SoSA Crop Drop Becomes a Community Day

By Andy Lemmon*

In Mississippi, the Society of St. Andrew and Jackson State University have formed a strong partnership over the past couple of years. What began as an annual crop drop became a semi-annual event, then quickly blossomed into a full-blown community day.

While planning our most recent drop, we decided that more community partners were needed at the event. We invited other helping agencies from around town to participate. When asked to let us know what they would bring to the table, their responses were amazing.

One partner demonstrated how to make a container garden, and also gave away 50 kits to help people start their own gardens. Another partner provided on-site cooking demonstrations and taste-tests of the very produce that we gave away. Community residents learned new recipes using the food they received, and tasted how delicious it can be when cooked in various ways. Some partners brought additional produce.

Continued — see SoSA Crop Drop on back cover
January – September Statistics

Fresh food saved and donated to feed the hungry

- **Gleaned Produce**: 13,689,093 lbs
- **Potato & Produce Project**: 8,317,114 lbs
- **Servings of Food Shared**: 66 million
- **Events**: 4,153
- **Volunteers**: 20,635
- **Farmers**: 728
- **Partner Agencies**: 1,427

**Total Historical Pounds**: 821.7 Million
**Total Historical Servings**: 2.5 Billion

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**In Memory Of**
Jean Bower  
Bud Curtis  
Joy Dukes  
Donna Marie Foos  
Charles Holland  
Evine King  
Jean Makoujy  
Martha Ann Miller  
Margaret Louise Smith  
Riggins  
Donna Schade  
Jack M. Smith  
Margree Steiner  
Nick Swinson

**In Honor Of**
Ed Baugher  
Helen P. Crosby  
Phoebe & Rae Harcum  
Jim Hasbrouck  
Rev. Dr. Janine Howard  
Jay Kelly  
Bill & Sandy Leach  
Rachael Lee  
Janice & Kenneth Marston  
Chris & Ashley Maxwell  
James & Ginny Maxwell  
Shelley Lemon Payne  
Chris & Sharon Perry  
Marlene Reynolds

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**Executive Director’s Report**
By Lynette Johnson

**The Ripple Effect**

With your help, the Society of St. Andrew has been at this work since 1983, always focused on getting fresh, healthy surplus food from farms to the forks of people in need as quickly as possible.

In that time, 700,000 volunteers have engaged in difficult, hot, dirty, hands-on work, picking, digging, and gathering that food to share through feeding agencies in their communities. Their hard work has put more than 2.2 billion servings of fruits and vegetables on the tables of our hungry neighbors, making “struggling to get by” just a little less difficult.

And many of our 700,000 volunteers, through their labor, have encountered for the first time, the faces of hunger in their hometowns. A morning of gleaning has led them to give regularly to the Society of St. Andrew, to waste less food, to support local farmers, to serve on the board of their local food pantry, to volunteer weekly at a soup kitchen, to lead food drives, grow a home garden, advocate for fair wages and better opportunities, or even run for local office.

One morning’s work, multiplied by 700,000 volunteers over 34 years, has a pretty massive ripple effect!

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**Save the date**
November 28

Society of St. Andrew
#GivingTuesday
EndHunger.org
When Kelley Patient lived in Florida, she was a frequent gleaner with the Society of St. Andrew. On Friday, September 8, now a resident of Tennessee, she was watching weather and news reports as Hurricane Irma bore down on her home state. Her mind was on the welfare of the people she cared about so much back in Florida. The day was sunny and warm in Spring Hill, Tennessee and Kelley knew she had a choice. Deciding quickly, she headed to the field where SoSA volunteers prepared to glean bell peppers. In the field that day, Kelley said, “I knew I could stay at home and watch the weather and worry, not being able to do anything, or I could come out with you and do some good.” One of SoSA’s goals is to provide opportunity for those who desire action. Kelley Patient decided that action was better than idle worry. She and the other gleaners that day picked 420 pounds of bell peppers that went to a food pantry and a soup kitchen in some of the poorest parts of Nashville.

Later, Kelley learned that her friends and relatives survived the hurricane and were okay. Hooray for volunteers like Kelley, who, despite the concerns of their own daily lives, make the choice to take time to help others.

Kelley Patient Chose to Do Good
By Jeannie Hunter, Tennessee Regional Director

Kelley Patient, picking service berries on a gleaning day in Nashville.

Kelley Patient decided that action was better than idle worry.

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

- Alfa Insurance – Montgomery, AL
- Altria Companies Employee Community Fund – Richmond, VA
- Fidelity Charitable Gifts – Cincinnati, OH
- Independent Presbyterian Foundation – Birmingham, AL
- The Memorial Foundation – Hendersonville, TN
- Orlando Sentinel Family Fund – Orlando, FL
- Robert Lee Weiss Foundation – Knoxville, TN
- St. Marys UMC Foundation – St. Marys, GA
- T&T Family Foundation – Nashville, TN
- Walmart Foundation – Bentonville, AR
- Wells Fargo Wealth Management – Winston Salem, NC

Plan for Advent with SoSA

Orders for the all-new 2017 Advent devotional booklet are pouring in!

Place your order today at EndHunger.org/advent or call 800-333-4597
One crop drop event, feeding hungry people in our community, turned into an amazing collaboration of helping agencies. If your organization has a crop drop planned, involve the helping agencies in your town and turn your own event into an amazing community day.

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

The day was incredible. News reporters and radio hosts showed up to report on all the activity. Teachers from the daycare center down the street heard what was happening and brought their students to show them how many people are in need in the community, and how others offer assistance and support.

A doctor showed up at the end of the event and asked if their free Mobile Clinic could set up at our next event to provide free screenings to participants. Additional agencies called after the event, asking to be included in the next one.

SoSA Crop Drop - continued from cover

to give away simply because they were inspired by the

event. We even had sponsors that helped cover costs and provided logistics to ensure that this evolving event went smoothly. Other agencies exhibited the community resources they have for individuals and families in need.

Painting by artist Jerry Malzahn is full color. Folded card is 5”x7”.

As the lamp shines on our savior and Mother Mary, a light also shines on those who have dedicated their time and effort to provide food for those who are in need. The Society of St. Andrew has shown me that the “End Hunger” volunteers have the same dedication to help those who are hungry and in search of Christ. I’m honored to be a part of this extremely charitable mission.

–Artist Jerry Malzahn

Send your honorees this Alternative Christmas Card designed exclusively for the Society of St. Andrew. The card features original art and an inspirational verse blessing your loved ones with God’s nourishing love. This one-of-a-kind card announces your generous gift to feed the hungry in the name of your honorees. You’ll also receive the card with our thanks and confirmation of your order. It’s an ideal gift for sharing, not just with friends, but with those in need as well.

Each $15 gift puts about 500 servings of food on the tables of the hungry!

800-333-4597 • Fax 434-299-5949
Card@EndHunger.org • EndHunger.org/card

Alternative Christmas Card
Minimum donation gift for each card is $15
Do not send cash through mail. Donations tax deductible as allowed by law.

Make check payable to “Society of St. Andrew” or
Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx
Account # __________________________________ Exp.Date __________
Signature __________________________________________

PLEASE PRINT Total enclosed or charged: $ __________
Your Name _______________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _______State_____ Zip __________
Day Phone _______________________________________
Email ___________________________________________

☐ Send ________ cards TO ME for personalizing and mailing.
☐ SoSA to send out cards on my behalf. Note: Use a separate sheet to list additional names, addresses and what name you would like signed at the bottom of the card (who the card is from).
In honor of _______________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _______State_____ Zip __________
Sign this card: ________________________________

Orders must be received by Dec. 5 to ensure delivery before Christmas. We will make every attempt to expedite late orders. 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. 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
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EndHunger.org/signup