



Society of St. Andrew

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



Year-End Statistics for 2015

Fresh food saved and donated to feed the hungry:

Gleaned Produce.....	16,581,894 lbs
Potato & Produce Project.....	11,608,250 lbs
Events	4,825
Volunteers.....	32,710

Total Historical Pounds	772 Million
Total Historical Servings	2.3 Billion

Recent Donations

In Memory Of

Bobby Arehart
 Captain Charles Douglas
 Billion
 Carol Blackmon
 Gerald Catron
 Jack & Dorothy Christie
 Bud Curtis
 Ward Ellis
 Carmella Farina
 H.R. Graham, Jr.
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 Lee Anna Farrall
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 Boyd Garlock
 Sharon Graham
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 Gail & Jim Hassmer
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 Mrs. Susan Hodgson
 Rev. Dr. Janine Howard
 Emma Jarrett
 Gary & Anne Miller
 Mrs. Welch's students, State
 Road Elementary
 Annita Nelson
 Charles Overton
 Gary Perry
 Donald Petty
 The marriage of Sarah Barton
 and Andrew Phillips
 Alan & Caroline Ruppard
 Rev. Matt & Lacey Seaton
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 Jim & Shirley Thurmond
 Rev. Jim & Judy Tongue
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Waller
 Michael Warren, M.D.
 Joyce Faye White

In Honor Of

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 Stephen G. Barnes
 Melanie Bird
 Beverley Collins
 Mrs. Helen Crosby
 Jesse Evans

Executive Director's Report

By Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

Jackie Usey, 1965-2015

I don't often write about our staff because we stay focused on those we serve and all the people who make this ministry possible. But I'll make an exception and tell you about someone who is just pretty special.



Since 2009, Jackie Usey was our Gleaning Program Coordinator in Mississippi. In March of last year, Jackie was diagnosed with a particularly bad form of leukemia. On December 27th, Jackie finished that battle and went on to a far better place.

position, I knew she was the right person for the job. She was "called" to do it, even if she didn't fully recognize it as a calling.

Mississippi is a wonderful state, but the need there is so great that it usually ranks worst in the percentage of its population living in poverty. Like most people who come to SoSA, Jackie had never done work like this before. But when she interviewed for the

"Jackie was just plain fun to be around"

Her wonderful, compassionate heart, combined with her energy and joy in life, ensured she would succeed. Those qualities also made her a favorite of everyone she met, and in this ministry, you meet a lot of unique people. Jackie was just plain fun to be around, as anyone who knew her could say. That was certainly the case among the rest of the staff at SoSA – Jackie made every staff gathering fun.





Food Takes a Bite Out of Crime in a Depressed Community



By Michael Binger*

And she was driven to care for the hungry in her state. In her years with SoSA, Jackie saved and distributed more than 16 million pounds of fresh produce to the hungry in Mississippi. She also sent millions of pounds of food to help the hungry in other states. Even during her battle with leukemia, which lasted just 9 months, Jackie was able to save and distribute 2 million pounds of food in her state. Think about that.

Many thousands of people have been fed



because of the heart, spirit, hands, and feet of Jackie Usey. And it is important

to remember that Jackie, and all the staff of SoSA, are able to accomplish what we do only because of the caring and support of all our partners in this amazing ministry. Your support is a precious resource to some very dedicated people in our common fight against hunger. 🍌

Hunger has many side-effects in a community, including loss of hope, depression, desperation, and crime. In working with local feeding agencies, the Society of St. Andrew seeks to address all these concerns.

East Greensboro, North Carolina is a community where more than one-fourth of the households experience hunger sometime during the year. The week before Christmas, a potato distributor donated several truckloads of white and russet potatoes - as long as they could be distributed before the holiday. SoSA reached out to Pastor Calvin Foster, Jr. of Genesis Baptist Church in East Greensboro, and to Louise Rucker, who runs the George Rucker Sr. Food Drive Ministry. They quickly arranged a potato drop to help feed their neighbors.

The morning of the food distribution, Pastor Foster said: "It's ironic that we had a (police and community) meeting here last night that was about not-so-positive things going on in the community ... then to be able to be here again this morning talking about what is positive here in the community."



This Society of St. Andrew potato drop was a positive, encouraging event held in the Genesis Baptist Church parking lot the day after a community/police meeting was held at the church, discussing the high crime rate in the neighborhood.

In the previous 2 months, more than 140 crimes had been committed within a mile of the church". Foster and Rucker see feeding their neighbors as part of

At SoSA, we believe all people have intrinsic value and are worthy of the security of knowing where their next meal is coming from. These potatoes, as

If we can get food to families, I think that will lessen some of the crime because people will have food on the table.

crime prevention, "If we can get food to families, I think that will lessen some of the crime because people will have food on the table." Foster added, "We may be in a specific zip code, but despite that zip code, the community has to know that they still have value."

with all the food we share, offer hope and security to people in need. And along the way, it also works to make the communities receiving it better and safer places. 🍌

* Michael Binger is the Regional Director of our North Carolina office.



Apples to DC: a Faithful Partnership with Brother Leotha Woodson



Brother Woodson is a familiar sight at SoSA events, loading food for the homeless and needy in Washington, DC.

Photo Credit: Lacey Johnson, Bread for the World

74 year-old Leotha Woodson is the founder of a charity organization known as Noah's Ark. Every Saturday, Woodson offers a truckload of donated food to hungry residents living in northeast Washington, D.C.

Woodson is often provided fresh food by Society of St. Andrew for his deliveries into the nation's capitol. One day in the late fall, a group of high school students, church groups, and families gleaned for two hours in the Marker-Miller Orchard in Winchester, VA. Elderly volunteers brushed dirt from fallen apples, while young boys triumphantly knocked apples out of trees using sticks.

The majority of the apples gleaned - a harvest of 18,000 pounds, or roughly 54,000 apples, went into Woodson's truck. The remaining fruit went to other local food pantries

Continued — see *Apples to DC* on page 5

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The Minnie and Bernard Lane Foundation	Altavista, VA
Speer Financial Incorporated	Chicago, IL
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Titmus Foundation	Sutherland, VA
The Young Growers Alliance of Virginia.....	Winchester, VA
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Wunderman	New York, NY
Stewardship Foundation.....	Tacoma, WA

Milestone in Alabama

More than 1 Million Pounds in 2015

We're very happy to announce that our regional office in Alabama saved and delivered more than one million pounds of food in 2015. Amounts have climbed steadily since the office was established in 2005, and exceeding one million pounds is due to the farmers, volunteers, donors, and our partner churches and organizations. A nod is due to sweet potato farmers Steve and Connie Penry in Daphne, and Clark Haynes in Cullman, for more than 150,000 pound each. Thanks also to Regional Director Mark Mangum, Program Coordinator Josh Howard, and all our gleaning coordinators.



SoSA Delivers Food to Refugees - continued from page 1

try anything. Marci Mroz, the RSS volunteer who oversees the weekly food distribution, says it's fun

The partnership depends on the generosity of our distributor and on the dedication of our SoSA



Fish are not as common as potatoes and tomatoes in a SoSA delivery, and these tilapia were very much appreciated by the refugee community.

to see the folks, some in the country only a couple weeks, try to figure out what they're getting. Marci researches unfamiliar

truck drivers. Four drivers take primary responsibility for the distribution, one for each Wednesday of the month. They seldom miss a day, scheduling doctor appointments and even vacations around "their

week" when they pick up hundreds of pounds of bok choy, persimmons, chayote, yucca, radishes, and whatever else our wonderful distributor can share. Occasionally they'll get the all-time favorite donation: ginger!

In October, a tilapia farm in West Charlotte donated a ton of live tilapia to SoSA. Rachel Humphries, Director of Refugee Support Services, loaded her truck with coolers on Tuesday night, drove to the "farm" on Wednesday morning, and surprised the refugees with about 500 pounds of still flopping fish!

We all look forward to what food adventures the next five years bring! ♡
*Jean Blish Siers is SoSA's Charlotte Area Gleaning Coordinator.

Apples to DC - continued from page 4

and nonprofits in nearby Virginia cities.

"I think gleaning is one of the greatest things that God has instituted for his people to be fed," said Brother Woodson. "There is nothing that I have ever done that is more rewarding than giving to someone that's homeless and seeing a smile on their face." ♡



Even the youngsters get involved in carrying produce from the weekly SoSA delivery.

produce (What to do with chayote? What about rhubarb?) and passes that along to clients. Marci gets a kick out of their openness to new things. "Often they will just take a big old bite out of something to figure out what it is and if it should be eaten raw or if it needs to be cooked."



These immigrants are learning a new language, a new culture, and all about new foods, with the help of many people in the Charlotte, North Carolina area.

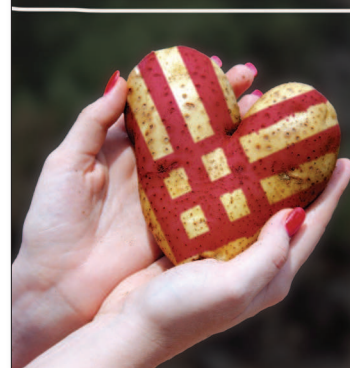
Society of St. Andrew

December 1
#GivingTuesday
Results are in

More than
450 gifts totaling
\$75,260

Resulting in:
45 tractor trailer loads of
fruits and vegetables, including
18 tractor trailers of potatoes
pledged by farmers as a
#GivingTuesday gift match.

Providing:
5.4 million
servings
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across the United States.



EndHunger.org

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