



Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 29

NUMBER 2

SPRING 2013

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

CHANGE THE WORLD

Society of St. Andrew is helping to *Change the World*. This program, originated by The United Methodist Church, is suitable for all denominations. The *Change the World* program is a time for all churches to set aside a weekend to do something special in their communities that makes a real difference in people's lives. Find the full SoSA program at EndHunger.org/HMW.

One of the ways to join in this effort is the **Society of St. Andrew Hunger Ministry Weekend** program. On the weekend of **May 18-19**, we encourage churches across the country to begin a relationship with SoSA, and focus on feeding hungry people in their own community.

The program includes materials for promotion, worship, Sunday School, and continuing study. It is our hope that churches in our gleaning areas will learn about hunger in their communities, and will want to retain a relationship with SoSA. Our regional offices can keep in touch with them and offer gleaning opportunities throughout the year. Churches in other areas are encouraged to continue their relationship with local feeding agencies, supporting them with further gleaning, community gardens, or donations.

May is not a prime gleaning time in most of the country, and your church may not be in one of our active gleaning states. The **Hunger Ministry Weekend** program is designed as a strictly local and time-specific event. Church coordinators can work with feeding agencies in their community to learn their needs and to set up delivery of the food. Families purchase fresh fruits and vegetables on Saturday. The food is delivered to church on Sunday for a dedication, and distribution is scheduled for Sunday afternoon or Monday.

Join with the Society of St. Andrew, hunger fighters, and advocates across the country this May, and all yearlong to **CHANGE THE WORLD!** ♦

From the Sheep Shed

By STEVEN M. WALDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The record setting pace we experienced last year has certainly continued into this year. You can read about it elsewhere in this newsletter, but we are about 12% ahead of where we were at this point last year with well over 7.1 million pounds of food distributed. When you consider that represents growth over our best year on record, and that the gleaning season hasn't even started yet, it becomes even more significant.

That reflects both the opportunity that is out there and also the need for the fresh, healthy food that SoSA distributes to the hungry in America. The need is great, and the opportunity to meet that need is equally great.

The amount of food going to waste in our country is unbelievable. There is no other way to put it. You can see for yourself quite easily. Go to our website at www.endhunger.org and on the left part of the home page, just below the 2012 statistics, we have two counters that illustrate the food waste problem. It only takes a couple seconds and I promise that you will be amazed. You will think that what you are seeing is not possible, but it is in fact true. The first counter will show you the amount of food going to waste in just the first few seconds since you logged onto the website. The second counter shows how much food has gone to waste this year. You can actually see the amount of food going to waste as you watch.

In my own experience with SoSA, as a volunteer for six years and then on staff for 19 years, I still find it unbelievable. Every time I am out in the fields or orchards or visiting a produce processing facility I am still astounded at how much food goes to waste. I simply have never gotten use to it – and I hope I never do.

Why does so much perfectly good food go to waste? This issue is getting a lot of attention these days in the political, environmental and business worlds. The reasons are several, but most of them boil down to us. We are very "picky" about our food. We want only the best of the best. So our lifestyles play a large role. Think about it next time you visit the produce aisle of a grocery store and how careful you are as you search for that perfect tomato or head of lettuce among the abundance of wonderful produce sitting there. We all do it. A further illustration of this is that we are delighted to eat wonderful food from our gardens that we would never see in a grocery store because the size, shape, or color is not perfect. Yet our garden produce tastes better than anything in the store, doesn't it?

The next question then becomes: with so much perfectly good food going to waste (96 billion pounds a year) why are there hungry people in our country? It doesn't have to be that way; we let it be that way. Through the Society of St. Andrew, something remarkable is being done about it. Check out those food waste counters at www.endhunger.org and see if you believe it. ♦

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS

January – April 2013

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

Gleaned Produce	5,016,045 lbs	▲ 15.6%
Potato & Produce Project	2,014,400 lbs	▲ .3%
Events	630	▲ 1.6%
Volunteers	4,207	▼ 21.8%
Total Pounds	7,030,445	▲ 10.8%
Total Servings	21,091,335	▲ 10.8%

SoSA stories from around the states

ALABAMA

- So far this year, Cullman area sweet potato growers have shared 159,935 pounds (nearly half a million servings) of their beautiful potatoes with Society of St. Andrew, and we've partnered with the North Alabama Food Bank, the Central Alabama Community Food Bank, soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries all across North and Central Alabama, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Escambia County. What a blessing it has been to work with these generous growers!
- After a recent potato drop, we received this note from a youth director, who brought her young people to bag potatoes: "Yesterday when I was registering, I greeted an elderly gentleman nearby. He started asking me questions and together we learned it was our first time at a 'bagging.' To make a long story short, the youth, other adult chaperone, and I befriended him and invited him to work with us at our box of sweet potatoes. He is an 80-year old widower from [a neighboring town] who lost his wife to cancer in January, who read about the event in the paper and thought it would be a good way to get out and start doing something. Our time together was as much of a blessing as the bagging of the sweet potatoes." That's why we say that meeting spiritual as well as physical hunger is Society of St. Andrew's ministry.



Potato Drop attendees in fellowship

- We're organizing now for summer field gleanings in every part of the state. If you (or a group you work with) crave fresh air, great companions, and meaningful work, then you can make a real difference with just a few hours of your time. Contact Alabama Program Coordinator, Mary Lynn Botts, at alglean@endhunger.org or 205-245-3214.

FLORIDA

- The county of Sarasota donates a 133 acre citrus grove to SoSA: about 1.5 million pounds of grapefruit, oranges, and tangelos were picked and distributed across the state and nation. People in need received fresh citrus thanks to this generous gift from Sarasota County.
- Cabbage, cabbage everywhere! Thanks to Long and Scott farms, many people in need are receiving this healthy nutritious produce, and even though hundreds of thousands of pounds of produce is gleaned and saved from the farm every year, Hank Scott still commented during a recent conversation, "I just wish we could do more." Hank has been a faithful partner with SoSA for over 10 years.
- We were privileged to lead two gleanng workshops for the national gathering of Association of Presbyterian Educators (APCE) in Orlando. Volunteers from across the country learned about SoSA's mission and participated in direct hunger relief.
- Southern Exposure Food show once again donated about 80,000 pounds of fresh produce from the show to SoSA for distribution to feeding agencies.
- Much thanks to the youth of First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota for raising over \$800 for SoSA on "Souper Bowl Sunday." Also to the youth of Forest Hills Presbyterian for raising almost \$400 for SoSA!

GEORGIA

- Georgia received 40,000 pounds of delicious sweet Florida oranges and grapefruit that were distributed to people in need in South Georgia through local feeding agencies. "The best produce I have seen in a long time," commented one of the agency workers.
- Over 200 students from Emory University gathered in the parking lot behind Williams Hall to bag sweet potatoes for the hungry. The students organized dozens of feeding agencies to pick up and distribute this wonderful produce throughout North Georgia.

MISSISSIPPI

- The Mississippi office of the Society of St. Andrew is currently gleanng strawberries in Meridian, MS. We thank Mr. Randy Mathis of Mathis Peach and Produce for planting 1,000 strawberry plants for SoSA again this year. We also thank our corporate sponsor, Magnolia State Bank, for paying for the strawberry plants this season. We will be gleanng berries for the next 6-8 weeks, so if you are interested in volunteering please contact us.
- We have been fortunate to meet several new growers that want to work with us during this harvest season and we will be in need of volunteers over the next several months. If you are interested please contact Jackie Usey at 769-233-0887.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Five years ago, a faithful volunteer in Reidsville, NC passed away. He dutifully coordinated SoSA potato drops for the poor in his community up until his passing. Since then, no other organization has been called to take up the mantle of this important leadership. Now, his children have stepped forward to carry on the ministry. Our first potato drop in the area since their father's passing occurred in March, with another scheduled for May. Just another example of the

FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

tenacious seeds we plant while ministering “in deed and in truth” to God’s children.

➤ There’s no telling what this year’s potato crop will look like, but we’ve already moved over half a million pounds of Irish and sweet potatoes since January. We hope for plenty more loads for the many churches that have contacted us, answering the call to feed the hungry! Field gleanings continue, though the prolonged cold and rain of March and early April means produce may be a few weeks late this year.

➤ Last but not least, SoSA NC has been reaching out and spreading the good news of hunger relief. We’ve taken part in many conferences and events across the state including CROP Walk in Durham, Come to the Table (in Western NC, Eastern NC, and the Triad), and No Kid Hungry NC. We also engaged thousands of NC residents at growers’ expos as well as the Southern Farm Show held on the NC Fair Grounds. We hope to see many new faces in the fields this year – come glean with us!

TENNESSEE

➤ “Have you ever seen sweet potatoes that big?” was the question everybody asked as they entered Kingsport’s First Broad Street United Methodist Church on March 15 for the church’s Mission Celebration weekend. Those big, even huge, potatoes under the portico were waiting to be bagged by the church’s 5th and 6th graders. In a true celebration of mission, the following morning the young people set to work, and within just an hour or so had 15,000 servings of spuds bagged and ready for distribution to 10 Kingsport-area agencies!



Youth pose after bagging potatoes in Kingsport

➤ Have you ever seen those beautiful fruit bouquets from Edible Arrangements? Did you ever wonder what happens if a strawberry has a blemish, or where the rest of the pineapple goes? In Knoxville and Memphis, those extra or slightly imperfect pieces of fruit are going to feed the hungry! Volunteer teams pick up 50 or more pounds several times each week, delivering it to nearby feeding agencies, which are always delighted to have such a treat to serve their guests.

➤ Green bean season is fast approaching. We are gearing up for daily green bean drops from late June to early October. This is an easy way to involve congregations in hands-on

mission. Churches, VBS groups, scouts, day camps, seniors, and civic groups all over Tennessee can get involved, bagging and distributing 500 to 20,000 pounds of fresh, nutritious green beans, available to Society of St. Andrew simply because they are the wrong length for the grower to sell. Contact Program Coordinator Linda Tozer (gleanntn@endhunger.org) to learn more.

VIRGINIA

➤ The Virginia Gleaning Network is off to an exciting year! We have been gleaning from the markets in Charlottesville and getting fresh collard greens, broccoli, and turnips in the Tidewater area.

➤ Spring is certainly welcome after a long, chilly winter and the snow in late March. Along with spring comes preparation for the gleaning season. That includes bags being cut by organizations, farmers planting crops, and groups planning to glean this summer and fall.

➤ We will have the Commonwealth Day of Gleaning on Thursday, August 22. Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Todd Haymore, will join us. Last year we were able to provide over 110,000 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables to the hungry in Virginia. We will be gleaning all over the state as we welcome new farmers to join in, as well as more gleaners.

➤ A special thanks to all who helped with a record breaking year for Virginia in 2012 with gleaning over 2 million pounds of food. Everyone is invited to join us as we look forward to another year of feeding those that are hungry.

WEST

➤ In early March, SoSA West hosted a booth at the Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit in Overland Park, KS. Many thanks to several volunteers who worked SoSA West’s display table in the exhibit area. Our staff made some great contacts with university students across the country that we hope will result in new gleaning networks scattered across the country.

➤ We celebrated with and thanked our volunteers at our first annual Volunteers Appreciation Dinner in March, with Karin and Claude Page preparing homemade soup, bread, and salad, and Suzi Conaway providing delicious carrot cake. Awards were given for outstanding service in the field and office, and Angel Bolen ended the delightful evening with a very special version of “His Eye is On the Sparrow.”

➤ We hosted our first ever Chipotle Fundraiser, during which we raised \$1,000. Thanks to all who participated in both of these fun events.

➤ Finally, SoSA West hosted its first gleaning on April 1, NO FOOLING! A team of volunteers went to the Smokey Hills Farm and gleaned nearly 500 pounds of greens. We look forward to a busy gleaning season this year, and hope all of you will join us in making 2013 SoSA West’s best year ever. All signs point to a banner year. We have more farmers, volunteers, field supervisors, and pantries than ever before. One of our partner farmers, Joe Steineger, cleared more land this year just for planting crops for SoSA. We’re gearing up — get ready, get set, GLEAN! ♦

Harvest of Hope

By BILL LEACH, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

YEA SPRING! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for winter to move aside until next year. I know it's been a slow start with all the unexpected late season snow throughout the country, but it is getting warmer.

Every year at this time my daughter, Caitlyn, will say to me, "I am so ready for warm weather. It makes me feel so happy. Sunshine, bright days, sitting outside, hearing the birds, it is so refreshing. Let's eat outside". Well hold on a second Caitlyn, it's not that warm yet.

However, I must admit. I feel it too. Renewal! In the Gospel of John Chapter 21, Jesus meets his disciples from the shore as they are out in their fishing boat. They are tired and hungry, not having caught any fish all night. They hear a voice from the shore instructing them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. What happened next? There were so many fish, the nets were too heavy to bring in. They realize it is Jesus, their resurrected Lord. He is bringing them new life, energy, and restoring their faith. He tells them to care and feed his lambs and sheep. They are renewed!

Wow, what a feeling. Super energized, just like the cartoon character SpongeBob. When he gets real excited, he can't hold himself back and bounces around saying repeatedly with vigor, "I'm ready! I'm ready! I'm ready!"

I pray that our youth groups feel that same renewal and have the same readiness to serve and help provide for those who need you. Here at *Harvest of Hope* we offer the mission experiences that will do just that. Last year, over 400 participants gleaned over 185,000 pounds of food for those who Jesus is asking us to help.

So, if your group is ready, willing to get into the field and get dirty, and ready to make an impact on the surrounding community by supplying fresh nutritious food, then give me a call or just email me. There are still some openings this summer for *HoH* events in Montrose, VA., and at Mount Olive College, NC. Also, sign-ups for the fall weekends have started, so check the dates below and give us a call. Let's use this energy created by spring, this renewal to serve, to give to those who have so little. ♦

Events with space still available ...

WEEKLONG MISSION EVENTS

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

WEEKEND MISSION EVENTS

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

The Potato & Produce Project

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

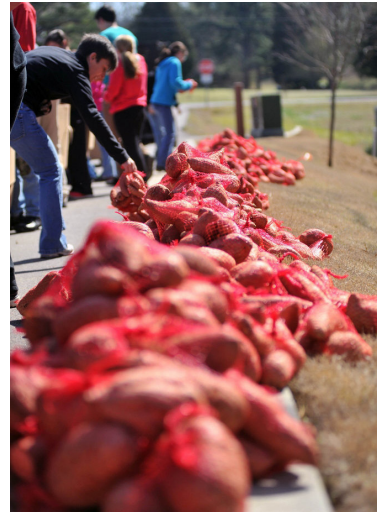
Each year, the *Potato & Produce Project* buys loads of seed potatoes for distribution to families who plant gardens. The seed was purchased and shipped to agencies in Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, and North Carolina. We work closely with the Abingdon, Virginia Presbytery to furnish about 120,000 pounds of seed potatoes to agencies and churches in that area. Three of the tractor-trailer loads were delivered to

Native American agencies in North Carolina. The other loads went to community groups and church groups. We pray that the growing season will be just right for our seed potatoes to give a bountiful yield.

We have found that more and more folks want to plant a garden to help sustain their food supply. Anyone who has ever grown their own food knows how delicious these vegetables can be and what a help it can be to put food on their table. It is a wonderful way to help others help themselves when possible.

In May, our loads of storage white potatoes will be finished up until the new crop is harvested in the fall. We hope sweet potato donations will begin to pick up very soon so that we can distribute many loads during the spring and early summer. There are always surprise loads of other kinds of produce. Those are exciting. When we call feeding agencies they readily accept loads of fresh bananas, juices, water, and other different foods. Food banks and groups that distribute food are suffering these days for good nutritious food items.

You, our readers, help make all of this happen. Thank you! ♦



Recent donations to SoSA:

IN HONOR OF – Rev. John Duvall ... Mrs. Judy Erps ... Thomas Flynn ... Conrad Grundlehner ... Pat Inge ... Frenchy LaCoursiere ... Frances Lewis ... Chip Palmer ... Melvin Sender ... Michael Sender ... Mr. Gerald Wary

IN MEMORY OF – Paul Amstutz ... Bud Curtis ... Miss Jane Day ... Elsie Garrett ... Wilma Gilchrist ... JoEtta Fortney Hemp ... Mr. Alan Hook ... Evine King ... James E. Lewis ... Verona Lipford ... Kenneth S. Malloy ... Jean Makoujy ... Kenneth Pettyman ... Elazene Rice ... Ruth P. Short ... Genevieve Thompson ... Les Trail ... Warren D. Tudor ... Luther White ... Howard Woertendyke ... Arlene Zimmerman ... Dr. William Zopp ♦

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 complement 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-day superhero who is doing great things for God's Kingdom. 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 about 5 cents a pound, that's a goal of \$50. 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 \$50. 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 5¢ 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. ♦

Become a Legacy Partner

Your efforts to feed the hungry will continue to touch lives long into the future by including SoSA in your will or estate plan. Careful estate planning not only protects you and your loved ones, but ensures your goals, interests, and beliefs live on.

There are many options beyond wills to make a big difference and become a Legacy Partner with SoSA. Just let us know, and we'll be happy to work with you and your financial advisor to ensure it's all set.

Please contact Liz Sheahan at 434-941-2322 or lsheahan@endhunger.org today for more information.

Hunger Action Month

By REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR, CHURCH RELATIONS

Plan now to observe National Hunger Action Month during the month of September. National Hunger Action Month reminds us to lift up more than 45 million brothers and sisters who live on the brink of hunger every day in the United States. Here are some things you can do to observe the day:

- Fast and pray each Wednesday at lunchtime (or any day of your choosing) during the month of September to remember those who don't have enough to eat. The money you save can be donated to Society of St. Andrew so we can feed those who don't always eat lunch.
- Design a worship service focused on hunger and the Biblical imperatives to do something about it. Society of St. Andrew has resources you can download for free, www.EndHunger.org/NHAM.
- Volunteer with a hunger-relief agency. Society of St. Andrew coordinates gleaning events in locations across the U.S. Call 800-333-4597 or check our website: www.EndHunger.org for gleaning offices near you.
- Give an offering for the Society of St. Andrew hunger-relief ministry, out of thankfulness for your blessings and concern for America's hungry.
- Educate your congregation about hunger. Society of St. Andrew offers a 12-week adult study entitled, *The Fast that I Choose*.

For more information or to order National Hunger Action Month resources, visit our website www.EndHunger.org; call 800-333-4597; or email The Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore at church@endhunger.org. Jesus said, "You give them something to eat!" Matthew 14:16. Join Society of St. Andrew and let us follow these words of Jesus so no one goes to bed hungry ever again. ♦

Society of St. Andrew
3383 Sweet Hollow Road
Big Island, Virginia 24526
800-333-4597
www.EndHunger.org



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Superheroes of the Faith VBS Mission Program



Superheroes of the Faith 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 5/13)

Donate now —
www.EndHunger.org/donate.htm

**Your donation puts fresh food
on the tables of the hungry.**

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____
(Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)



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