

2,200 miles hiked for the hungry

Will McCranie, Peachtree City, Georgia resident, recently walked the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, 2,200 miles, to raise awareness of hunger in America, and to raise money for the Society of St. Andrew. His goal was to raise \$10,000 and he is still accepting donations toward that goal.

McCranie first became involved with SoSA when he became an Eagle Scout at the age of 13. He did his work for that through the Meals for Millions program, a joint effort of SoSA and United Methodist Men to combat hunger in America. That's how he got the idea to support SoSA through his walk. He knew that he would be experiencing hunger throughout the trail, which made him consider all those Americans who experience hunger every day. McCranie burned calories at a tremendous rate during his journey, losing 50 pounds along the way. Food was a huge part of the planning for the walk.

McCranie got back home in time for Thanksgiving and certainly ate well that day. His hope now is to help the approximately 45 million people in the U.S. who deal with food insecurity every day. To help him reach his fundraising goal and to help those who are hungry, visit http://walkingwithwill.com/ATHike. htm. \Diamond



From the Sheep Shed

By Steven M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In this first article of the New Year, allow me to raise a few things for your attention.

First, SoSA had a remarkable and record-setting year in 2012. You can see the statistics elsewhere in this newsletter. But you'll be pleased to know that SoSA set new records in total food saved and distributed, total number of gleaning events held, total number of volunteers, and total number of servings of healthy food provided to the hungry. And each of those old records was broken by a significant amount. It truly was a remarkable year as we provided over 100 million servings of perfectly good and nutritious food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

But it is important to remember that behind each of those statistics are actual people who are in need of food and people who care enough to volunteer or support this remarkable ministry. As you read this, please remember that you are

among those people. Thank you.

Second, it is important to remember that SoSA is always involved in disaster relief in the U.S. After hurricanes, tornadoes, or other natural disasters SoSA is often among the first to get fresh food and water into the areas hit hardest. For example, after the Sandy hurricane/storms that hit the east coast, SoSA was able to provide over 670,000 pounds of food to that devastated area. This goes on every year, when disasters hit, with little fanfare. So you can know that your support of SoSA is also effective in providing help to areas hit by natural disasters – any time of the year. Thank you.

Finally it is also important to remember that SoSA is at work year-round and 24/7. We've just come through the Christmas holiday season and can easily remember all the many charities asking for support. They always seem to catch our attention more during the holiday season. Like all nonprofits, SoSA receives a good part of its financial support at the end of the year. But remember that SoSA is out there, preventing food waste and feeding the hungry every day of the year. There are over 45 million Americans who don't have enough food for significant parts of the year, or in many cases, for the entire year. Those are the people that you are reaching, through SoSA, every day of the year. Thank you.

As you read this newsletter, we should have already passed our first million pounds of food distributed in 2013. Like the 33 million pounds of food last year, that first million pounds of food this year would not be possible without you. On behalf of all those you help feed, thank you.

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS

Sosa sets
NEW RECORDS

January — December 2012

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:

Gleaned Produce 23,717,951 lbs ▲ 53% Potato & Produce Project 9,789,485 lbs Events 6,559 ▲ 44% Volunteers 40,310 ▲ 40% Total Pounds 33,507,436 ▲ 24% Total Servings 100,522,308 ▲ 24%

SoSA stories from around the states

The Auburn University Wesley Foundation and Auburn's Committee of 19 sponsored a potato drop in October as part of the Alabama-Auburn hunger relief campaign. Aubie, the Auburn mascot, came out to bag beans!

Pastor John Edwards of Clear Springs UMC in Robertsdale, Ala. heard about the Alabama-Auburn hunger relief rivalry and jumped into action, setting up an Iron Bowl hunger relief challenge in his congregation. "I am happy to report that a check for \$117.88 is being sent to Society of St. Andrew as a result of our little fun," writes Pastor Edwards. "We proved that helping to feed the hungry can be fun and satisfying to know we contribute in a small way to relieving the problem of hunger."

This fall and winter have brought, and continue to bring, gleanings of collards at the Agricultural Research Stations in Cullman and Shorter. Before the frosts, our volunteers

also gleaned tomatoes.

A new partnership between Cullman-area sweet potato growers, the North Ala. Food Bank, and the Society of St. Andrew will make lots more healthy food available to hungry individuals and families in North Ala. The generous farmers are planning to donate a large load of sweet potatoes every month and began to make good on that promise with sweet potato drops at the US Space



Caring hands pick healthy greens in Alabama

and Rocket Center in December and the Madison County Farmers Market in January.

FLORIDA

- ➤ Over 40,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes were bagged and distributed through St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Pensacola. Many who helped bag were recipients who not only were there to help themselves but their neighbors as well.
- ➤ Over 40,000 lbs. of Zellwood sweet corn was a welcome sight to the more than 300 Lutheran volunteers in Destin who helped bag and distribute the produce just in time for Thanksgiving dinner!
- SoSA hosted the annual Presbyterians' Day in the Grove again in 2012. Over 300 Presbyterians (and non-Presbyterians) came out two weekends in a row in December to glean and distribute over 40,000 lbs. of citrus in the Umatilla/Mt. Dora area.
- ➤ VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE SARASOTA AREA. SoSA has been given a 133 acre grove to harvest for the hungry potentially over 5 million lbs. of fruit is waiting to be picked. We need volunteers. Please contact the Fla. office if you are able to help pick citrus for the hungry in Sarasota County 800-806-0756.

GEORGIA

- ➤ While our fields may be resting this winter, there is no time for the Ga. Gleaning Network to rest when 17.4% of Ga. residents are considered food insecure
- ➤ In 2012, we expanded statewide field gleaning efforts; community gardens were planted just for SoSA to distribute to the hungry; and 16 tractor-trailer loads of sweet potatoes were distributed around the state into communities with the highest food insecurity rates.
- ➤ Your continued support as volunteers and financial donors is much appreciated and needed to help us move the crops from the fields to the hands of the hungry.
- ➤ Farmer and grower partnerships are especially needed so we'll have more fields to glean and more grade-outs from packing sheds to distribute. Some farmers are even helping by planting an extra row of crops just for SoSA to distribute to the hungry.
- NOW is the time to get involved. Contact the Ga. Gleaning Network today to find out how: gleanga@endhunger.org or 229-386-5800.

MISSISSIPPI

- ➤ The Miss. Gleaning Network of the Society of St. Andrew would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in making 2012 SoSA's most successful year in Miss. so far. With the addition of new growers and the hard work of volunteers we were able to salvage over three million pounds of nutritious produce that was distributed to food banks all over the state.
- We would like for 2013 to be even more successful. We will be working hard to add new growers and expand our gleaning opportunities in all areas of the state. We are very excited to have two growers that will be planting sections of their land solely for Society of St. Andrew. Our gleaning season will begin in mid-April with strawberries and will continue throughout the summer with a variety of crops

FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

and locations.

➤ To continue our fight against hunger in Miss., and to salvage food that would otherwise rot in the fields, we need your help. If you are interested in gleaning, having a speaker at your church, or finding out about other ways to get involved in helping needy Mississippians, please contact us at 769-233-0887 or gleanms@endhunger.org

NORTH CAROLINA

"People came out like Jesus Christ had come to town"

Mary Rosenbourgh from the Love-N-Cherish Family Center - Rock Hill, SC, referencing a potato drop at Rock Hill, SC. That quote provides beautiful imagery for the work that SoSA does. People heard there was food available and many made their way to the potato drop in hopes of receiving food. Also, many heard about the potato drop and wanted to help; to be a part of something good. That is our hope as an organization – that when we bring food to a place, people will feel like Jesus has come to town. They will want to join us in the work of distributing food and they will also feel welcome in receiving food.

Last year was a wonderful year for the Carolinas. There were many opportunities to share a lot of produce with our neighbors in need. Over 7 million lbs. of fresh produce were distributed in NC and SC. Over 11,000 volunteers joined in the effort to collect and distribute the food.

This year, please consider joining SoSA in NC and SC as a much-needed volunteer. Spend time helping to feed your hungry neighbors. Maybe you too will be awe-struck by God's love.

TENNESSEE

- Never have we seen so many pumpkins! After Halloween, Society of St. Andrew volunteers gleaned in pumpkin patches all across Tenn. Mike Mayfield, of Mayfield Farms, invited us to glean several acres of late-ripening pumpkins. In just a few hours, a dedicated group of gleaners harvested more than 70,000 lbs. from Mr. Mayfield's fields. We sent these pumpkins to Wise, Va. and Williamsburg, Ky., where they were gladly received and distributed.
- In recent months, Society of St. Andrew in Tenn. has received load after load of refrigerated yogurt, all overruns from a major manufacturer. We have been able to place 9 tractor-trailer loads of single-serving size yogurt with feeding agencies in Tenn., Ala., Virginia, Mo., Washington, DC, and Ky. Though dairy is not our usual fare, it is an unexpected blessing that we are delighted to share.
- The fall gleaning season in Tenn. far surpassed expectations. On many days we held several gleanings at the same time, hundreds of miles apart! We could not have done this without our amazing volunteers, who responded gladly, often on short notice, and smiled despite mud and chill to harvest fresh vegetables for neighbors in need. 4,029 volunteers worked with us in Tenn. in 2012!

VIRGINIA

Sometimes things aren't what they seem! Jim Hassmer, Charlottesville Gleaning Coordinator, experienced that when he was given 300 lbs. of potato flour by a local market. It had been delivered to the store by mistake. He gave 50 lbs. to the Jefferson Area Board on Aging to bake

for their seniors at the center. Jim mentioned the other 250 lbs. to his brother, Steve, who lives in the Arlington area. Steve approached the Golden Harvest Bread Co. and they worked out a deal to take the flour, and in its place the company donated 30 loaves of bread. The bread was then donated to a local hunger relief agency. What started out as a mistake turned out to be a blessing for a hunger relief agency in Northern Va..

dressing, Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, and green beans are all a part of the Thanksgiving Day feast, but for 30 people in Riner, they added turnips to their list. On Thanksgiving morning, these 30 came from many different areas to glean 5,000 lbs. of turnips for the Feeding America Southwest Va. Food Bank in Salem. The group was featured on WDBJ Channel 7 News in the Roanoke/Lynchburg area along with the other groups that took time out of the day to help those in need. Thanks to all who came and gleaned to feed those that are hungry in the local area.



Little hands pick cauliflower in Virginia

The Va. Gleaning Network had an unbelievable year in 2012! With the help of over 6,900 volunteers and 171 produce providers, the Va. Gleaning Network gleaned 2,003,143 lbs. of food. Thanks to all the gleaners, providers, area coordinators, and volunteers that cut bags to help get ready for the season.

WEST

- ➤ Through the grace of God, the generosity of our farmers, and the help of so many volunteers, SoSA West has exceeded its goals for the year. Thank you for all you did to help feed your neighbors in need this year through SoSA West. As of Dec. 31, SoSA West will surpass 3.5 million pounds for 2012! That compares to about 2.4 million pounds in 2011.
- ➤ Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, SoSA West, with the help of nearly 600 volunteers, moved 611,862 pounds of produce! That number includes 40,767 pounds of apples gleaned from Cider Hills Orchard, New Covenant Faith Center and other places, and 127,809 pounds of pumpkins and squash gleaned from Christopher Farms and Carolyn's Country Cousins. We also gleaned potatoes, turnips and greens
- We Want to Show You our Thanks. On March 2, 2013, 5 p.m. at St. Mark Hope and Peace Church, 3800 Troost Ave., KCMO, SoSA West will host a volunteer appreciation event. We will have plenty of food and drinks and will honor some very special volunteers. Please mark your calendars and let us know if you can attend. ◊

By BILL LEACH, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

is Bill Leach and I have just started as the *Harvest of* Hope Director. I am excited and feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with this program. My wife Sandy and I have three children from middle-school to college.

I have been with the team here in Big Island for about three months and I have been busy working on a schedule for summer and fall events. Harvest of Hope events are a great way to raise the awareness of hunger in America. Individuals will learn that hunger is everywhere, even close to where we live. With open eyes and open hearts, we can do so much for those who have so little.

Participants will "get their hands dirty," literally. We will be in the fields in the morning, gleaning nutritious fruits or vegetables that will be taken to agencies for sharing with those who are in need. If you have never been to an event, you will be amazed at the amount of food gleaned that would normally have gone to waste.

The Harvest of Hope program has been in place for 28 years with over 13,500 participants. Churches and youth have taken their experiences and built upon them. So, take a look at the schedule of events below, and see if a group you know may be interested. If you have any questions, just send me an email at soshoh@endhunger.org. Hope to see you this year! ◊

Summer Internship

Résumé submissions for HoH's 2013 Summer Intern will be accepted now through April 1. HoH experience is preferred but not required. The internship is 10 weeks during the summer and involves traveling to HoH events as well as some in-office work. For more information, email Bill at sosahoh@ endhunger.org or apply online at http://www.endhunger.org/ employment.htm

WEEKLONG MISSION EVENTS

Eastern Shore of Virginia - July 14-20 High School event - Exmore, VA Eastern North Carolina - July 21-27 High School event - Mount Olive, NC Central Virginia - July 21-27 High School event - Montross, VA Central Virginia - July 28-Aug. 3 High School event - Montross, VA

WEEKEND MISSION EVENTS

Eastern Shore of Virginia - July 12-14 Intergenerational event - Exmore, VA Eastern North Carolina - July 19-21 Intergenerational event - Mount Olive, NC TBD - September 27-29 Shenandoah Valley - October 4-6 Intergenerational event - Fincastle, VA North Georgia - October 11-13 Intergenerational event - Dahlonega, GA TBD - October 25-27 Eastern Shore of Virginia - November 1-3 Intergenerational event - Exmore, VA Central Tennessee - November 8-10 Intergenerational event - Kelso, TN

Harvest of Hope BY BILL LEACH, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR Hi! Let me start by introducing myself. My name The Potato & Produce Project

By Marian Kelly, Potato & Produce Project Director

Sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, pumpkins, corn, yogurt, and bananas were distributed to feeding agencies across the country the fourth quarter of 2012.

Produce Drops were set up by churches or church groups in South Carolina, Illinois, Georgia, Maryland, Indiana, Iowa, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. These churches decided to do something about hunger. By sponsoring a Produce Drop they fed people in their community. Churches worked hard to organize the event, maybe even a year ahead of time. Calls were made to find homes for the potatoes and to find volunteers to work the event, and preparing the parking lot to receive a 50' tractor trailer on their property is a lot of organizing. Off-loading equipment had been secured ahead of time or many volunteers were gathered to unload the truck by hand.

A schedule had been made ahead of time for the receiving agencies to pick up their potatoes. Many times, rolls of plastic mesh were made into bags ahead of the drop, just waiting to be filled with potatoes. Church folks look forward to these events even when they begin at 6 a.m. in cold fall and winter temperatures. Amazement fills the eyes of those who have never seen a tractor-trailer load of potatoes. Hearts may skip a beat with the thought: "what in the world are we going to do with that many potatoes?" In a few hours, feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment come to the volunteers, knowing that good nutritious food has been salvaged and many hungry people will have food on their plates. Mission accomplished! \Diamond

Recent donations to SoSA:

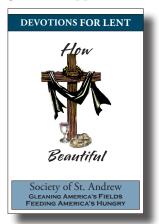
IN HONOR OF – Mr. & Mrs. Phil Armentrout ... Mr. & Mr. R. A. Behrman ... Mr. & Mrs. Bob Burkett ... Rev. & Mrs. Richard B. Faris ... Ginny Fowler ... Norman and Virginia Fowler ... Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher ... William Heinzman ... Marshall & Susan Henry ... Rev. Ken Horne ... Rev. Dr. Janine Howard ... Donald Kear ... Mr. & Mrs. Sam E. Lawrence ... Vickie Lemons ... Jean Makoujy ... Jim & Ginny Markham ... James Matthews ... Mr. & Mrs. William G. Mays ... Anne Miles ... Doris Moseley ... New Beginnings SS Class, Thaxton Baptist Church ... Oscar Stroeber, III ... Ron & JoAnn Swenson ... Billy Tew ... Bill Walker ... Steve Weems ... Rachel & Mike West ... Shannon & Brian Wilt ... Steve & Sue Weems **IN MEMORY OF** — Virginia Beeler ... Patsy Brown ... Felcie

& Wilton Burgess ... Nelson G. Copp ... Stanton Richard Cornelius ... Della Craven ... Bud Curtis ... Mrs. Ann Scott Douthat ... Ellyn Downing Frost ... Merle Gericke ... Mary Gillette ... John Harrison ... Olive Karch ... Richard Lee ... Esther Sue Ligon ... Jean Makoujy ... Mary Meggers ... Marion & Marjorie Newman ... Dhu Nickless ... Lester Propst ... Suzette Quel ... Edna Ragsdale ... Joan Ranson ... Ryan Sidney Shoaf ... Jacob Shoopman ... Mrs. Lucille Simons ... Ryan Shoaf ... Jackie Sparkman ... Kenneth W. Thompson ... Craddock Wilmoreib ... Glenn R. Vogt ... Lila Willis ... Harry Wiltsee ... Ellen F. Wright \Diamond

"How Beautiful" Devotions for Lent

By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, Church Relations

The season of Lent is a journey in which we have been given the opportunity to grow closer to God through



Jesus Christ. 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 it also provides an opportunity to feed our hungry brothers and sisters.

This year's Lenten devotion booklet is entitled "How

Beautiful" based on Romans 10:15b, "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. Each day during your reading, you will meet a new Biblical character. One of our gifted writers will use this theme to share how Jesus brought wholeness to that person's life. This Lenten season is an opportunity to grow in your faith so that Easter and the resurrection of Jesus might be the glorious celebration of a risen Christ that lives within each of us. An optional "Good Friday Fast" booklet is also available for use in partnership with the daily devotions or as a stand-alone program.

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.

We hope your congregation will participate and make feeding our hungry brothers and sisters a priority during Lent. Through your involvement in the Society of St. Andrew's ministry, you and your church can provide nourishing food to those most in need especially during these cold winter months and challenging economic times.

Testimonial

Thank you, SoSA. I so enjoyed each and every Lenten Devotion you provided for us this Lenten season, they truly helped in time of need for not only me but for the entire congregation. As pastor of the Ponca Indian UMC I have been called on to reach out to others in different parts of the state of Oklahoma and always with us went a copy of one or two devotions that we shared as "Living Proof" that the Lord is truly among us. My wife, Judy, and I truly thank you all, Jim. \(\rightarrow\)

"Superheroes of the Faith" VBS Mission Program

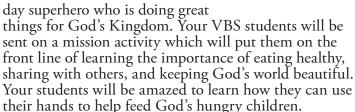
By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director, Church Relations

SoSA's VBS Mission Program is designed to be used

either as a stand-alone program or as a mission emphasis to compliment your church's Vacation Bible School

program.

Your students will be introduced to a different biblical character who did amazing things for God. "SUPERHEROES OF THE FAITH" 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, going green facts, and pencil activities. In addition, each day your VBS students will meet a modern-



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 about 7 cents a pound, that's a goal of \$70. Some pastors have been good sports and promised to eat a worm, shave their legs, take a pie in the face, wear a tutu, or live on top of the church if their students exceed their goal. Why not see if your pastor is willing to do something silly that will challenge your VBS students to strive higher to feed more hungry children.

Last year, over 200 churches used SoSA's VBS program. VBS kids enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry by donating nearly \$20,000 – enough to provide nearly 1 million servings of food to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. On average, each participating VBS raised four-and-a-half times the goal of \$70. This year, get your VBS students involved in this

worthwhile mission project!

Fresh produce is donated by SoSA to feeding agencies across the nation to feed hungry children and adults. Because SoSA is such a cost-effective ministry we can provide all of this food for about 7¢ a pound! It's a simple, effective way to obey Jesus' command to feed the hungry while being good stewards of our nation's abundance.

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

Join the VBS team and be a superhero for God. ◊

Society of St. Andrew

3383 Sweet Hollow Road Big Island, Virginia 24526 800-333-4597

www.EndHunger.org





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

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How Beautiful



Lent Devotions

How Beautiful includes daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers. To obtain a free sample church packet or personal packet of our Lent devotion and giving program, please call 800-333-4597, email Church@EndHunger. org, or go online to http://www.EndHunger. org/lent.htm.

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