In June, Society of St. Andrew was invited to host a multiple-day Produce Drop at the National AARP Convention in Miami. One morning, we unloaded 40,000 pounds of sweet corn. By noon, 300 convention volunteers had bagged it, and it was on its way to the Feeding South Florida Food Bank. The next day, 40,000 pounds of red and green sweet peppers arrived, as did the volunteers who eagerly helped bag them for distribution.

At this event, I met a lot of nice folks and heard lots of stories, but Maggie’s is one that will forever resonate in my mind. Maggie looked like anyone’s sweet grandmother. She joined our group of pepper baggers, and I soon noticed she handled each one with care, occasionally lifting one to her nose to enjoy its sweet aroma. She finally asked, “How does one go about getting produce such as this?” Maggie explained she is 82-years-old and receives $1,000 per month from Social Security. After paying bills, and rent for her one-bedroom apartment, she has exactly $100 left for food each month.
Do You Know Our Seed Potato Project?

Executive Director’s Report
By Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

Most folks who know SoSA know about the Gleaning Network, the Potato & Produce Project, and perhaps even our Harvest of Hope retreats. These are our three core programs that prevent food waste, feed the hungry, and increase awareness about hunger and poverty in our world.

Yet there is another program we run, as part of our Potato & Produce Project, that provides seed potatoes to allow people to grow their own crops. An article also in this newsletter tells of many places where this program is at work right now.

Very early in our ministry, we learned there are many people in need of food who could plant, grow, and harvest their own crop if they had just a little help. The multi-state Appalachian region in the U.S. is home to some of our nation’s poorest citizens. Yet most who live there either own, or have access to, land that can be used for crop production. They have the ability and willingness to feed themselves, and simply lack the seeds to plant a crop.

To give these folks a “hand-up,” SoSA created the Seed Potato Project. SoSA purchases certified seed potatoes, at market value, and then works with organizations within Appalachian communities to distribute the seed in 50 lb. bags to local families. People cut out the eyes
Long and Scott Farms Help SoSA Feed the Hungry

It wouldn’t be possible to feed the hungry with fresh fruits and vegetables without farmers like Hank Scott. Long & Scott Farms, of Mt. Dora, Florida, have been working with Society of St. Andrew since 1999. One day, 16 years ago, Hank Scott and his family invited SoSA to send volunteers out and pick some surplus corn. Their Zellwood Sweet Corn is beautiful food, and SoSA was glad to pick it and distribute the bounty to Florida food pantries.

Since that day, more than 950 gleaning events have been held at Long & Scott Farms. More than 25,000 SoSA volunteers have picked 17 million pounds of corn, strawberries, cabbage, turnips, onions, cucumbers, watermelons, and other produce at Scott’s farms. These events have provided more than 50 million servings of food for the homeless and hungry in Florida.

Scott says he visited the Second Harvest Food Bank one day with Barbara Sayles, our Regional Director in Florida. He was impressed with the way his crops are distributed by SoSA, through the food bank system. Scott says supermarkets want food to look perfect, but he knows perfect food comes in lots of shapes and sizes, and Mother Nature doesn’t make them all look the same. Scott doesn’t want that wonderful food thrown away, and that’s why he continues, all season long, to invite SoSA volunteers to glean his fields.

Hank Scott is a great partner in the system that makes SoSA such a success. Generous farmers, faithful volunteers, and an efficient system of food banks and food pantries are the way we feed millions of hungry people every year.

Mobilize Your Congregation During Hunger Action Month in September

September is Hunger Action Month - a great time for your members help prevent hunger in the U.S. SoSA provides resources to help you raise the issue and to put your faith into action.

- Go to EndHunger.org/ham for resources. Download the calendar and other materials for you own use, and for your congregation.
When a family receives a ten-pound bag of potatoes, they may be able to eat them for a week or two. But when a family receives a bag of seed potatoes, they can raise their own crop, and then have food to eat for months.

Each spring, SoSA delivers several truck-loads of certified White Superior U.S. Seed Potatoes, mostly to impoverished regions of the Appalachian Mountains. These hearty seed potatoes were grown in Maine and are suitable for planting in a variety of locations and growing seasons.

The shipments are usually received by churches or church agencies with a distribution system already in place. They divide the potatoes among Appalachian families that have some land to plant on, but who are without the resources to purchase seeds. The families then plant, tend, and harvest the new potato crop. Recipients grow their own nutritious food to supplement their diets, and often provide food to friends and neighbors. At times, several families share a community garden, planting and caring for the crop together.

SoSA’s North Carolina Regional Director, Michael Binger, reports on the distribution of a recent load of seed potatoes in Western North Carolina. About 12-thousand pounds of potatoes arrived at the Haywood County Schools organization, which will later harvest the crop to bring to food pantries across the region. About 800 pounds of seed potatoes were planted by Madison County jail inmates, who will harvest them for people in need in Haywood and Madison counties.

Some potatoes went to the “Come to the Table” conference in Sylva, N.C. where the faith community meets with farmers, gardeners, farm workers, educators, health professionals, and community organizations. Receiving groups distributed the potatoes to local organizations that grow crops for the needy in their communities.

Other seed potatoes have been delivered this year to Jackson Area Ministries in Ohio, Cedar Ridge Ministries in Kentucky, and to agencies in Knoxville, Tenn. and agencies near Bland, Bristol, and Richlands, Va.

350,000 pounds of seed potatoes delivered to needy regions

At times, some of the seed potatoes arrive in Native American towns or reservations to be used by individual families, or to be coordinated by the tribal government. Among the recipients are the Lumbee Tribe in Lumberton, N.C. and the Cherokee Tribe in Cherokee, N.C.

In all, SoSA will deliver about 350,000 pounds of seed potatoes to needy regions in 2015. Once harvested, this will yield nearly three-million pounds of fresh, nutritious potatoes that families can store and use as needed throughout the fall and winter.

Nutrition Office, which then distributed them.

Some recipients had a few pounds to plant and to share the crop with family and neighbors. Some potatoes were planted in larger fields by the Haywood Gleaners organization, which will later harvest the crop to bring to food pantries across the region. About 800 pounds of seed potatoes were planted by Madison County jail inmates, who will harvest them for people in need in Haywood and Madison counties.

Some potatoes went to the “Come to the Table” conference in Sylva, N.C. where the faith community meets with farmers, gardeners, farm workers, educators, health professionals, and community organizations. Receiving groups distributed the potatoes to local organizations that grow crops for the needy in their communities.

Other seed potatoes have been delivered this year to Jackson Area Ministries in Ohio, Cedar Ridge Ministries in Kentucky, and to agencies in Knoxville, Tenn. and agencies near Bland, Bristol, and Richlands, Va.

350,000 pounds of seed potatoes delivered to needy regions

At times, some of the seed potatoes arrive in Native American towns or reservations to be used by individual families, or to be coordinated by the tribal government. Among the recipients are the Lumbee Tribe in Lumberton, N.C. and the Cherokee Tribe in Cherokee, N.C.

In all, SoSA will deliver about 350,000 pounds of seed potatoes to needy regions in 2015. Once harvested, this will yield nearly three-million pounds of fresh, nutritious potatoes that families can store and use as needed throughout the fall and winter.

Hank Scott poses with his father, Frank, who started the farm more than 50 years ago.
Maggie has learned how to stretch one whole chicken to last an entire month, and found some great recipes for casseroles that can be divided and apportioned out for each meal. She has learned to eat just two meals a day. And she found a food pantry in her neighborhood which has helped, but she has diabetes and they give her mostly processed food. She has gained 15 pounds and her doctor wants her to lose weight and to eat healthier.

“If I had peppers like this every day," she excitedly explained, “I could do so much!”

Choking back tears, I asked Maggie if she would like to take some peppers with her when she left. After all, (thinking to myself) it is for people like Maggie that SoSA exists.

Sitting with us at the table, as Maggie shared her story, was another volunteer whose church has a food pantry near Maggie’s neighborhood. This food pantry gets fresh produce from a food bank that receives it from SoSA.

So when Maggie left, she not only took peppers with her, she also had the name and address of the food pantry so she could have good food as long as she needs it.

As Maggie finished her shift and walked away, I glanced around the room that had become silent. Eyes glistened with moisture as others like me tried to hold back tears. She could very easily have been my grandmother, and she was hungry.

I often tell folks that we don’t know who is hungry; it could be the person standing behind us in line, the child sitting next to your child in school, or the grandmother volunteering to bag food for the hungry ... someone just like Maggie.

**Choking back tears, I asked Maggie if she would like to take some peppers with her when she left**

---

**Do You Know Our Seed Potato Project?**

continued from page 2

of the seed potatoes and plant them to grow more potatoes. It’s as simple as that - plus weeding and all the cultivation that goes along with growing any crop.

Because we provide certified seed potato stock, we ensure that eight pounds of potatoes are harvested for every one pound of seed planted under normal growing conditions. The potatoes that are harvested are often enough to feed a whole family through the winter months, and sometimes enough to share with other families and neighbors.

It is expensive to purchase and transport the seed potatoes. But when you consider the harvest ratio, it still provides nutritious food at just about 3¢ per pound, and it helps enable entire communities to feed themselves!

---

**Recent Donations**

**In Honor Of**

Capron UMW
Barbara Cooley
Helen Crosby
Verna Faucette
Jacqueline Blick Fuss
Jim Geenen
Jim Hassmer
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Massie
L.D. Mitchell
Ryan Snell
Yvonne Staiger
Ron & Sandy Wheeler

---

**In Memory Of**

Ruth Beck
Catherine A. Bixler
Bud Curtis
Rod Herndon
Evine King
Clyde Laushey, Jr.
Dorothy Lockhart
Daniel Mills
Chuck Overton
J.D. Quinlan
David Thomas

---

**Plan for Advent with SoSA**

Pre-order your Advent materials now, or any time at EndHunger.org/advent

Materials ordered will be shipped in September.

---

**Mark your calendar**

Download SoSA’s Simple Supper resources for use on Food Day (Oct. 24), or World Food Day (Oct. 16), and start planning a Simple Supper for your family, neighborhood, or congregation!

EndHunger.org/simple-supper
Quarterly
REPORT
Endhunger.org

Return Service Requested

Order Materials —
for your congregation, group, or individual use. All materials are free and there is no obligation.

Please send:
☐ Advent Starter Kit and ______ books

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

Donate now —
EndHunger.org/donate

☐ $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

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 • sosinfo@EndHunger.org • EndHunger.org

Connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and sign up for monthly updates
EndHunger.org/signup