



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY Quarterly Report

Love may make the world go round, but hunger turned Ryan Lloyd's world upside down. That's how the junior at Auburn University described his Hunger Studies class last semester when he learned that world hunger isn't just over there somewhere—it's across town, down the street, next door.

"When I walked out of that class, my head was spinning," Ryan, a social studies major from Houston, Texas, says. "I thought, oh, my gosh, I've got to do something about this." Along with his social studies concentration, Ryan is minoring in philanthropy and nonprofit studies.

Ryan's classroom immersion into hunger issues led to his discovery of the Society of St. Andrew. In the fall of 2012, the Wesley Foundation hosted a SoSA sweet potato drop on campus in conjunction with Hunger Action Week. Ryan, who serves as the local missions coordinator for the organization, said from that experience, "We decided to take it to the next level and do more with SoSA because we really like what is being done."

"As I learned more about what the Society

of St. Andrew is doing, I wanted to do more," Ryan points out. "A big part of it is education. We need to tell people about hunger around us and food waste and how they go hand-in-hand. We need to talk about that just as much as we discuss obesity."

Currently, Ryan and his friends go twice a week and pick up left-over produce from a local business. "They sell lots of fresh local produce. So we go there every Monday and Friday and pick up their leftovers. We take the food to a local food bank and food





January – December 2013

Fresh food saved and donated to feed the hungry:

Gleaned Produce	22,814,124 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	9,343,861 lbs
Events	5,675
Volunteers	37,027
Total Pounds	32,157,985
Total Servings	96,473,955

Recent donations to SoSA:

IN HONOR OF - Dr. Dan Abbott ... Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Ahiborn ... Jackie Adams & Travis Milam ... Mr. & Mrs. Bob Berretta ... The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Tom Bryant ... The Champion Family ... Helen Crosby ... Mrs. Louis Dawson ... Rosemary Dorow ... Mr. Carol Duell ... Susen Dunmire ... Mary Faulk ... Sophie Flowers ... Harold & Jackie Fuss ... Joann & Everett Follette ... Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Ford ... Pope Francis ... Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Griffin ... Ms. Julie Henneey ... Miss Debbie Hill ... Mr. & Mrs. Don Holloway ... The Hooper Family ... Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Hopkins ... Rev. Dr. Janine W. Howard ... Mrs. Louise C. Hutchinson ... Father Joel Ireland ... Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jones ... Patricia Jones ... Marie Knapp ... Mr. & Mrs. Tony Lathrop ... Mr. & Mrs. Luther Lockwood ... Mr. & Mrs. Richard Morrow ... Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Nowlin ... Rev. & Mrs. Ted Ochs ... Martha Reed ... Mrs. Annie Lou Robinson ... Mrs. Edward Seabrook ... Dr. & Mrs. James A. Smith ... Mr. & Mrs. Matt Smith ... Pastor Jason Snow ... Nancy Tew ... Mr. & Mrs. Mark Thompson ... M. Tyburski & Mr. Tom Wethington ... Dr. & Mrs. David Wilson ... Jeffery W. Wilson, M.D. ... Ms. Dani Tyburski ... Mr. & Mrs. Mike Tyburski ... Mr. David Tyburski ... Bill Walker ... Ms. P. Walker ... Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Walters ... Garrett Waugaman

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Executive Director's Report

By Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

Happy New Year to everyone involved with SoSA. Whether you are a farmer, volunteer, food-receiving agency, or financial partner, we hope your New Year is filled with great health and happiness.

We are stiving to improve our communication with our partners in this vital ministry, and as part of that effort, you will notice some changes to the newsletter you hold in your hands. We'll keep improving this important communication piece as we go through the year to make it more responsive to the kinds of information our readers say they desire. No drastic changes, but we hope you like it. Let us know what you think.

At this writing, our 2013 numbers aren't quite final yet, but we can tell that last year was a great year for SoSA. As you can see from the 2013 statistics, you were part of some remarkable achievements. Over 5,600 separate gleaning events averages out to just over 15 gleaning events taking place every single day of the year. The more than 37,600 volunteers represent an amazing endorsement of this vital ministry. And, of course, the 96 million servings of healthy fresh produce made a huge difference to millions of hungry Americans.

It is important to remember that SoSA never stops. Even as you are reading this, SoSA is hard at work saving fresh produce from going to waste and getting it to the tables of those who are hungry in our country. Hunger is a year-round problem in America and that is why SoSA never stops. ☺

Harvest of Hope 2014 Events

Mar 9-14	College	Groveland, FL
Mar 16-21	College	Groveland, FL
July 11-13	Middle School	Exmore, VA
July 13-19	High School	Exmore, VA
July 20-26	High School	Montross, VA
Aug 1-3	Middle School	Little Rock, AR
Aug 3-9	High School	Little Rock, AR
Oct 3-5	Intergenerational	castle, VA
Nov 7-9	Intergenerational	Dahlonega, GA
Nov 14-16	Intergenerational	Kelso, TN

Sign up today! Endhunger.org/Harvest

Create in me a clean heart Lenten Devotions

Join hundreds of congregations all across the country this spring, re-claiming the spiritual dimensions of the Lenten season through the Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions and Giving Program. This year's theme comes from Psalm 51: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Offering free devotional booklets with daily readings and prayers for each household in your church and accompanying coin boxes (also free), the Lenten Devotions and Giving Program provides a daily opportunity for meditation, reflection, and spiritual growth and renewal.

Order your preview packet today and materials for your congregation by February 12, to ensure timely delivery. **800-333-4597 • www.endhunger.org/lent.htm • church@endhunger.org**

Again this year, you can elect to receive the devotional booklet in the form of daily e-votions (emailed devotions). Visit www.endhunger.org to learn more and sign up! ➡



Good Friday Fast

Each year, Society of St. Andrew staff and volunteers fast on Good Friday. When we fast, we voluntarily refrain from eating or drinking for a time, as a spiritual practice. This special time of prayer and fasting, remembering our Savior's arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death, uses our physical hunger as a symbol of our spiritual hungers. It also serves as a vivid reminder of our many brothers and sisters who live with real, physical hunger every day. Will you join us in our Good Friday Fast in 2014?

We offer a free booklet of Scripture readings, prayers, and reflections each year to accompany the Good Friday Fast. Written this year by The Rev. Youtha C. Hardman-Cromwell, Professor of the Practice in Ministry and Mission at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, the booklet provides "living water" for your time of purposeful physical hunger.

Order Good Friday Fast resources at:

800-333-4597 • www.endhunger.org/lent.htm • church@endhunger.org

Ordering by March 20 will ensure timely delivery. ➡

KID

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pantry. And this year we've started a food pantry in Loachapoka, a small town outside Auburn.

"When I walked out of that class, my head was spinning."

"We've gone to a farm in Shorter, Alabama, about four times this semester." Gleaning food in the field "has been such a blast," Ryan says. "We have a connection with a farmer there. And we've picked sweet potatoes, edamame, muscadines, peas, things of that nature. For me it combines all the things I like into one," he says. "I'm with friends, we get to be outside—every time we've done it the weather has been fantastic—you get to be out in nature and learn about agriculture and food and how it grows. It's new and exciting to a lot of us—and just knowing it's going to people in need makes it all the more rewarding."

"Every time we've gone to the farm it's educational for every one of us. Most of us are from the city. One time we had to go pick peas. When you eat peas

they're already shelled. It doesn't even cross your mind that they grow in a pod. How you shell a pea ... eye opening!" Ryan acknowledges that rescuing food in the fields has changed his understanding of world hunger. "We have enough food—that isn't the problem," he says. "We're just not distributing it correctly."

"A couple of us at the Wesley Foundation prepare a meal for other people. Now we are more aware of leftovers and know that we have to do something with these leftovers." The students have been more intentional about doing something with the food and not just throwing it away, he notes.

"As I learned more about what the Society of St. Andrew is doing, I wanted to do more."

Ryan says his experience with SoSA has been life changing. "We can't just throw food away. We're blessed to receive it. There's almost a sense of obligation that food should not be wasted but used to benefit others." ➡



Hunger in the 'Ham: Ever Been to a Crop Drop?

By Sharron Mendel Swain

Sharron Mendel Swain is a writer, poet, boy-mama, wife, meditator, religious educator, changemaker, gardener, and baker who's doing her best to practice mindfulness in everyday life and excited to share about the journey at sharronswain.com.

On a Saturday in November, my boys and I had a chance to participate with some friends in a sweet potato drop co-sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew and the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama.

Never having participated in anything like this before, we were intrigued. My little guys could not have been more excited had we been making a trip to the North Pole to meet Santa himself.

When we first arrived, we stood in line to sign in and get our supplies. Then we went to find a place to work. There were several mountains of sweet potatoes arranged on giant tarps, surrounded by loads of people from all walks of life.

The assignment was to bag up as many sweet potatoes as we could in little red mesh bags. This may have been the closest experience I've ever had to being part of an anthill, as each bag was magically whisked away the moment we dropped it on the ground behind us.

We also got to sort through for sub-par sweet 'taters that, much to my boys' delight, were going to

be taken to the elephants at the Birmingham Zoo.

It was fun to watch the kids working together with complete strangers, and amazing to see just how many small people had come out for the event.



When my boys went to play on a nearby hill, I stood back and watched what was happening all around us. Those sweet potato mountains were beginning to shrink, and the giant boxes in the back were starting to get full.

In those boxes were 40,000 pounds of super-nutritious, yummy sweet potatoes that couldn't be sold by the farmer who grew them. This happens when produce that is still perfectly edible doesn't quite meet the standards set for what can be sold in stores. This is where the Society of St. Andrew comes in, helping to get this produce to people who can put it to good use!

Turns out, those sweet potatoes would provide 120,000 servings to feed countless families throughout Central Alabama. The whole thing was quite impressive.

You could see lots and lots of potatoes piling up in a truck that would take them to a member agency for distribution.

There were large boxes getting filled with bags of potatoes, many groups of happy people taken group pictures, and a bunch of people taking the time to clean up every last bit of the mess.

This was a fun way to spend a beautiful fall Saturday morning, and a great way to learn a little bit more about hunger in Birmingham, by getting out to be a tiny part of making it better. ➡



Abundance Orchard Vacation Bible School

All new for 2014 is the Society of St. Andrew Abundance Orchard VBS curriculum! Focused this year on Old Testament stories about food, through these materials, children will meet Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Esau, and Elijah. They'll celebrate the Passover and experience the wonder of God's gift of food for the Hebrew people wandering in the wilderness. With storytelling, thematically-linked crafts, music, snacks, recreation, worship, and mission stories about Society of St. Andrew, Abundance Orchard is truly "Where Faith Grows and Hungry People are Fed."



Thank you to the following foundations for their recent support of the Society of St. Andrew:

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**For a complete listing visit our website,
www.EndHunger.org**

This all-in-one, stand-alone VBS curriculum is designed for older preschool and elementary children and contains enough material for five 3-hour VBS sessions. It's also suitable for Rotation Model Sunday School use. Teacher preparation materials include biblical background and reflection questions for each session. These can also be used for youth and adult Bible study.

Abundance Orchard materials are provided free of charge, for the purpose of raising hunger awareness in your congregation and generating financial support for Society of St. Andrew through VBS mission offerings.

For congregations seeking a mission supplement to accompany VBS materials, SoSA offers "Curriculum Tie-In" sheets, with suggestions for ways to talk about hunger and promote Society of St. Andrew's mission within the scope and sequence of the materials your congregation has chosen. Curriculum tie-in sheets will be available for download only through the SoSA website at endhunger.org/vbs.htm by March 15. Pre-order your Abundance Orchard materials today at www.endhunger.org/vbs.htm. ➡



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Contact Liz Sheahan at
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Quarterly REPORT

EndHunger.org

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Please send:

- ☐ Lent Starter Kit and _____ books
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☐ Vacation Bible School materials

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