



Society of St. Andrew

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

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Your Community Needs a Hero

Volunteers often ask this same question and may be surprised to hear the answer. "Can we take some food we glean to a pantry that we love and support?" Or they may say, "Would it be okay if we gleaned a little extra so we could send some to a pantry in our community?" The answer is always the same – yes! The Society of St. Andrew wants to help you make a difference in your own community, especially areas where we have not distributed food before. When Jennie Jay first started gleaning, she might have had the same question. Jennie and her sons Liam and Lee, ages 13 and 11, began gleaning with the Society of St. Andrew in Georgia with a simple enthusiasm to rescue strawberries, broccoli, tomatoes, green beans, and other fresh produce.

It wasn't long before Jennie started to share the food they gleaned with a feeding agency near to her heart. Seeing a need for relief meals for adoptive and foster families in her area, she began picking up food from a food bank in a nearby town for those families. With help from other community families and a neighborhood church, she prepared meals. Local hunters even contributed by offering venison and pork for the Sunday evening dinners that Jennie hosted for the community to attend. It wasn't long before her volunteer

efforts grew into a formal hunger-relief organization, known as The Community Kitchen in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Jennie and her boys gleaned tomatoes and strawberries with SoSA last year. From the portion sent to The Community Kitchen, they delivered strawberries and tomatoes to local families and shared with other agencies



like the Christian Kitchen Service Center in Fitzgerald, a larger mission where clients have access to clothing and home cooked meals five days a week.

Jennie was still left with more tomatoes than could be distributed in a timely manner. And she wanted to ensure no food would be wasted. So she provided a demonstration on how

to safely process and preserve the tomatoes. After the demonstration, she ended up with more than 100 quarts of safely canned and jarred

Continued — see Your Community Needs a Hero on the back cover



Jennie Jay (left), her son, and a friend stop and pose for a quick photo while gleaning fresh strawberries to help feed hungry neighbors in need who live in their community.



January - March 2019 Totals

Fresh food saved and donated to feed hungry people

Produce Gleaned.....	4,863,719 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	14,591,157
Events	696
Volunteers.....	4,255
Farms/Providers.....	181
Distributing Agencies	620

Total Historical Pounds	856.1 Million
Total Historical Servings	2.5 Billion

Recent Donations

In Memory Of

Beth Massey Fore
Betsy Caldwell
Billy Don Moore
Bud the Spud Curtis
Corby Johnson, Jr.
Dorothy Hiscocks
Jackie Wooten Usey
Jody Ann Jerry Bullin
Jon Blish
Jon Hiscocks
Leonard F. Evans, Sr.
Mr. Frank Robertson
Mr. Max Lockridge
Paul Russo
Seth Baldwin
Thomas W. Pruitt, Sr.
Timber
Timber and Skeeter
Vernelle Bellon
William (Bob) Job

In Honor Of

Andy Holt
Congregation of Fishersville
UMC
Connie & Ann Via
Conrad Grundlehner
Diane Zehr
Dr. Andrew Lewis
Jean Aziz
Josephine Makoujy
Joyce Street
Judy Erps
Judy White
Leslie Tramontin
Mary Elizabeth Rountrey
Mike & Susan Nardotti
Mr. Tom Flynn
Mrs. Carol Morling
Mrs. Virginia Lewis
My Delicious Mississippi Life
Nina Schlossman
The Episcopal Community
The Loving Gleaners
Tom Berlin

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

A Miracle in Motion, Thanks to You

Eight years ago this past fall, newly-hired by the Society of St. Andrew, I walked into a large, unused Sunday School classroom in a Nashville church, tasked with setting a miracle in motion. There were two power outlets, nice big windows, and not another thing



in the space. The church's pastor gave me permission to scrounge around for furniture in storerooms throughout the building. Soon there were two old desks, a two-drawer file cabinet, and an antique sacristy that became a printer stand. By afternoon, one wall sported a large map of the state, and within a couple of weeks, the second desk had an occupant. The Society of

St. Andrew's Tennessee Regional Office opened with very little fanfare, in borrowed space, with two full-time staffers, a vision, and a plan.

Over the last eight years, the staffers in that Tennessee office have changed, but the vision and the plan have remained consistent—the same vision and plan that direct all of the Society of St. Andrew's work, and have for nearly 40 years:

SoSA builds relationships with farmers throughout the state, and works with them to get good food that is safe and fresh, but just not suitable for market sale.

SoSA engages local volunteers in gleaning (picking, digging, or gathering) that good produce—in fields and orchards, at packing houses, distribution centers, farmers markets, community gardens, greenways, and even backyards.

SoSA shares the fruits and vegetables with feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries, food banks, emergency and disaster relief programs, and senior and child nutrition programs)—usually in the same county where the food was gleaned and nearly always within 24-48 hours of harvest.

Continued — see *A Miracle in Motion* on the back cover

Baseball Caps, Tiaras, and Bifocals All Have a Purpose

Emma Bishop is a teenager who lives in Alabama. She enjoys hanging out with her friends, going to dance class, posting on Instagram, and participating in pageants. She loves okra, but doesn't much like tomatoes. Unless they're in the form of ketchup.

Emma also loves volunteering. She grew up participating in pageants and spends lots of time in service to her community. After trying out all different kinds of projects and service opportunities, she discovered there was one particular volunteer project that was very meaningful – gleaning her local farmers' market with the Society of St. Andrew.

Once a month, Emma rounds up her friends and they meet down at the local farmers' market. They gather their supplies and get to work by visiting their farmer friends and distributing produce tote bags to the participating vendors. Once they've rounded up all of the donated food, they make sure each donation is accurately recorded and that the produce is transferred to food-safe containers for the recipient agency to pick up that day.

As with any other gleaning, at times, the weather isn't perfect and gleaners get tired but they throw on their caps and continue. Emma says it's nice and it's unexpected to be gifted sweet treats from farmers like blueberries or flowers while working. But what keeps her motivated is knowing that she's helping people in her community. Emma also enjoys recruiting her friends to get involved with the project.



Mary says it makes her proud to see her daughter take ownership of the farmers market project with SoSA and do something that makes a difference.

Mary, Emma's mom, says that she loves this service project because her daughter and the other girls just "take over." The girls get to the market and get to work. Mary says it makes her proud to see her daughter take ownership of the farmers market project with SoSA and do something that makes a difference.

It may only seem like two hours of volunteering once a month, but to Emma and her mom,

farmers market gleaning with SoSA is an opportunity to use their time wisely and serve their community.

Gleaners come in all ages and sizes – teenage pageant participants and seniors alike spend their time serving alongside with Society of St. Andrew. If you would like to volunteer to glean, sign up online at endhunger.org/register ■



A Miracle in Motion

continued from inside cover

It's a locally-based neighbor-helping-neighbor program that reaches hungry people in every corner of the state. It brings volunteers from all walks of life together to harvest and share fresh, farm-grown food right in their community; and it challenges volunteers as they meet their very own hungry neighbors.

That's a good challenge, because it is one that builds caring communities, where SoSA volunteers return to glean time and time again, unwilling to let good food go to waste while people they know, in a place they call home, remain hungry.

SoSA's work is nation-wide, but it is also grassroots and close to home, as good, fresh food is shared with brothers and sisters in need, in hundreds of communities every single day.

And all of this is possible only because of caring people like you, SoSA's supporters, donors, and volunteers. When I walked into that Nashville Sunday School room in 2010, I didn't set a miracle in motion. You did. Thank you! ■

Your Community Needs a Hero continued from cover

crushed tomatoes, tomato juice, green tomato pickles, and chow-chow to share, which would have otherwise gone to waste.

In keeping with their food safety imperative, The Community Kitchen recently added stainless steel sinks and tables, along with an industrial double oven to help streamline their operation. Like most partners, they strive to use their resources wisely. One simple way she learned to do that is by partnering with the Society of St. Andrew to receive gleaned produce, as we share the "waste not" mentality.



If you know an agency doing great work, help connect them with the Society of St. Andrew to share more fresh, free food with families in need in your community. We would love to help you get started. And when you would like to volunteer to glean, sign up online at: endhunger.org/register ■

Harvest of Hope

PLAN NOW

Summer
Fall

Mission Trips

Find details at
EndHunger.org/hoh



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

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

CP and MG Lunsford Charitable
Foundation.....Winston Salem, NC
Fidelity Brokerage Services Dallas, TX
Foundation For The Carolinas..... Charlotte, NC
The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust
Foundation Lynchburg, VA
Independent Presbyterian FoundationBirmingham, AL
Madison Drugs RxHuntsville, AL
Network For Good.....Bethesda, MD
Schwab Charitable.....San Francisco, CA
Tennessee Department of Environment and.....
ConservationNashville, TN
Vanguard Charitable..... Warwick, RI
Virginia UM Foundation.....Glen Allen, VA

VBS Program

Year 1: Old Testament
Year 2: New Testament

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



**Churches can still plan
for this summer's
Vacation Bible School.**

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

Programs can also be used together as a weekly
Sunday School study over 10 weeks.

**Adopt a
Bushel**

FEED A NATION



Take the challenge! Have your class, faith community, group, organization, or business adopt a bushel of fruits and vegetables to support the gleaning and feeding work of the Society of St. Andrew! **EndHunger.org/abfn**

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW IS A NATIONAL 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

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

