



# Society of St. Andrew

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





## January – May 2014

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

Gleaned Produce	3,904,716 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	2,714,000 lbs
Events	646
Volunteers	4,850
<b>Total Pounds</b>	<b>6,618,716</b>
<b>Total Servings</b>	<b>19,856,148</b>

### Recent donations to SoSA:

**IN HONOR OF** - Melissa Adams ... Jennifer Baker ... Robert & Lynda Boone ... Evelyn W. Bopp ... Marshall Brown ... Ginny Chilton ... Helen Crosby ... Jessa Tyson Elford ... Emmaus Group of Eastern Shore ... Jenny Fife ... Mr. Thomas Flynn ... Beth Givens ... Mr. Conrad Grundlehner ... Vicki Hermann ... Pat Inge ... Baird Lewis ... Mr. Donald Moore ... Father Robert McEleney ... Mrs. Carol Morling ... Joselyn Zohar Padilla Paguaga ... Jim Smith ... Janice Webb

**IN MEMORY OF** - Mark C. Bitting, Jr. ... Ray Brown ... Dorothy & Lewis Creasy ... Bud Curtis ... Bobby Dunbar ... Evine King ... Audrey Levy ... Verona Lipford ... Jean Makoujy ... Earl D. Martin ... Doris Moseley ... Jack C. Reid, Sr. ... Archie Shadle ... Carolyn Mills Tennant ➔

## Harvest of Hope 2014 Events

July 11-13	Middle School (Full)	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 (Full)	Fincastle, VA
Nov 7-9	Intergenerational	Dahlgonega, GA
Nov 14-16	Intergenerational	Kelso, TN

**Sign up today! [Endhunger.org/Harvest](http://Endhunger.org/Harvest)**

## Executive Director's Report

By Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

Everyone says that SoSA is a “too well kept secret”. That is certainly true so we hope you'll share us with your network of friends. Ironically, perhaps, SoSA is somewhat known around the globe.

In recent years we've had contacts with gleaning organizations trying to get started in England, France, Germany, Kenya and South Africa. Recently SoSA's “vast national headquarters” received a visit from three friends from Greece. Boroume is a gleaning organization in Greece that is just in its second year. Alex Theodoritis and Alexia Moatsou who head up Baroume, and Nick Politakis, wanted to learn more about gleaning so they paid a visit to the Society of St. Andrew. Alex had heard about SoSA on the Internet when we were recognized as one of the top anti-hunger non profits in the country a few years ago. After researching us more and seeing how much SoSA accomplishes each year, he decided that they needed to come visit and learn from us directly. Boroume received a generous grant to do just that and we had a great visit.

It was wonderful to learn more about Greece, a nation that has been hit particularly hard by the economic downturn. It's a fascinating country. It was also interesting to learn about gleaning in Greece, which happens to be a lot like gleaning here in America. The problem of food waste is a big one in Greece, just as it is here in the U.S. Food waste offers a great opportunity to feed the hungry in Greece, the U.S. and elsewhere.

Alex and Alexia discovered that SoSA's experience is particularly relevant to what they are trying to do back home. We discussed problems and challenges and shared practical experiences from fields and orchards on both sides of the globe. We, at SoSA, learned that there is actually a far greater potential for successful gleaning in Greece than we had originally thought, and that our two countries share many of the same crops.

SoSA's growing recognition around the world is just further evidence of a very successful ministry. Everyone reading this newsletter is part of the reason for that success. A final thing I learned in this recent visit is that I would have no shortage of volunteers if we ever needed anyone to go over to Greece to help them out directly. What a selfless and dedicated staff we have here! To our friends at Boroume: **καλη τυχη!** ➔



# Sharing the Mission to End Hunger—Across the Globe

The Society of St. Andrew has been making international friends who share the vision of a commonsense end to hunger. For the past three years, Sue Peterson, with the American Councils for International Education, has connected international students with SoSA to volunteer as an enhancement activity. In 2012, students participated in a citrus drive in Seminole County, FL. They also gleaned and delivered food to HOPE Helps in Oviedo, FL, to learn about how their volunteer efforts provided food to families in need. Last year, the group met with Barbara Sayles, Regional Director for SoSA in Florida, and learned a little more about SoSA before they gleaned citrus in two backyards in Seminole County, FL. This year, the students attended a Central Florida Presbytery Youth Event at Long and Scott Farms and gleaned cucumbers.

The American Councils for International Education places high-school age students, who have competed in their home countries for a scholarship, to study for one academic year in an American high school, living with host families. Students have excellent English skills, have demonstrated leadership skills, and have excellent academic records, as well as written essays and interviews that reveal their desire to be a representative of their country while they are here. The goals of the program require each student to complete at least 30 hours of volunteer service to the community. Find more information about American Councils for International Education at their website: <http://www.americancouncils.org>.

*"American Councils for International Education is a premier, international nonprofit creating educational opportunities that prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in our interconnected world. Through academic exchanges, overseas language immersion, and educational development programs, American Councils designs and administers innovative programs that broaden individual perspectives, increase knowledge, and deepen understanding."* ➤



**Sasha Sinkova, from Russia, holding a bag of cucumbers she picked.**

# Hunger Action Month

September is National Hunger Action Month. Deepen your spiritual life as you read, reflect, and take action to end hunger in your community and across the country this September. Visit the Society of St. Andrew [EndHunger.org](http://EndHunger.org) website to download a copy of the 2014 Calendar for Prayer and Action. The calendar includes scripture readings and related reflections or activities, suitable for the entire family, for each day of September. Photocopy the calendar to share with your congregation and friends! You'll find newsletter and church bulletin announcements for Hunger Action Month on our website as well.



Plan now to make September 2014 a time for your congregation to stand together against hunger, joining with the Society of St. Andrew to see that each person in this country has healthy, nourishing food to eat. ➤

## "And a child shall lead them ..."

Because a young boy cared for the hungry, 25,000 servings of fresh produce will make it to the tables of America's hungry. Alvin Fox III was about to have his 6th birthday party celebration. But he told his parents he wanted to do something about children who don't get enough to eat. He had heard about the Society of St. Andrew when his church used SoSA's VBS material and decided that would be a good way to do something. Instead of receiving gifts at his birthday party, he asked people to make a donation to the Society of St. Andrew. His birthday party raised \$500 and in the process he also introduced others to the issue of hunger in America and to SoSA in particular. Happy Birthday Alvin, and thanks for caring and sharing! ➤



**Alvin Fox at his birthday party**

# Making a Big Impact in North Carolina

**S**ociety of St. Andrew is, by far, the largest gleaning organization in the country, holding thousands of gleaning events every year. And one of the largest events every year is the “Yam Jam” coordinated each October by SoSA’s North Carolina Gleaning Network.

Last year, 600 volunteers from all over North Carolina gathered south of Raleigh, in a massive potato field farmed by Gary Sutton. On a surprisingly hot autumn day, the volunteers gathered about 55,000 pounds of potatoes and loaded them into trucks that took them to food banks and food pantries all over the region.

Eric Stegall and his family took the 250-mile round trip because of the difference they know they make in the lives of poor families. Eric recalled gleaning and delivering a truckload of tomatoes one day. He and his wife were curious how much the produce was worth. They were shocked to learn their family had just delivered \$300 worth of tomatoes to individuals with developmental disabilities living in a group care home. “We could never write a check for that much,” he said, “but we can certainly glean that much food!” By participating in just one gleaning, anyone can help alleviate hunger in their community. As Eric put it, “We’re all doing little things, but when you add it up, it makes a big difference for people.” 🍌



Volunteers picking potatoes at the Annual Yam Jam

## Yard Sale Tithe Feeds the Hungry

**R**ecently Joyce Wohlert held a yard sale to get rid of some “stuff”. Joyce has been a supporter of SoSA for a few years now and she decided to tithe 10% of her yard sale earnings to SoSA. Joyce’s example and gift will result in over 2,000 servings of healthy fresh produce for the hungry. Thanks Joyce! Those who go hungry in America hope that your idea spreads! 🍌

# It All Started with One Truckload of Potatoes

**O**n a November day in 2007, a truckload of sweet potatoes arrived in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church in Destin, Florida. The church had partnered with the Thrivent Financial Group for Lutherans, both looking for a way to help struggling families have a good Thanksgiving meal in this Florida panhandle town. The answer was to work with the Society of St. Andrew to bring in more than 120-thousand servings of sweet potatoes.

Driving through Destin, the visitor sees massive seaside mansions and luxury cars. But along the smaller roads away from the beaches are families in need. More than 30 area agencies picked up and delivered the sweet potatoes that first year.

In the years since, the community has transformed that giving spirit into monthly community service projects that involve home repairs, help for the elderly, even the creation of a local food bank. And food for Thanksgiving remains an annual event.

Last November, SoSA coordinated with farmers in Florida and Mississippi to bring in a truckload of sweet potatoes and another truckload of corn, cucumbers, and



Volunteers bagging potatoes at a Potato Drop in Florida

watermelons. In the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church, more than 300 volunteers bagged and boxed the food. Together, the young and the old — families, scouts, cheerleaders, men’s groups and women’s groups — prepared the vegetables for distribution to 37 local agencies.

As Julie, one of the agency drivers, got back into her van, she hugged some of the volunteers and said “you know, this will be the only food some of our families will have, and what an abundance it will be for them.”

Harold, a volunteer, said with tears in his eyes, “This blessing is beyond description. You have no idea what this will mean for our families at Thanksgiving.”

In Destin, Florida, service to the community began with one event in 2007 but has become an ongoing spirit of giving. An email goes out, and people respond with enthusiasm, whatever the need. And it all began with a load of sweet potatoes. 🍌



# Abundance Orchard Vacation Bible School

By the time you read this newsletter, hundreds of congregations across the country will be getting ready for this summer's Vacation Bible School. Morning or evening, a weekend, or even one day a week, Vacation Bible School offers a unique and exciting opportunity for children to learn and grow in their faith. Make feeding our hungry brothers and sisters through the Society of St. Andrew a missions emphasis for your congregation's VBS!

We're making available two options for churches this summer, and both are FREE for your use. If you're using a commercial VBS curriculum (Cokesbury, Group, Concordia, etc.), request our VBS Missions Supplement, with a daily missions story and activity to complement your program. If you're looking for a complete, all-in-one VBS experience, then order our Abundance Orchard Vacation Bible School. Abundance Orchard has everything you need for five three-hour VBS sessions, including storytelling, music, recreation, crafts, missions, snack suggestions, and even a Pinterest board, all focused on Old Testament stories about the God who always provides for our needs.

For more information on the Society of St. Andrew Vacation Bible School materials and to place your resource order, visit [endhunger.org/vbs.htm](http://endhunger.org/vbs.htm). ➡



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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# Quarterly REPORT

**EndHunger.org**

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## What's inside?

These Shoes Stepped Out	1
Executive Director's Report	2
Critical statistics	2
Harvest of Hope schedule of events	2
Sharing the Mission	3
Hunger Action Month	3
A Child Shall Lead Them	3
Making a Big Impact in NC	4
It All Started with a Truckload	4
Yard Sale to Feed the Hungry	4
VBS — Abundance Orchard	5
Become a Legacy Partner	5

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are free and there is no obligation.**

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