change they are worthless in the fight against hunger. Thankfully a lot of the participants leave the events inspired, and commit to make a difference in their home community. In 2013 please consider letting your group's personality flavor a *Harvest of Hope* event and may your group be inspired to change your community for the better. ♦

## The Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato & Produce Project* has moved over 7.5 million pounds of various produce already this year! We are still moving sweet potatoes from cold storage and we are also moving white potatoes from this year's harvests.

Sometimes rejected potatoes might be a little ugly, aesthetically speaking, but they are always packed with nutrition. White and sweet potatoes provide 45% of your daily needed vitamin C supply, they are high in potassium, naturally fat free, and "loaded" with other vitamins and minerals. Supporting the *Potato & Produce Project* means you are supporting the healthy diets of hungry, impoverished, and vulnerable citizens of the United States. ♦



## Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge — GO TEAM!

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR, CHURCH RELATIONS

This Super Bowl, Sunday, February 3, join the SoSA team that is all about feeding our hungry brothers and sisters good, healthy nutritious food. Society of St. Andrew is the team that knows how to use God's good food to feed the hungry out of God's abundant provisions. For 2¢, SoSA can provide a serving of food to the hungry while keeping God's good food out of the landfill, which is a win for both teams: our hungry brothers and sisters, and God's beautiful world.



There are many ways to share your blessings with others while having fun at the BIG Super Bowl game. Why not consider one of the events listed below and get your entire congregation to join in the celebration and make a difference at the same time?

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

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

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



### Recent donations to SoSA:

**IN HONOR OF** - George Ford ... Cynthia Goodwin ... Mrs. Julie A. Kaslusky ... George & Phyllis Koury ... Drew Lewis ... Pauline Lewis ... Marilyn Ochs ... David R. Reed

**IN MEMORY OF** - Kent ... Pam Adams ... Cheryl Banker... Woodrow W. Bontrager ... Bud Curtis ... Rev. Jim Dellert ... Helen Derickson ... Betty Watson Dodson ... Jim Foster ... Judd Frey ... Evine King ... Tatiana Korzenowski ... Ardis Lemke ... Larry Patterson ... Rowena Jean Nehrbass Pine ... Dorothy Shannahan ... James Sherbon ... Kenneth Wayne Thompson ... John Ward ... Patrick Wauters ♦

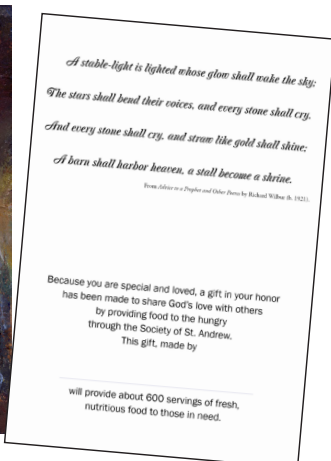


# Sharing God's love at Christmas

Your \$12 gift puts 600 servings of food on the tables of the hungry!



Card is full color front.  
Folded card is 5"x7".



We will send your honorees our Alternative Christmas Card designed exclusively for Society of St. Andrew. The card features original art and inspirational verse blessing your loved ones with God's nourishing love. This one-of-a-kind card announces your generous gift to feed the hungry in the name of your honorees. You'll also receive the card with our thanks and confirmation of your order. It's an ideal gift for sharing not just with friends but with those in need as well.

**Your \$12 gift puts 600 servings of food on the tables of the hungry!**

800-333-4597 ♦ Fax 434-299-5949

Card@EndHunger.org ♦ EndHunger.org/card

## Christmas Gift Donation Card

Minimum donation gift for each card is \$12

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

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

Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT Total enclosed or charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send \_\_\_\_\_ cards TO ME for personalizing and mailing.

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

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sign this card: \_\_\_\_\_

(Use separate sheet for additional names and addresses)

(ACC-NL)

Orders must be received by Dec. 2 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

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

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

## Joy to the world The Lord is come Devotions for Advent

"Joy to the World" is a unique Advent 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"*. This program 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.

As we welcome Immanuel into our lives this Holy Advent Season, discover through the words of our writers what makes them leap for joy. 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.

Now is a great time to examine the materials we offer at no charge — call 800-333-4597, or email The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore at church@endhunger.org. ♦

### DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT

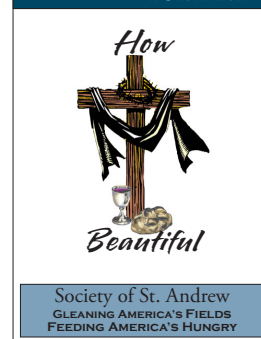


## How Beautiful Devotions for Lent

The Society of St. Andrew's 2013 Lenten Devotion theme is "How Beautiful" based on Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!" During his earthly life, Jesus brought Good News by restoring sight to the blind, encouraging tax collectors to be honest, and challenging people to have a deeper faith. Through SoSA's devotion booklets, come meet a different Biblical character each day during Lent and through the writing of our authors, discover how they feel Jesus brought wholeness to that person's life because of their encounter with Jesus.

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 The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore at 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. ♦

### DEVOTIONS FOR LENT



Society of St. Andrew  
3383 Sweet Hollow Road  
Big Island, Virginia 24526  
800-333-4597  
[www.EndHunger.org](http://www.EndHunger.org)



NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BEDFORD, VA  
PERMIT NO. 3

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

### Return Service Requested

#### What's inside?

Day of Gleaning	1
From the Sheep Shed	1
News Across the Nation	2-3
Harvest of Hope	4
Potato & Produce Project	4
"Souper" Bowl	4
Christmas, Advent, Lent	5

## 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](mailto: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**

(NLT 10/12)

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

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

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my: ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ AmEx 

Acct.# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW**  
**3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD., BIG ISLAND, VA 24526**

(NLT 10/12)

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW IS A NATIONAL 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW.  
For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • [sosainfo@EndHunger.org](mailto:sosainfo@EndHunger.org) • [www.EndHunger.org](http://www.EndHunger.org)