



Society of St. Andrew

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

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Top: Volunteer Dave Eaton unearths sweet potatoes with a rake so other volunteers can come by and pick them up. Bottom: Bruce Oland, our Triangle Area Gleaning Coordinator, takes a break with Jason Brown, owner/operator of First Fruits Farm, which donated more than 100 tons of sweet potatoes to the 2016 Yam Jam.

Yam Jam: The Blessing After the Storm

When Hurricane Matthew hit the state of North Carolina last October, the devastation was tremendous. One river rose to 26 feet above flood stage. A federal disaster was declared in 31 counties. At least 14 people died in flood-related incidents.

The Carolinas Office of Society of St. Andrew expected to begin its annual Yam Jam weekends just as the storm came up the coast. It was a big disappointment to miss out on the planned gleaning and harvesting of sweet potatoes. The previous year's event had provided 85,000 pounds of potatoes to distribute to feeding agencies throughout North Carolina. Gleaning at the planned locations was now out-of-the-question, and Program Coordinator Meg Spears-Newsome knew she and her gleaning coordinators and hundreds of volunteers would have to work hard on whatever gleaning events were still possible. Little did she know the terrible storm would be followed by a blockbuster month of Yam Jam events.

As the state dried out, the gleaning took off. SoSA hosted a total of six events at the First Fruits Farm in Louisburg – the farm owned and operated by former NFL center Jason Brown, and his wife, Tay. The Browns grow food primarily for feeding agencies, and SoSA volunteers went through the fields and harvested the potatoes. Then they went through again and gleaned what was left.

In addition, area gleaning coordinators Bruce Oland and Tricia Lounsberry made arrangements with two new farms they had never worked with before. They sent more volunteers into those fields, where they gleaned more tons of great sweet potatoes.

Continued — see *The Blessing After the Storm* on page 5

Year End Statistics for 2016

Fresh food saved and donated to feed the hungry

Gleaned Produce..... 16,720,834 lbs
 Potato & Produce Project..... 10,599,338 lbs
 Events5,624
 Volunteers.....32,789

Total Historical Pounds 799.7 Million
Total Historical Servings 2.4 Billion

Recent Donations

In Memory Of

Jim Armentrout
 Virginia Beeler
 David Corn
 Bud Curtis
 Edwin H. Daniels, Sr.
 Ruth Drinkard
 Jim Graham
 Milton & Marion Hathaway
 Cleo Holt
 Pat Inge
 Zim D. Jackson
 Donald Kear
 Evine King
 Daryl Kinney
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 Doris Paxton
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 Ruth V. Propes
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 Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Woodward III

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

Hope Is on the Table

You might be surprised to learn that gleaning doesn't slow down much in the winter time. In Florida and all along the Gulf and South Atlantic coasts right now, growing season



is in full swing. The Society of St. Andrew volunteers are right there every day, picking, digging, and gathering what's left after commercial harvest.

In cooler areas further north and west, volunteers are bagging apples from cold storage and sweet potatoes from curing barns. They are gleaning turnips, collards, and other greens: edible cover crops that provide food for the table as they nourish the soil.

Every serving of the good food gleaned by hundreds of volunteers each week goes to food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and senior and child nutrition programs, where it is shared with people in greatest need at no charge.

This amazing ministry, made possible by gifts from caring people like you, forms a chain of hope reaching brothers and sisters of every age and race who are struggling to get by.

Thank you for caring about our hungry neighbors, and thank you for choosing the Society of St. Andrew as your partner in reducing food waste and ending hunger. Thank you for giving generously this winter to support the work. Because of you, hope is on the table! 🍎



Gathering Turnips and Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving gleaning has become a tradition in Virginia. For the past eight years, Virginia Program Director Sarah Ramey has arranged the event for volunteers who enjoy spending part of their holiday doing something significant for others in need. On two of those years, early cold weather froze the ground, but all the

other Thanksgiving Days, volunteers braved the chilly November weather and gathered up tons of beautiful turnips.

The Thanksgiving Day gleanings always take place on the farm of Darin and Tabatha Greear in Riner, Virginia. Each year, Sarah is accompanied by her husband, Skeeter, and by Stella

Carson, who works in SoSA's national office in Big Island, Virginia. In hosting the annual Thanksgiving gleanings, they have engaged 151 volunteers and gleaned 33,725 pounds of turnips. All the turnips were delivered to local food banks and feeding agencies, including Feeding America Southwest, Roanoke

Valley Baptist Association, and Unity Chapel Church.

We are grateful to Darin and Tabatha for their generosity in donating, not only all of the turnips on Thanksgiving Day, but also the produce they donate throughout each gleaning season. Since beginning to work with SoSA in

2009, they have donated more than 650 thousand pounds of fresh apples, greens, watermelons, squash, beets, pumpkins, turnips, and corn. More than 670 volunteers have shared their time and labor to glean this produce, supplying feeding agencies in 20 counties of



THANK YOU

to the following

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

that donated \$1,000+ in the fourth quarter:

Altria Companies Employee.....	Richmond, VA
The Cal Turner Family Foundation.....	Nashville, TN
Carlson Family Foundation	Chapel Hill, NC
Dugas Family Foundation II Inc	Nashville, TN
Duke Corporate Accounts.....	Durham, NC
The Duke Endowment.....	Charlotte, NC
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	St. Louis, MO
Finn Family Foundation.....	Fulshear, TX
The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation..	Bethesda, MD
Kohl Foundation	Grapevine, TX
L.B. Lane Family Foundation	Rapid City, SD
M.F. Moorman Family Foundation.....	Thaxton, VA
The Minnie and Bernard Lane Foundation	Altavista, VA
Nacarato Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.....	Nashville, TN
Publix Charities.....	Lakeland, FL
Speer Financial, Inc.....	Chicago, IL
The Byrd Charitable Fund	Indianapolis, IN
Thrivent Financial	Destin, FL
Titmus Foundation	Sutherland, VA
VSHS Young Growers Alliance	Winchester, VA
Williams Family Foundation	Thomasville, GA

Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Weather permitting, the Thanksgiving gleaning will happen again in 2017, providing much-needed nourishment to thousands of families in Virginia and surrounding states, continuing a tradition not only of giving thanks, but also of giving back. ➡



Left: Sarah Ramey, our Virginia Program Coordinator is often accompanied by her husband, Skeeter, as she was here on this past Thanksgiving gleaning in Riner. Top: Charles Wotring and his children, Kellene and Connor, have gleaned on Thanksgiving for several years. Dad and the kids glean while Mom is home prepping Thanksgiving dinner. Bottom: Farm owner Darin Greear gleans turnips on Thanksgiving Day.

The Blessing After the Storm - continued from cover

Several trucks and trailers came from agencies more than three hours away to pick up potatoes to take back to their communities. One faithful volunteer drove a great distance twice to load and re-load a trailer. One



Top left: Members of the Key Club at Ravenscroft High School glean potatoes. Top right: Bins of harvested sweet potatoes at First Fruits Farm on their way to cure at a Nash Produce warehouse. Bottom: Volunteer Gary Horne drives a 4-wheeler around a Yam Jam field to haul the bags of potatoes to distribution vehicles.

agency stopped the loading of their truck and trailer only when the driver got concerned about the weight on his tires.

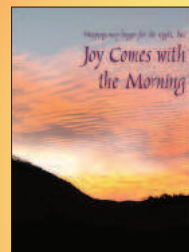
When the event was over, and the state was still heavily involved in storm clean-up, the Yam Jam totals were in. In all, 1,218 volunteers went into the fields during the Yam Jam event throughout October and November. The potatoes collected – 335,723 pounds of them – was almost four times as much as the previous year. And 75 feeding agencies in North and South Carolina received wonderful and fresh potatoes to distribute to their clients.

Hurricane Matthew was truly “an ill wind that brought no one any good.” But the calm after the storm bought a torrent of nutritious food to hundreds of thousands of people throughout that damaged land. Yam Jam 2016, with its army of volunteers and with generous farmers, provided a great blessing to so many grateful, hungry people. 🍌

Good Friday Fast

Joy Comes with the Morning

Good Friday is April 14



Join Society of St. Andrew staff and volunteers in fasting on Good Friday. This special time of prayer and fasting 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. This year's Good Friday Fast considers the psalmist's declaration of thanksgiving for deliverance, Joy Comes with the Morning. *Psalm 30:5*

Request booklet at EndHunger.org/lent

Abundance Orchard



where faith grows
and hungry people
are fed

Year 1: Old Testament

Year 2: New Testament

Learn more and order your VBS program at endhunger.org/vbs

Churches can start planning now for this summer's Vacation Bible School.

Both programs are available for use. Each is a complete hunger-action themed VBS, a 2-3 hour program for up to 5 days.

Each program includes:

- VBS Planning Helps
- Backdrops
- Scenery & Mascot Ideas
- Bible Study & Preparation Materials for Teachers
- Daily Bible Story & Memory Verse
- Storytelling
- Missions
- Arts & Crafts
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- Recreation
- Snacks

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Quarterly REPORT

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