On Saturday, August 29, a tractor-trailer with Maine license plates pulled onto Buchanan Boulevard on the Duke University campus in Durham, North Carolina. It came to a stop at three o’clock in the afternoon in the visitors’ parking lot alongside the Smith Warehouse. This is pretty much the way most SoSA potato drops begin, except most of them start with a truck arriving in the pre-dawn hours. But SoSA’s North Carolina Program Coordinator, Meg Sterns-Newsome, had set up this event with several departments at Duke University, and the volunteers would be primarily college students. In other words, afternoon might be a better time for this particular potato drop.
Volunteers Help Make it Happen

Executive Director’s Report

Year-to-Date Statistics
Fresh food saved and donated to feed the hungry:

- Gleaned Produce: 10,532,347 lbs
- Potato & Produce Project: 8,127,679 lbs
- Events: 2,892
- Volunteers: 16,006

Total Pounds: 18,660,026
Total Servings: 56 Million

THANK YOU to the following FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated $1,000+ in the third quarter:

- Altria Companies Employee Community Fund. Richmond, VA
- Amaturo Foundation. Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Dandridge Trust. Nashville, TN
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation. St. Louis, MO
- Food Lion Foundation. Salisbury, NC
- E Lea Rollins & Associates. Charlotte, NC
- The John Dickson Home. Washington, DC
- Kharis Foundation. Nashville, TN
- The Memorial Foundation. Hendersonville, TN
- Robert Lee Weiss Foundation. Knoxville, TN
- Stewardship Foundation. Tacoma, WA
- T&T Family Foundation. Nashville, TN
- Walmart Foundation. Bentonville, AR
- Weldon F. Osborne Foundation. Chattanooga, TN
- Wells Fargo Wealth Management. Winston Salem, NC

Volunteers are important to many programs, and they are especially important to SoSA. How many ministries, besides SoSA, do you know that have 30,000 to 40,000 volunteers each year? You might be hard-pressed to name any at all, yet that is the number of people who give up their time to participate in this remarkable ministry.

Seldom do our volunteers participate only once. Gleaning can certainly be work, but it is also fun, and the vast majority of our volunteers come back time and again, year after year. Our volunteers come from every walk of life and every racial, religious, ethnic, and economic background. And they all work side-by-side gleaning in fields in many states across the country. Many of our volunteers are among those who will receive the food, and they are eager to do what they can to help feed themselves and their neighbors. If you’ve gleaned with SoSA, chances are you worked with some of our food recipients and didn’t even know it. That is the nature of gleaning and this ministry.
year, to join in. Often, entire
families participate, and
there aren’t many programs
where that is possible. An
old friend of mine, Sam
Hodges, once said, “Glean-
ing is like crack-cocaine—it’s
addictive!” Now I happen to
know that Sam didn’t know
what cocaine was like, but
you get his point. Sam also
demonstrated that gleaning
is something that our se-
niors can do as well. He was
a great example for others.
My own personal experi-
ence with SoSA came from
volunteering in the Harvest
of Hope and Gleaning

“Seldom do our volunteers
participate only once.”

You’ll learn about some of
our volunteers elsewhere
in this newsletter. There
are thousands of wonderful
stories we could relate.
Visit our website and get
in touch with one of our
offices to volunteer yourself.
We make it easy for you; all
you have to do is show up.
Come on out. We’ll glean
side-by-side in the fields and
orchards somewhere! 

That proved true. The timing
was good, and more than
300 volunteers gathered
in the parking lot to donate
their time and energy. The
group included freshmen,
upperclassmen, faculty,
and staff. They unloaded
42,000 pounds of Maine
white potatoes from the
truck, and stacked the
cartons in the parking lot.

These were beautiful
and nutritious potatoes,
unsellable at the time
because they were surplus,
or odd-sized, or because
of cosmetic reasons. The
farmer had donated them
because they were grown
to be food, and food they
would be. If not donated,
this valuable food would
have to be thrown away.

Working together, they
ripped open the cartons
and loaded the potatoes
into bags, each about
ten-pounds, suitable for
distribution directly to needy
families. The potatoes
were loaded into vans and
trucks from the Food Bank
of Central and Eastern NC,
Walk in the Light Ministries,
Mount Level Community
Haven, TROSA, Durham
Rescue Mission, Urban
Ministries of Durham,
Durham Crisis Response,
Lakewood Elementary
backpack program, Wall-
town Neighborhood Minis-
tries, and Genesis Home.

Meg, our Program Coordinator,
had scheduled about 5
hours for unloading the
truck go, loaded up, and on
their way to feed thousands
of hungry families. 

The Fastest Potato Baggers, Ever - continued from page 1

Photo courtesy of Mark Shultz/Raleigh

From left, brothers Gio, 8, and
Marco Guilotto, 7, drop bagged

Society of St. Andrew

Save the date
#GivingTuesday
December 1
EndHunger.org
For Annie, Feeding Seniors is the Best

It’s a sunny morning in a corn field outside Charlotte, North Carolina. It’s the first part of the morning, and the day hasn’t yet heated up. And that’s the way Annie Bates likes it. A clear day that’s not too hot is just perfect for Annie, and for all the gleaners who arrived to spend a couple of hours gleaning corn before the field is considered done for the year and the farmer cuts it all down.

Over the years, she’s arrived for potato bagging in the pouring rain, pulled corn in the 90-degree July heat, and tugged turnips from the almost-frozen ground. Sometimes she brings help with her—one of her children, or grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren. She likes to pass along the practice of using her own time and talents to help others who are in need.

Annie is 77-years-old. She’s been gleaning for nine or ten years now. In retirement, she gleans with SoSA twice a week throughout the summer and into the fall. After a full career as a bookkeeper at Wachovia Bank and at Catawba College, picking crops in the sunshine and fresh air feels good to her. After she and the other gleaners pick the remaining good ears of corn off the stalks and load them into cartons, the gleaners pack the cartons into vans and pickup trucks for delivery.

Annie joins in here, too. She loads her little SUV so the boxes of vegetables are wall-to-wall and up to her windows. She delivers the food to food banks, a women’s shelter, the Salvation Army, and to the food pantry at her own church: Trinity Presbyterian, in Salisbury, North Carolina. Because she also delivers the food, Annie gets to watch as some of the corn, potatoes, cabbage, squash, turnips, or watermelons she helped gather in the field that day actually arrives in the hands of people who so greatly need it.

Annie loves to volunteer with SoSA. She enjoys the work and she has a good

Continued — see For Annie, Feeding Seniors is the Best on page 5
For Annie, Feeding Seniors is the Best continued from page 4 time with the other gleaners. But it’s the last part of the process that makes her come back time and time again. For Annie, the most gratifying part of volunteering with SoSA is when she delivers the food directly to seniors and to homes for senior-citizens. Sometimes, she even shucks the corn herself so it will be ready for the seniors to cook. And that’s the best, says Annie hot, or it’s cold, you can be sure Annie will be back out field again next week.

For Annie, the most gratifying part of volunteering with SoSA is when she delivers the food directly to seniors and to homes for senior-citizens.
Quarterly REPORT

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For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • sosainfo@EndHunger.org • EndHunger.org

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