Society of St. Andrew Gleaning America's Fields Feeding America's Hungry

V O L U M E NUMBER



Rev. Diane, of Carmel, IN shown volunteering at a farmer's market, makes it a priority to donate to SoSA monthly. She explains, "My donation is an extension of my grocery budgetit extends our dining table to feed those I otherwise might not know to share a meal."

It's About More Than Pounds...

ver four million pounds that's how much food one of The Society of St. Andrew's regional networks distributed in 2020. It's an incredible amount of food, but that doesn't tell the whole story. The rest of the story is about more than pounds. It's about partnerships—last year proved how working together ensures more families are fed.

Every obstacle, crisis, and tragedy throughout 2020 created more opportunities for people to partner together. These connections and relationships demonstrated the power and effectiveness of a true Christian community in addressing critical human problems, particularly hunger.



These fresh potatoes were distributed to two different partner organizations, 120 miles apart, who helped further distribute this food to dozens of agencies across Indiana.

It is a noteworthy milestone: In 2020, SoSA's Indiana Gleaning Network shared more than 4 million pounds

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2020 Year End Totals Fresh food saved and donated to feed hungry people

Pounds of Food Distributed	.46,293,662 lbs
Servings Shared	138,880,986
Events	6,409
Volunteers	25,483
Farms/Providers	797
Distributing Agencies	2,107

Total Historical Pounds 916 Million
Total Historical Servings 2.7 Billion

Abundance Orchard for VBSI Year 1: Old Testament Year 2: New Testament Learn more and order your VBS program at: where faith grows and hungry people are fed

Start planning now for your church's summer Vacation Bible School.

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

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

Gratitude is one word that sums up the Society of St. Andrew's (SoSA's) reflections on 2020. Every time the odds seemed insurmountable, energy flagged, or things felt hopeless, you were there. Farmers, donors, volunteers, reaching out and helping. All of us at SoSA are profoundly grateful for your prayers, your financial support, your gifts of food, time, and talent. You make this ministry possible every single day, as you have for over 40 years.



When 2020 began, hunger and food insecurity had declined to their lowest levels in decades, with about 36 million Americans unsure they would have enough to eat. Way too many people, but the number had been consistently declining. It felt like progress. We had heard a pandemic was coming but had

no idea what that meant. As the year progressed, the number of evictions rose and unemployment climbed. By year's end, 54 million Americans struggled to put food on the table.

Naively, in March we tried to postpone some events and wait out the pandemic. By April, we knew that wasn't sustainable or right, so SoSA developed new COVID-responsive gleaning guidelines. These limited the number of volunteers, mandated masks and social distancing, and staggered times for gleaning groups, so non-family interaction was minimized. We kept our eyes on Georgia Tech's county by county COVID-risk map so every person could make an informed decision about participation in gleaning, in that place. Altogether, SoSA's amazing volunteers safely gleaned, bagged, and shared over 23 million pounds of nourishing food in 2020. You served, and in doing so, you brought joy to everyone involved. We've seldom seen happier gleaners than in 2020!

SoSA's other big opportunity of 2020 was working with the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, distributing food boxes purchased by the USDA. In just seven months, the Farmers to Families program shared 132 million food boxes across the United States. SoSA handled the final mile logistics for 23 million pounds—or about 1 in every 150 food boxes distributed nationwide. This program was an "all hands on deck" endeavor every day, week after week. Each distribution was planned and re-planned until every food box found a family to go home with. SoSA is grateful for the numerous partners, the USDA, the vendors, and every group and person

Pandemic, Priorities, and Perserverance

2020 was about more than a pandemic. It was about people with priorities. Whether you're a farmer who gave food, a volunteer who gave time, or a donor who gave dollars—you made it a priority to help the people around you.

And because you made it a priority to help others, millions of hungry people could persevere through a seemingly hopeless time. As needs continued to increase, families continued to receive good food from The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA). In fact SoSA distributed 140% more food in 2020 than in 2019. Your continued support makes that possible.

Collage Title: Snapshots from a Pandemic Year

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of good food with families across 36 counties in Indiana. Since opening as a SoSA regional office in 2018, the Indiana Gleaning Network had previously rescued approximately 200,000 pounds of fresh, nutritious food each year.

Drivers still line up for miles to receive food from distribution events— families wait, sometimes for hours, to receive food.

Hard work; community partnerships; an expanding volunteer base; good, old-fashioned scrambling; and generous donors of food and funds from people like you made it possible to share 20x the amount of fresh food, year over year in a single state.

Big numbers are meaningful because they calculate how many families were blessed in the way of much needed food, because of your generosity. Those 4 million pounds provided 12 million servings of nourishing food for hungry Hoosiers. Pounds and servings are still just part of the story. The rest is up to you!

As we celebrate communities coming together and sharing a twenty-fold

increase in the amount of food shared in Indiana, there are still families struggling to put food on their tables. Drivers still line up for miles to receive food from distribution events—families wait, sometimes for hours, to receive food.

Last year proved how effective SoSA's grassroots methods are at responding to an unprecedented crisis. In partnership with SoSA, you make a powerful difference in the lives of people who need good food most.

By working with SoSA this year, you can again be a lifeline to many as you put food on the tables of struggling families and ensure their children don't have to go to bed hungry. ■

Below: Indiana farmers generously shared from their abundance to help meet the rising need. These volunteers are taking a quick break in the shade during one of the three gleaning trips to this farm.



Recent Donations

These names represent gifts made "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of" special people and/or significant occasions. As loved ones are honored or remembered these gifts bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. Thank you.

In Memory Of

Mike Anderson

Ardarth and Dolores

George Atwell

Christi Barger **Brother Barnyard**

Virginia Bealer

Andrew Benjamin

Shelby Jean Bizzell

Snead Boley

Carl A. Breitinger

Helen Brown

Mr. Sylvester Brown

Sylvester Brevard Brown

Evelyn Byrd

Peggy Campbell

Jack and Dorothy Christie

Brigett Torpey Crews

Bud Curtis

Bud the Spud Curtis

Nelson "Bud the Spud" Curtis

Cyrene

Jacob Dalton

William F. Daniels, Jr.

Bill Davis

Pat Davis

Erin Deibel

Carroll & Helen Freeman

Mary Sue Garcia

Dave Grimm

Linda Hewitt

Jane Ingles

Nancy Keefer

Mike Kingsley

Wilma Kuhlmeyer

Audrey Levy

David Andrew "Drew" Lewis

Jean Makoujy

Annis McCabe

Ronald McDaniel

Douglas Millirons

Tehmul Mistry

Sue & Bill Moore

Michael J. Morris

Roberta Murray

Marjorie Newman

Kathleen O'Donnell

Dan Olson

Billie Ogden Page

Nita Parker

John Paul

Milan Peters

Rebeab Pethkure

Wayne and Martha Pugh

Peggy Ramey

Glenn Rapking

Julia Reed

Jo Richardson

Ralph and Betty Rump

Bill and Dorothy Schminkey

Ronald John Seres

Charles Shupe

Skylar Van Smith

Donald Struchen

Douglas Thomas

My kind and loving husband,

Warren D. Tudor

Raymond A. Vohden Sr.

Charlene Wade

Veronica West

Eldner Wiggins

Sharon Wiklinski

Ruben Billie Wilson

Theresa Damon

In Honor Of

Matt Alford

All the Volunteers With SoSA

Who Love Their Neighbors

Lester Anderson

Velma Aschenbach

Alan Bancroft

Rev. Dawn Barnes

Franco Bendict

Mike Benedict

Jessa Birchead

Robert Boesch

Mariana Boska

Tim Bradford

Kaitlyn Brown

Karen Brown

Wallace and Olivia Bruce

Bryan, Mercedes, Riley, Angie,

Shane & Katie Rev. Harriet Bryan

Wayne & Barbara Burgess

Carol Burley

Busbee Family

Diana & Preston Chapel

Clergy Of the Danville and

Farmville Districts and Their

Families

Congregation Of Marion UMC

Covington First UMC Staff,

Covington, Ga

Carol Croft

Cooper and Jim Davidson

Wesley Delaughter

Kim Dills

Disney Employees Who Give

Smiles For A Lifetime

Disney Workers who are laid off

Lawrence and Eileen Egan

Emily, Tyler, Trey, Kayla and

Riley Allyson, Christopher

and Wilson Ey

Fatimaeliza

Bruce Ferguson

Malcolm Ferguson

Mark Ferguson

Noah Fine

Shawn & Amy Floyd

Lewis Gardner

Amos Goldie

Matt Gonzalez

Lauren Graves

Mollie and Marshall Guthrie

William Haddock

Stephen Hassmer Sr.

Regina Hathaway

Betty and Cecil Heishman

Andrew S. Hiestand

Steve and Laurie Higgins

Fred Hill

Christine Hodgson

Carolann Hopkins

Pastor Edward Hopkins

Megan Hulgan

Shelton Ingram

Steven Dean Jacobson

Bill and Kathy Janky Jesus Christ My Lord and Savior

Logan Jones & Family

Dr. Olivia Walden Kendrick

Kimmel Family Patricia Kroger

John & Marilyn Lanoreux

Charles Lillis

Linda and John

Hayley Lohr

Annie McCoy

Martin McGirt

Jonathan Middleton

Kelsey Miller

Mom & Dad

Our 6 Grandchildren

Our Family and Friends

Robert Pardue

Parks Family

Brenda Patterson

Jose & Lindsey Perez John and Kay Peters

Rev. Joseph Phipps

Stella Pool

Rita Poranski **Prospect UM Charge**

Carol Puckett

Jim & Faye Pugh

Alfred Pulido

Jack & Peggy Putnam

Barbara Quinby

Janis Ranck

Rev. & Mrs. Norman Tippens

Ria, Terry, Rebecca, Jenny, Jay,

Chris, Brian **Todd Richards**

Tom Ricks Sarah Riester & Tim

Bodenreider

Robert & Eric

John Robinson

Wynter Mitchell Rohrbaugh

Pastor Joe Rowley

Adwoa Sam

Barbara Sayles

Schweiger Family

Thomas Short

Susan Sineath Matthew Smith

Society of St. Andrew

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Pandemic, Prioroties...continued from page 3

In fact, many people who received food themselves were eager to help others as well. Volunteers who unloaded trucks and distributed food often said they were recently laid off, furloughed, or had otherwise experienced a loss of income. We heard countless stories of people who received good food and then eagerly delivered another bag, box, or bundle of food right to their neighbor's doorstep.

You, as partners of SoSA, redefined a difficult year, not as the "year of the pandemic" but as the "year of people living out their priorities." You placed others above yourselves as you gave generously of your food, time, and dollars. Each time you gave again, your actions brought not only good food to families in great need, but hope.

Every time you served, your efforts demonstrated your passion. We know your time and energy are limited. You also have jobs, families, and personal lives. You have plenty of responsibilities to care for in your own lives. And yet you gladly looked beyond your own needs and served your neighbors.



These tomatoes are from North Carolina but no matter where the food comes from, it always ends up on the tables of local families in need.

You made it possible for children to sleep at night, with full stomachs. You gave from the resources that provide for your own families and employees.



You believed you had enough, so when presented with the opportunity, you partnered with SoSA and blessed entire communities.

Your gifts put good food on the tables of families who might otherwise have gone without. You reached deep and gave the very dollars you worked hard to earn. You recognized an abundance in your own lives and lived out your faith, sharing with neighbors in need.

You—SoSA's volunteers, farmers, and donors—made it a priority to lend a helping hand when called upon. You rescued good food and shared it with families in great need. Thank you



Join the mission to end hunger.

While volunteering is an exciting way to get involved, it's not a perfect fit for everyone. If you live far from the nearest gleaning event or have a physical limitation that might make gleaning in farm fields difficult, or don't have a desire to be outdoors lifting, bending, and stooping, then there are other ways you can serve.

Make a donation to SoSA. We do not charge fees for our services but rely 100% on donations. Gleaned food is shared with recipients at no cost to them.

Your donation covers all the logistics of rescuing food, including packaging materials and transportation of the food gleaned to where it is most needed. Those materials and transportation get food safely and quickly from the fields to the tables of hungry families.

Giving is simple, and a small gift makes a huge impact. A \$25 monthly donation through the 12 Baskets Monthly Giving Program is a great way to start. Your monthly gift shares more than 800 servings of food, every single month, with families in need.

For more information about 12 Baskets Monthly Giving Program, go to **EndHunger.org/12**

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

that donated \$1,000+ in the 4th quarter of 2020

Atmos Energy Corporation	
Bell Family Foundation for Hope	
Braveheart Foundation	
Carlson Family Foundation	
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation	Little Rock, AR
The Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond .	Richmond, VA
Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville	Huntsville, AL
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee	Nashville, TN
Community Foundation of South Georgia	Thomasville, GA
County of Bedford	Bedford, VA
Croft and Associates LLC	Nashville, TN
Davenport & Company LLC	Richmond, VA
The Duke Endowment	Charlotte, NC
Dunkin' Joy Foundation	Canton, MA
Fidelity Charitable Gifts	Cincinnati, OH
Finn Family Foundation	Fulshear, TX
Florida Blue Foundation	Jacksonville, FL
Florida Department of Agriculture	
Hill Crest Foundation Inc	
Honda Manufacturing of AL	_
John S. & James L. Knight Foundation	
Johnson County Community Foundation, Inc	
Johnson Family Foundation	
Kohl Foundation	
Kroger	
Kroger	
L.B.Lane Family Foundation	
Mass Mutual Trust	
The Memorial Foundation	
No Kid Hungry/Share our Strength	
Pershing Advisor Solutions LLC	_
Premier ProduceOne	
Publix Super Markets Charities	
Republic Services	
Rotary Club of Forest	
Royal Food Service, Inc	
Schwab Charitable	
Sectra, Inc	
Selby & Richard McRae Foundation	
Service First Pharmacies Inc- Madison Drugs	
Southeast Grocers Foundation	
Speer Financial, Inc.	_
Stewardship Foundation	
Tennessee Cares Act	
The Atticus Trust	
The New York Community Trust	
Vanguard Charitable	
Wake County Cooperative Extension	
Wells Fargo Foundation	
Weyerhaeuser NR Company	Seattle, WA

Recent Donations - In Honor Of continued from page 5

The Great People At SoSA Florida! Evelyn Spears-Newsome Stephen, Andrew, Francis, Claire, Joseph, Christine, Mark, and Kathleen Joseph Strausbaugh Sullivan Grandchildren Miriam Taber Sylvia Teeuwen Judy and Roger Thurman Carl & Becky Ullrich Mike Ultee Bill and Laura Ellen Wade Peter D. Weaver Julia Webb-Bowden

Diane & Terry Wilson

Executive Director's Column continued from page 2

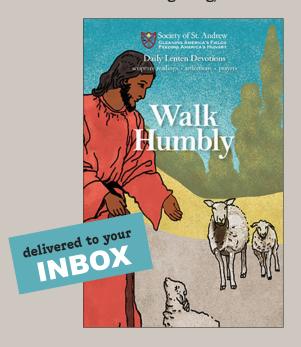
that made "truck to trunk" distribution possible, at SoSA events in over 20 states. In each location, families waited for hours, sometimes from dawn to dusk, for food. Yet every greeting spoken, by volunteer or food recipient, was filled with gratitude.

The pandemic isn't over, though it feels we're rounding a corner. SoSA teams are at work every day, seeing that food gets to people in need, rather than be wasted. We are grateful for your partnership.

Receive a daily Lent devotion in your email throughout Lent.

It's not too late to sign up.

EndHunger.org/lent



Deepen your faith & experience renewal in your own life with Society of St. Andrew, as you join our online readership family during the season of Lent.

February 17 - April 3, 2021

Volunteer Spotlight

ae Wallace is extraordinary. At the young age of five, she volunteered with The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) in December 2020. Later that month, after receiving a Christmas gift of gymnastics lessons from her grandparents, which brought her great excitement, she asked her mother Beth, if she could end those lessons before March...

When Beth asked why Mae wanted to end her lessons early, before she'd even tried them, her daughter explained, "...all of the plants will start growing again in March. And I won't have time to volunteer on Saturday mornings if I'm at my gymnastics class."

Beth was proud of her daughter's heart for service and assured her they could do both. This conversation made Beth realize she had passed on a legacy. Beth's own father had shown her the importance of volunteeringwith SoSA—when she was growing up.

Beth frequently volunteered with her father, for SoSA, over 20 years ago. She remembers her father's truck and trailer

safely carrying up to 5,000 pounds of food. She even remembers where the pantries were that they delivered food to, from SoSA gleaning events! Beth remembers seeing children her own age smile broadly when they received a bundle of fresh food.

Beth recognized that her parents provided a comfortable environment for her, as a child. Her father was an attorney and made sure his family's needs were met. However, Beth also knew her father provided her with another great gift: a heart for service.

Beth volunteers with a number of organizations in her community. When asked why she volunteers so frequently with SoSA. Beth explains—"My husband is a chef and I'm an educator. We know exactly how important good food is for people to thrive. I also appreciate that SoSA makes it easy to see how my donations and volunteer hours are used appropriately and how they make an impact."

Train children in the way they should go, Even when they grow older they will not abandon it.

- Prov. 22:6





Adopt a Bushel, **Feed a Nation**

A new 30-Day, **Fundraising Challenge** that raises \$806 when your team works together to help feed people in need

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

Get details here: 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







