



# Society of St. Andrew

## GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

# Quarterly Report

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# All In for SoSA

When 2021 began, we read of “compassion fatigue,” and we wondered, was it real, and would it affect the Society of St. Andrew? The lines of cars at food distributions were not shrinking, and the level of food insecurity remained extremely high.

The number of individuals and families struggling to make ends meet, unsure of where their next meal was coming from, hadn't dropped in months. Many families still struggled due to nearly a year of pandemic-related disruptions.

There was no need to worry about compassion fatigue, as it turned out. You and thousands of other SoSA supporters have continued to give throughout the early months of 2021. Your gifts have shared millions of pounds of freshly-picked fruits and vegetables with hungry families through hundreds of front-line agencies in just three months of the year.

You went all in when the need was greatest and invested in SoSA's mission—making fresh food accessible



Florida volunteers load Farm to Family boxes and produce bags in cars at a drive up distribution this spring.

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## January - March 2021 Totals

**Fresh food saved and  
donated to feed hungry people**

Gleaned Produce.....	17,589,560 lbs
Servings of Food Shared.....	52,768,680
Events .....	1,020
Volunteers.....	3,440
Farms/Providers.....	172
Distributing Agencies .....	802

**Total Historical Pounds**  
**Total Historical Servings**

**934 Million**  
**2.8 Billion**



### **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](https://EndHunger.org/abfn)**

## All In For Farmers

One thing that distinguishes SoSA among groups dedicated to hunger relief is that SoSA seeks to grow its relationships with farmers, year after year, adding value for the farmers whenever possible. Without the many producers, growers, providers, distributors, and vendors who donate surplus food each year, there would be no food to put on the tables of families in need!

“Working with SoSA and its volunteers was an incredible experience. Their compassion for our community has been a shining example for all. They were easy to work with and considerate of our time.”

- Alan Gentry, Gentry Farms

SoSA is growing its partnership with farmers this year by working with Dr. Lisa Johnson in SoSA's just-launched Row by Row Project. Lisa is an agricultural consultant who, as her Ph.D. research, developed a method for quantifying additional market-quality produce left behind in a field after harvest. This methodology, applied to particular fields, at farmer's request, may demonstrate significant additional market yield-value for fields, prior to opening the field to gleaners. SoSA gleaners will be offering farmers the opportunity to participate in the Row by Row Project to help them maximize their harvests—and their profits.

While gleanings at participating farms, SoSA volunteers will add a few deliberate steps to research the precise amount of food yet available for harvest in farm fields, categorizing it as “first quality, market ready;” “second quality, donation ready,” and “inedible by humans; for compost or animal feed.” By gathering this data and sharing it with farmers, SoSA will be helping create predictive tools that will help farmers better identify the last date for financially-beneficial commercial harvest and the first date to welcome gleaners in future years. This may also provide farmers data they need to begin identifying secondary markets for produce they had not considered selling in the past.

It is already abundantly clear that there is more than enough food available to maximize farmers' potential harvests—and

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# Right in Your Own Backyard

**B**efore today, when you thought of gleaning events, you likely conjured images of expansive farm fields that stretched to the horizon, seemingly without end.

Would you be surprised to know that SoSA's backyard gleaning program provides numerous gleaning opportunities and thousands of pounds of good food across multiple states?

Backyard gleanings occur in residential areas and sometimes on commercial properties as well. Homeowners and businesses often have fruit-bearing bushes, shrubs, and trees on their property and either don't choose to eat the fruit or find their landscape produces more fruit than they can use without waste. They'll call SoSA to send volunteers to glean this good food and deliver it to places where it can go to its highest use—feeding hungry people.



This young volunteer is showing how easy it is to glean muscadine grapes! It's not uncommon for parents and grandparents to bring the next generation of gleaners with them to SoSA events.



Many people use plants with edible fruit as landscaping. These plants often produce hundreds of pounds of edible food every year that ends up wasted without the intervention of SoSA volunteers to glean and distribute it to local hunger-relief agencies.

Many homeowners' small gardens grow into enormous endeavors, overproducing zucchini and tomatoes by the bushel in mid-summer. Whether it's an edible landscape tree or a runaway tomato vine, there may be significant quantities of good food that would go to waste, without the intervention of SoSA volunteers.

Muscadine grapes, pears, citrus, blueberries, service berries, okra, and starfruit are all commonly gleaned from residential and commercial "backyard" locations. Backyard gleanings tend to be smaller in scale and average lower yields than typical field gleanings. A few dozen to a few hundred pounds might come from a backyard gleaning.

Every bit of food is worth gleaning, and each location provides an opportunity

to bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

Your donations cover the costs for tools, supplies, packaging materials, logistics, and transportation costs of food from these backyard events—just as they do for field gleanings.

In 2020 the issue of good food being lost while millions of Americans went hungry made the national news night after night. That media attention set SoSA's phones ringing, often with home gardeners who had already gleaned and packaged their excess fruits and vegetables. They'd call from the car, only asking for the address of an agency nearby to take the food to

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#### **All In For SoSA... continued from cover**

to people in dire need across the United States. Thank you for caring and giving.

Now, as the growing season begins to pick up speed, a host of new opportunities to give, serve, learn, and lead are becoming available. If you are physically able, we would love to welcome you to the fields as a volunteer gleaner!

Thank you for your continued support. You make it possible for SoSA volunteers to glean and distribute food day after day. Though food insecurity is now decreasing, still 42 million of our brothers and sisters in the US need food assistance. ■



**Society of St. Andrew • EndHunger.org**

Above: Families struggling with food insecurity wait in their cars, forming long lines, at SoSA food distribution events in many states, across the country, eager to receive a small amount of fresh food to feed their families and themselves, each week or month.



Despite strict pandemic-safety guidelines that required volunteers to participate in smaller groups, these volunteers in Alabama were eager to work hard in service to their neighbors.



## 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

Louise Anderson  
Kathy Beins  
Steve Boryczwsky  
Helen Brown  
Madilyn Brown  
Tom Bryant  
Delores Cerimele  
Dorothy Phipps Chase  
Bud the Spud Curtis  
Florence Powell Deese  
Paul DeVivo  
Gilbert Ernesti Jr  
Paul R Fair  
Norman Fowler  
Carroll and Helen Freeman  
Joseph Thomas Geiger  
R. Sam Gentz  
David Guenther  
Mike Kingsley  
Ervin Lineberger  
David Lowers  
Carolyn Mabry  
Jean Makoujy  
Joann Miletta  
Eric Ottinger  
Billie Ogden Page  
Peggy Ramey  
Dianne Roberts  
Giles Rolston  
Michael Sams  
Ryan Shoaf  
Rob Sportsman  
Nancy Stone  
Gary Talley

Paul Tongue  
Nancy White  
Jimmy Williams  
Fred Wingfield  
Bette Witherington  
Kenneth Wright  
Elizabeth Young

### In Honor Of

Summer Anderson  
Rev. Dawn Barnes  
Barbara Kay Cosby  
Carol Croft  
Christopher & Allyson Ey  
Friends  
Glenwood Presbyterian  
Janet Grabill  
Ted Johndrow  
Birth Of Olive Jones  
Claire Kent  
Ladybird  
Shirley Livengood  
Lord Jesus  
Linda Mays  
Vangie McCormick  
Rev Don & Terri Patterson  
Dr. Donna Perry  
Rev Ann Pettit  
Dianne Roberts  
Kathy Spradlin  
Jan Thompson  
Jim & Judy Tongue  
Linda Vinson  
Stan Wish  
Grace Wolfe  
Eva Curtis

**All In For Farmers...** continued from page 2

still have more than enough food for SoSA's gleaners to harvest and share. It just makes sense to see that every bit of food grown meets its best use!

By growing partnerships with farmers and researchers, SoSA strives to ensure more food will be used for its highest purpose— feeding hungry people. ■



Monthly Giving Program

## 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](https://EndHunger.org/12)**



right away.

Small gleans like these may seem inconsequential, when you think of millions and even billions of pounds of food left behind after harvest. But a little boy long ago with loaves and fishes reminds us that it only takes a little bit of food to set a miracle in motion! Backyard gleans offer hundreds of people the opportunity each year to partner with SoSA, literally in their own yards and neighborhoods, to share healthy food with hungry people nearby.

That's all it comes down to—by partnering with the Society of St. Andrew abundant food can be shared with families who otherwise would go without.

Never underestimate the power of a small gift. To someone struggling to afford food for the table, even a little bit makes a big difference! ■



Above: Dr. Wayne Hanna brought a box of tomatoes to share with those who are in need in his community. One box at a time, each person makes a heartfelt difference.

Collage right: These photos show Florida backyard gleaners working together to ensure their good food does not go to waste. They want to share it with the people in their community who need it the most, especially during the pandemic when so many are unemployed and seek ways to put food on the table for their families.



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING  
FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & AGENCIES**  
that donated \$1,000+ in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021

Atmos Energy Corporation ..... Dallas, TX  
Austin Community Foundation ..... Austin, TX  
Benevity..... Calgary, AB  
Canfield Memorial Trust ..... Indianapolis, IN  
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation..... Little Rock, AR  
Clark Supporting Foundation..... Hilton Head, SC  
Columbia International University ..... Columbia, SC  
CP and MG Lunsford Charitable Trust..... Winston-Salem, NC  
East Tennessee Community Foundation..... Knoxville, TN  
Environmental Protection Agency ..... Washington, DC  
Family Agriculture Resource Management Services..... Charlotte, NC  
Fidelity Charitable Gifts..... Cincinnati, OH  
Florida Department of Agriculture ..... Tallahassee, FL  
The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation..... Lynchburg, VA  
J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund ..... Jenkintown, PA  
Jackson State University ..... Jackson, MS  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory ..... Livermore, CA  
The Meera and Ashok Vasudevan Foundation..... Stamford, CT  
Network For Good..... Bethesda, MD  
Robert & Dee Leggett Foundation ..... Great Falls, VA  
Schwab Charitable..... San Francisco, CA  
Tennessee Cares Act..... Nashville, TN  
Thermo Fisher Scientific..... Waltham, MA

“We love teaming up  
with SoSA and its partners to  
reduce food waste! It’s incredibly  
helpful to have extra hands to  
glean food and keep our plants  
healthy. We can’t wait to work  
with SoSA next season!”

- Megan Sparkman, Green Door Gourmet

Volunteer Lois in North Carolina picks okra so that it will be taken to the local food pantry to be prepared and eaten that evening.



## Abundance Orchard for VBS!

**Year 1: Old Testament  
Year 2: New Testament**

Learn more and order  
your VBS program at:

**EndHunger.org/vbs**

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

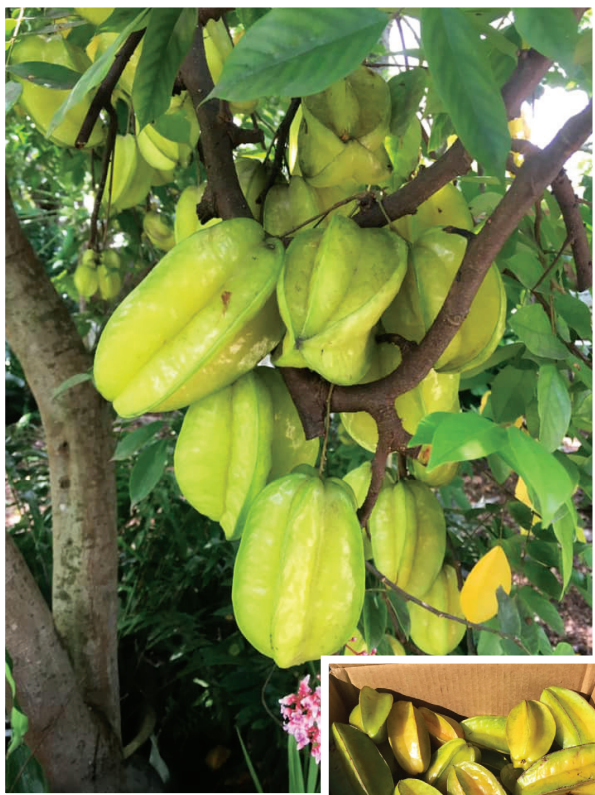
Both programs offer a **FREE**  
complete hunger action-themed VBS,  
a 2-3 hour program for up to 5 days.





# Starfruit Spotlight

**This is a star fruit.** This is a star fruit or carambola. Originally from Southeast Asia, it made its way to Florida over 100 years ago. Today it is among the fruits that Society of St. Andrew volunteers regularly glean there. It can be eaten without being peeled, simply needing to be washed and sliced.



When sliced, it creates easily-identifiable stars, due to its natural shape. Experts say the best flavor is found when the fruit is yellow with only a minimal amount of green on the edges.

While you may never have encountered this exotic-looking fruit, SoSA gleaned and shared more than 5,000 pounds of starfruit with South Florida agencies and residents in 2020.

You may be surprised at the wide variety of exotic foods SoSA gleans in Florida! In addition to starfruit, this includes eggfruit, mangoes, coconuts, and avocados.

Gleaning events for these less common fruits are relatively small in scale, typically occurring in people's backyards or on public lands. There is typically only a need for 1-2 volunteers at a time.

Even with just a couple of volunteers, the average starfruit glean yields more than 175 pounds of fruit! Don't be misled by small numbers or the fruit's relative obscurity—it has a pronounced impact on SoSA's mission to end hunger.

- Starfruit gleanings afford dozens of COVID-safe volunteer opportunities for small groups and families, eager to serve.
- Each glean yields manageable quantities of fresh, easy-to-process food for recipients and agencies.
- In 2020, starfruit gleaning provided more than 15,000 servings to 10 different South Florida agencies.
- Starfruit are easy to pick, prepare, and eat. Nature makes it ideal for individuals who might not have a place to store large quantities of fruit.
- On average, each starfruit has 3 grams of fiber and provides 50% of the daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. With only 28 calories, starfruit is nutrient-dense for its size and is super-healthy.

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

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**For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • [sosainfo@EndHunger.org](mailto:sosainfo@EndHunger.org) • [EndHunger.org](https://EndHunger.org)**

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[EndHunger.org/signup](https://EndHunger.org/signup)

