



Society of St. Andrew

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

VOLUME 36

NUMBER 4

2019

We Accomplish So Much When We Lend Our Strengths to Work Together

The Southeast Produce Council (SEPC) brings together produce industry professionals to collaborate and learn from each other. Every year, the SEPC hosts expos, so the members can network and learn new ideas and practices around all aspects of growing, distributing, and selling fruits and vegetables. At the expo trade shows, growers and distributors bring their “cream of the crop” fruits and vegetables to showcase their products and expertise.

The growers don't haul their produce back with them at the end of the show,

which means that there is a great deal of good food just left behind, destined for the dumpster at the convention center. The leaders at the SEPC

Fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered to areas of Florida devastated by hurricanes

couldn't bear to see this food wasted. They reached out to the nearest Society of St. Andrew office for assistance in handling this wonderful surplus. Of course you know how excited SoSA folks are to get a call saying good food is available—they come running!

In addition to “gleaning” after their expos, members of the SEPC send semi-trucks full of food to the Rockin' Appalachian Mom Project (RAMP) each year to serve families in rural communities in Kentucky. Several SEPC farmers donate the food and SEPC truckers help deliver it. As this project has grown, coordination has become more difficult. This kind of coordination, however, is exactly what SoSA does on a regular basis and SoSA eagerly stepped in to lend its support with the logistics of this event.

Through teamwork and over time, the SEPC and SoSA have grown from



At an SEPC Organics Foodshow in Nashville, seventy five volunteers rescued about 17,500 pounds of organic produce in an hour.

partners to something like a family. Members of both organizations have grown into a powerful community of friends dedicated to ensuring healthy food is shared rather than wasted. This community also shares in the ultimate goal of not only feeding hungry families, but empowering entire communities.

Because of this partnership, so much has happened; Hundreds of thousands of pounds of fresh food have been delivered into Appalachian communities. The “best and brightest” fruits and vegetables are shared with dozens of urban agencies surrounding the food expos. Fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered to areas of Florida devastated by hurricanes in 2018. Many thousands of dollars have been granted by the SEPC in support of gleaning activities, as well.

The offering of unique gifts and resources by each organization is only more enriching for all involved, as generosity and hospitality show

continued on back cover



Kelsey Miller, TN Program Coordinator leads the produce recovery efforts after the SEPC Organics Foodshow

January - September 2019 Totals Fresh food saved and donated to feed hungry people

Produce Gleaned.....	15,142,131 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	45,426,393
Events	4,313
Volunteers.....	15,640
Farms/Providers.....	742
Distributing Agencies	1,516

Total Historical Pounds	866 Million
Total Historical Servings	2.59 Billion

Recent Donations

In Memory Of

Joyce K Bennett	Joseph & Theresa Damon
Carl A. Breitingger	Firestone Park Christian Church
Bud the Spud Curtis	First UMC-Hueytown
Cecil E. Daniels, Jr.	Virginia Fowler
Edwin H. Daniels, Sr.	Victor & Heather Gomez
Nosakhare Ekunwe	Bob & Virginia Gunn
H. Timothy Ewing	Chip & Taylor Hanks
Nancy Floyd	Mollie Landers Hatt
Dr. & Mrs. William Carroll	Nancy & Larry Hedden
Freeman	Todd Higginson
Bill Fox	Lesley Huffaker
Dave Gilmore	Jean Siers, the Best Supervisor
Thelma Green	A Team Can Be Led By!
Bobby Hunter	Jesus Christ
Pat Inge	John and Betsy
Jack Jernigan	Lighthouse Point UMC
Harry Jones	Lynette Johnson
Evine King	Dr. Elton Aaron King
Joe King	Andy Lemmon
Bill Leaver	Wade Mays
Jean Makoujy	Patricia Meadows
Kelly McMillen	Roy & Louise Miller
Dorothy Norfleet	Mission & Outreach Committee
Lillian Reeves	Members and Wash Clothes
William Schminkey	Rev Bill Moore
Mary Serbousek	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Putnam Jr.
Ferne Shreffler	Todd Richards
Bonnie L Sutherland	School Composting Nashville
Warren Tudor	Rev. Dr. Brian Sixbey
	Jim Smith
	Ellen Smith

In Honor Of

Mary and Charlie Allen	Kam & Bethany Stabler
Dawn Barnes	Jasmine Tomasetti
Rhonda VanDyke Colby	Won & Diana Un
Concord UMC Community Garden	Ann Vest
Andrea Cruz-Solano	Ann Waller
Rev Harriet Bryan and Mr	Janet French Webb
Dewain Harris	Westover Hills United
Cross Roads Food Pantry, Inc.	Methodist Church

Executive Director's Report

By Bill Leach, Program Director

You and I Have Something In Common

I started with SoSA in 2013 after working 27 years in the Pharmaceutical Industry. I grew up in Virginia Beach, VA and graduated college with a BS in chemistry in 1985.

So, how does a city boy, who has never been on a farm, never been on a mission trip or know much about hunger issues, end up in rural Virginia?



Bill Leach,
Program Director

Maybe like you, I always knew I wanted to help others. I always had a desire to give back. I wanted to spend more time with my family and the youth at church. I told myself, "as soon as my schedule lightens up and when I am more rested I will be His hands and feet". I learned that when praying and asking for guidance,

blessings and quick changes can appear well in advance of your own plotted plans for change. Through answered prayers I found myself working as a SoSA Program Director responsible for 8 regions, supporting a talented team of individuals with motivated hearts who provide fresh produce to those with less, and I couldn't be more fulfilled.

My experience with SoSA has been awesome. By meeting and working with farmers, speaking at events, working with youth groups and volunteers, getting my hands dirty while gleaning, and working with incredibly dedicated people, I've learned we all share the same passion as we help our neighbors in need. And that the opportunity to be in community with each other, to put the needs of others before our own is there.

These shared beliefs are about loving our neighbors, being true to our resources by not wasting, and the joy of working together. These are fundamental to every one of us. They are not rocket science. They are simple and basic, and this is what SoSA does best.

Activities like gleaning, cutting bags, making phone calls, funding through multiple programs (Vacation Bible School, Advent and Lent devotionals), and donating dollars to keep food moving are a few examples of ways to get involved. The time it takes to get involved is far less that you would expect, and it is so easy. Check out our website and see what interests you, or call one of our local offices. We would be excited to hear from you.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you. Your interest and support for SoSA is wonderful, but greater is you willingness to help and support others. ■

It's Easier Than You'd Think

Bill stood up and made an announcement for two minutes each Sunday for three weeks. This effort led his church to raise enough money to share more than 50,000 servings of food with families in need. His lesson from

program, he was intrigued. He had a passion for the mission to end hunger and "Adopt a Bushel" was so simple he knew it would be an easy way to further serve his community.

He enlisted help from the "Service to

briefly explained how "Adopt A Bushel" works and invited anyone interested to see him after the service. To help spread the word, announcements were added to the church bulletins and newsletter for those three weeks.

This effort led his church to raise enough money to share more than 50,000 servings of food with families in need

this experience: "It's easier than you think."

Bill Chaffin attends a church just outside of Richmond, VA and loves to be involved in projects serving his community. He says that it's a special reward when he gets to see the faces of people he's served and know their lives are impacted for the better. He appreciates getting to spend time with the people in his community, even if it's doing manual labor.

When Bill discovered the "Adopt a Bushel"

Others" group at his church. He knew they would be interested in a project that could make such a large impact for families in need and they would know the best ways to put this plan into action.

Each Sunday morning for three weeks, Bill spoke during the announcements time. He briefly explained that hunger was an issue in their community and that he was seeking support for the Society of St. Andrew to help alleviate hunger. He

The truth is: "Adopt a Bushel" is truly that easy! Each plastic piece of produce has a dollar amount written on it, so folks can choose a piece of produce based on how much they would like to donate. Each piece of produce comes with its own info sheet explaining exactly how much their donation does in the mission to end hunger.

According to Bill, it doesn't get much simpler than "Adopt A Bushel." He also attributes their success to the mindset of his church: "They're the kind of people who see a need around them and are willing to help out." ■

**Adopt a
Bushel**
FEED A NATION



Alternative Christmas Cards by artist Jim Harris are available now and help feed hungry people. Order yours online or send in the below order form. EndHunger.org/acc

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 _____ CVV _____

PLEASE PRINT Total enclosed or charged: \$ _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Send _____ cards TO ME for personalizing and mailing. (ACC-NL)

☐ 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. 7 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



Bill Chaffin (left) attends St. Mark's United Methodist Church, near Richmond, VA.



#GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 3rd
EndHunger.org/givingtuesday

The fields are full, help bring in the harvest.
Share the gift of good food with families in need.

Make a donation on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3rd!

Gifts will be matched to a total of \$21,000.

This is your last chance to double your
impact in 2019.

*"All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;
...oh, thank the Lord, for all His love."*



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



**Are you an Active or
Retired Federal Employee?**

Make a difference in the mission
to end hunger with your annual
charitable pledges through the
Combined Federal Campaign.

CFC# 12046
EndHunger.org/cfc

continued from cover

themselves again to
be great multipliers.
Like so many of the
best partnerships, it

*...it started
with a simple
phone call*

started with a simple
phone call and has
since blossomed into
a fruitful friendship. ■



Working together with the SEPC often feels more like fun
than work.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

that donated \$1,000+ in the 3rd quarter:

Alabama A&M University Foundation, Inc. Normal, AL
Amaturo Foundation Fort Lauderdale, FL
Atmos Energy Corporation Dallas, TX
Croasdaile Village Residents Association Durham, NC
Davison Bruce Foundation Nashville, TN
Fidelity Charitable Gifts Cincinnati, OH
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, Inc.
Raleigh, NC
Forrest General Hospital Hattiesburg, MS
George J. & Effie L. Seay Foundation Dallas, TX
M.F. Moorman Family Foundation Thaxton, VA
Publix Super Markets Charities Lakeland, FL
Selby & Richard McRae Foundation Jackson, MS
Shows, Pearman & Waits, Inc. Hattiesburg, MS
State of Tennessee Nashville, TN
T&T Family Foundation Nashville, TN
TD Ameritrade Omaha, NE
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Nashville, TN
The Meera and Ashok Vasudevan Foundation
Stamford, CT
The New York Community Trust New York, NY
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC Saint Louis, MO
Wrenegade Sports Foundation Burlington, VT
Your Cause Plano, TX

**Plan for
Advent
with
SoSA**



Advent
materials
are shipping
now!

Order yours at
**EndHunger.org/
Advent**

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

