

Zoroastrians Distribute SoSA Potatoes in Chicago

SoSA crop drops are held in parking lots of schools, convention centers, municipalities, and a variety of faith groups. Volunteers come from colleges, civic organizations, scouts, and congregations. Last September, a truckload of potatoes arrived in the parking lot of the Zoroastrian Center of Chicago in nearby Burr Ridge, Illinois.

This faith group took on its first crop drop experience in a very big way-and they're eager to do it again. The truck that arrived in their lot carried 840 fifty-pound bags of potatoes-42,000 pounds in all.

greeted by a hearty buffet breakfast already prepared by other members to get them ready for the morning's hard work.

Typical of a SoSA drop, the potatoes were all on their way to feeding agencies all over the region by noon. Volunteer Rohinton Rivetna said, "Everything went well ... the very young and the very old all helping out, some doing heavy lifting, some organizing, some feeding and quenching thirst - as it was hot, and some just cheering on. Everyone felt very good, and the recipients were ever so grateful for us doing this."



Rivetna also said that it was nice to meet all the good folks from the food panties who picked up the potatoes in their vans and trucks. The recipients included Illinois Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes. West Suburban Continued – see Zoroastrians Distribute on back

About 40 members of the congregation arrived early and were

People

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2017 Year End Statistics Fresh food saved and donated to feed neighbors in need

Gleaned Produce	18,056,962 lbs
Potato & Produce Project	10,432,126 lbs
Servings of Food Shared	
Events	6,188
Volunteers	
Farmers	
Partner Agencies	
-	

Total Historical Pounds Total Historical Servings 828.1 Million 2.5 Billion

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

Just In Time

85.5 million servings of fresh, nourishing food reaching the plates of more than 12 million hungry



people in this country usually within 24-48 hours of harvest.

How does that happen?

A typical food bank receives truckloads of food, usually in boxes and bins, shrinkwrapped and stacked. Forklifts move that food into climate-controlled warehouses, where it is entered into inventory and waits to be hauled back out to food pantries or soup kitchens. It's an effective system for getting large quantities of shelfstable food to agencies to share with clients. But it's time-consuming, with food often taking several weeks to reach the end user. Warehousing is costly, and transportation expense is high. Trucks are required twice: to bring the food into the warehouse and to take it back out, days or weeks later.



More than 35 years ago, the Society of St. Andrew

Recent Donations

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In Honor Of

Brian, Mercedes, Angie, Shane, & Katie Dr. Dan Abbott Alan Bancroft Amy Bersch Gen Bohannon Mary Lynn Botts Cecil & Janet Bozarth pioneered a "just in time" system for food distribution. By engaging volunteers in gleaning fields to harvest fresh, ripe fruits and vegetables, and sending that good food with volunteers-directly to soup kitchens. shelters, and food pantries in their communities, the food arrives just in time to be prepared for tonight's dinner, or tomorrow morning's food distribution.

Donors are surprised when they visit SoSA's national headquarters outside Big Island, Virginia. It's a corrugated steel shed, in the middle of a field, on a gravel road. There's no warehouse, no

loading dock, and no steady flow of foodladen trucks day in and day out. 14 fulltime and 2 part-time staffers in Big Island coordinate with 12 full-time and 25 parttime staffers in other parts of the country. Networking with farmers and feeding agencies; mobilizing volunteers from faith communities and corporations, scout troops and senior centers, with the help of generous donors like you, SoSA gets tens of millions of pounds of healthy food from farms to forks every year-each serving arrives just in time for a hungry person who needs it. 🗢

SoSA EXPANDS Gleaning in Indiana

In 2018, Society of St. Andrew goes into high gear in Indiana! SoSA has gleaned in the state in the past, but now will have a significantly larger impact on the fresh produce available to clients through food banks and food pantries across the Hoosier State. In the first year, SoSA expects to glean about one million



pounds of produce from Indiana farm fields. All that food will be distributed by area food banks and food pantries to feed the state's most vulnerable residents.

In January, we opened the new Indiana office, directed by The Rev. Dawn Barnes, and housed at Abundant Harvest United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The organization is currently looking for a program coordinator who will work with the farmers,

volunteers, and agencies to coordinate hundreds of events across the state during the year. In addition, the office will employ several seasonal gleaning coordinators in various parts of the state. These coordinators will go into the fields with the volunteers to pick the surplus crops.

More than 900,000 Indiana residents sometimes don't know where their next meal will come from, and one-third of those residents are children. Through this gleaning and surplus food collection, Indiana farmers and volunteers will provide fresh and nutritious food to supplement their diets. \bullet

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Zoroastrians Distribute - continued from cover

Community Pantry, Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, Peoples Resource, Elmhurst Yorkfield Food

THANK YOU to the following **FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS** that donated

\$1,000+ in the fourth quarter:

Alfa Foundation – Montgomery, AL Carlson Family Foundation – Chapel Hill, NC Charles A. Frueauff Foundation - Little Rock, AR Cheshire Pork - Goldsboro, NC Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee -Nashville, TN Croasdaile Village Residents Association - Durham, NC Daniel Foundation of Alabama - Birmingham, AL Davenport & Company – Richmond, VA Duke Corporate Accounts - Durham, NC Fidelity Charitable Gifts – Cincinnati, OH Finn Family Foundation - Fulshear, TX Frank E. Duckwall Foundation – Tampa, FL Hyundai Motor Manufacturing - Montgomery, AL The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation -Bethesda, MD Keystone Financial Alliance - Atlanta, GA Kohl Foundation - Grapevine, TX L.B. Lane Family Foundation - Rapid City, SD Lawrence Livermore Labs - Princeton, NJ M.F. Moorman Family Foundation - Thaxton, VA MAV Foundation – Stamford, CT The Minnie and Bernard Lane Foundation - Altavista, VA Network For Good - Bethesda, MD Poarch Band of Creek Indians - Atmore, AL Publix Super Markets Charities - Lakeland, FL Southeast Produce Council - Millen, GA Speer Financial - Chicago, IL Stewardship Foundation - Tacoma, WA The Byrd Charitable Fund - Indianapolis, IN Thrivent Financial – Destin, FL W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation - Louisville, KY Walmart Foundation - Bentonville, AR

Pantry, Interfaith Food Panty, and Food Pantry of Darien.

These new SoSA volunteers discovered that a single congregation can make great strides in feeding hungry people in one morning - while having a great time doing lots of hard work. Zoroastrians believe in "good thoughts, good words, and good deeds" -- and a SoSA potato



Both programs are a <u>complete hunger-action</u> <u>themed VBS</u>, a 2-3 hour program for up to 5 days.

Good Friday Fast Three Days to Change the World Good Friday is March 30

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 theme highlights the epic impact that three days made in history! Our lives and future are based on these three days! Join us as we walk together through Three Days to Change the World.. **Request booklet at EndHunger.org/Lent**

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



drop is a great way for anyone to participate in all three. \bullet

What is Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest religions, possibly dating back to 2000 BCE. In Zoroastrianism, one's purpose in life is to "be among those who renew the world ... to make the world progress towards perfection." There are about 140,000 Zoroastrians in the world, about 11,000 in the U.S.