Rev. Willie Petty: An example of volunteering

Rev. Willie Petty, a full-time pastor in Caledonia, Mississippi, has now joined our staff, part-time, as SoSA’s gleaning contact for North Mississippi. When there is food available at farms and warehouses in the region, he’s the man who coordinates farmers, volunteers, and feeding agencies so food can be collected and distributed to those who need it most.

Although Willie is a full-time pastor in a large region of the state, CeeCee Petty helps coordinate events and promotes their efforts on social media. And members of their church community collect spare change to help fund the mission. There is a role for everyone to get involved. No effort is too small to help change someone’s life.

Willie Petty’s involvement continues to grow. And yet there are ways to volunteer that don’t involve picking produce in the hot sun. There are senior citizens in Rev. Petty’s community who sometimes receive food from his church’s feeding program and also help sort and give away food.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW IS A NATIONAL 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.
Society of St. Andrew is authorized to solicit financial support in all 50 states. Full charitable solicitation compliance details can be seen at EndHunger.org/compliance

For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597  • sosainfo@EndHunger.org  • EndHunger.org
Sign up for monthly updates, or connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest
EndHunger.org/signup

Volunteer in Gleaning America’s Fields – Feeding America’s Hungry

Volunteers under one of the covered pavilions along the peanut rows pick up the 50 pound bags of white potatoes and re-package them to be distributed to hungry families all over the region.

who don’t know Christ. It has fostered cooperation and communication among the churches, as well as ecumenical involvement with other denominations, and community organizations.”

**Rev. Willie Petty:**

An example of volunteering

Continued from cover

Rev. Willie Petty went from a volunteer gleaner, to a field supervisor, to coordinating efforts over a large region of the state. CeeCee Petty helps coordinate events and promotes their efforts on social media. And members of their church community collect spare change to help fund the mission. There is a role for everyone to get involved. No effort is too small to help change someone’s life.

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**Rev. Willie Petty:**

An example in volunteering

By Andy Lemmon*

Rev. Willie Petty (right) and his wife, CeeCee, began volunteering with the Society of St. Andrew by gleaning fields and picking up excess produce at warehouses. This is where most volunteers start, and where many people find it easiest to be involved. Eventually, the Pettys became field supervisors, leading others by demonstrating proper field safety and field etiquette. They would turn a group of new volunteers into a well-trained team that could make quick work of gleaning that field.

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**Thanks** to the following FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated $1,000+ in the second quarter:

Beazley Foundation................................................................. Portsmouth, VA
Central Alabama Community Foundation............................. Montgomery, AL
Cheshire Pork ........................................................................ Goldsboro, NC
Duke Food Recovery Network ................................................ Durham, NC
Fidelity Charitable Gifts .......................................................... Cincinnati, OH
Foundation for the Carolinias ................................................ Charlotte, NC
Georgia College ....................................................................... Milledgeville, GA
Griffin Endowment................................................................. Greensboro, NC
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Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia ............. Richmond, VA
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation ........................... Bethesda, MD
John K. Bastien Foundation ..................................................... Boca Raton, FL
Network For Good ............................................................... Bethesda, MD
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Selby & Richard McIaffie Foundation ..................................... Jackson, MS
Shepherdstown Rotary Club ................................................... Shepherdstown, WV
Walmart Foundation ............................................................. Bentonville, AR

*Andy Lemmon is SoSA’s Program Coordinator for Mississippi and Arkansas

Harvest of Hope

Limited Fall Spots Still Open!

15% of Americans are food insecure.
SoSA saves and distributes 25-30 million pounds of fresh food each year. Register online at SoSAinfo@EndHunger.org/field or contact us at 800-333-4597.
December through July Statistics
Fresh food saved and donated to feed the hungry
Gleaned Produce........................................9,771,836 lbs
Potato & Produce Project..........................5,302,927 lbs
Events ..................................................2,790
Volunteers ..............................................15,295
Farmers ..................................................620
Partner Agencies .................................1,120

Total Historical Pounds 814.7 Million
Total Historical Servings 2.4 Billion

Recent Donations
In Memory Of
Mrs. Ruth Ashcraft
Webb Babcock, Jr.
Betty Brian
Rev. Judith Brown
Steven Emery Carpenter
Bud Curtis
Flora Belle Howard Graham
Evine King

In Honor Of
Betton FUMC Children’s Ministry
Calvary Episcopal Church
Sharon Cox
Deidre Duffy
Patty Fowler
Joe Foxwell
Mike Harlow
John and Mary Lou Harrison
Katherine T. Higgins
Holmes Presbyterian Church
Liz King
William Morling
Brenda Patterson
Cindy Tombrs
Rev Bill Wade
Bob Williams
Wayne Tyjinger

Executive Director’s Report
By Lynnette Johnson
Hard Work and Smiles
So far this year, more than 16,000 people have volunteered with the Society of St. Andrew. They are men and women, children of all ages, young people, and seniors; some of them have volunteered just once, and others answer the call week after week, glean after gleaning. These volunteers come from all walks of life—its not unusual for a bank executive to glean alongside someone living in a shelter.

Gleaning is not easy work. Gleaners are in dusty or muddy fields, under the hot sun. They bend, stoop, pick or dig, lift, turn, and do it again—plant after plant, row after row, hour after hour. It is hard, dirty work. There are sometimes critters and snakes; and there are always bugs: flies, gnats, and mosquitos.

What is extraordinarily rare among gleaners is a frown or a complaint. When you go into a field with gleaners, the first thing you notice is that everyone is smiling. They are having a good time! The grim and laborious, and even the bugs, make the experience more meaningful and more memorable. Gleaners know that every piece of fruit, every vegetable, they bag, will be eaten by someone in great need. Every tomato, every handful of beans, is a tangible reminder that someone’s plate will have healthy food on it tonight, simply because that gleaner chose to spend the morning in a field.

Volunteers, we thank you—your work makes all the difference!

At the potato drop in Lemoyne, Bishop Jeremiah Park (right) joined with (l-r) Merit and Pastor John Shellenberger, and Donna and Gary Wilkins. GaryWilkins is holding the plaque of appreciation he received from the Society of St. Andrew for more than 25 years of good work and support.

In Lemoyne, Gary Wilkins has headed up the relationship with the Society of St. Andrew for more than 25 years. In appreciation, Wade Mays, SoSA’s liaison with UMMen, attended the Lemoyne potato drop last November and presented a special plaque to Wilkins. Bishop Jeremiah Park also came to lend a hand. Early that morning, a truck loaded with 42,000 pounds of white potatoes arrived in the parking lot of the local fire station. Wilkins and the UMMen of the church had arranged to unload the pallets of potatoes in the fire house parking lot, and use the bays of the station for bagging all the potatoes for quick distribution to area food pantries and families in need.

The UMMen of Newton-Hamilton UMC also made use of a SoSA potato drop to feed hungry people in their area. Pastor Brian Myfelt knew the small church would need some assistance, and the connectional system kicked into gear. They worked with the other churches in the Mount Union area to prepare for a truckload of 42,000 pounds of potatoes. They coordinated with the Mount Union Fire Department to use their facilities at a former air field, with covered pavilions to work under as they bagged the potatoes. They linked up with two people with fork lifts, and they got publicity both on radio and in the newspaper. They had volunteers from other UM churches, and from other denominations. The National Honor Society and the Future Farmers of America from Mount Union Area High School also joined in.

Newton-Hamilton UMC brought in even more partners: half the truckload was dropped off at the fairground in Reedsville where the churches of the Lewistown area brought in volunteers to unload the pallets, and distributed more than 20,000 pounds of potatoes to the agencies in the Lewistown area.

The Society of St. Andrew was created in 1979 with the support of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Since that time, it has coordinated the rescue of more than 400 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, all provided, at no cost, to agencies that feed the hungry. With a main office in Virginia, regional offices in six other states, and gleaning units in many states, including Pennsylvania, it rescues and delivers food by gleaning fields, accepting donated truckloads of food from farms and packing houses, and providing mission retreats. Learn more at EndHunger.org.