



# Society of St. Andrew

## Gleaning America's Fields – Feeding America's Hungry

### Quarterly Report

VOLUME 38

NUMBER 4

2021

## Your Community Needs Your Help

In your town tonight, there are parents who will skip dinner, prioritizing their child's nutritional needs over their own because there isn't enough food in the house for everyone. There are children who will go to sleep tonight feeling the rumbling of a stomach that isn't quite full. Tomorrow, each will start their daily routine of work or school—except they'll start at a disadvantage. They will struggle, because they're hungry.

These people look like you and may even live in your local community. In fact, some may even be your neighbors. In this country of indescribable abundance, even one family struggling

to put food on the table is one too many. They don't have to go without good food. Their nutritional needs don't have to go unmet. Because you can do something about it, right now.

The most immediate way you can make an impact in the lives of hungry people is by making a donation to the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA). Your gift fills the logistical gaps in getting excess food from fields to the plates of people in need. If you'd like to volunteer, wherever you live, SoSA has hands-on ways for you to get involved in sharing healthy food. If you're a person of faith, your prayers for hungry neighbors and for SoSA's ministries provide critical support.

The Union of Concerned Scientists says that if every American ate just one more serving of fruits or vegetables a day, 30,000 lives and \$5 billion in health care costs would be saved (see footnote). Your commitment to SoSA shares about 120 million servings of fruits and vegetables each year—at a cost of just pennies per serving. But the productivity generated, the learning facilitated, the health improved, and maybe even the lives saved as hungry people eat those fruits and vegetables are priceless. Your gifts make this possible.

Do you know where the hungriest people are in your community? Which pantries have bare shelves? What resources are available nearby to assist them? Hunger and food insecurity are complex problems. They are especially difficult to address because hunger often flies under the radar. Yet everyone needs to eat, every day.

You have the opportunity to help your community today. You can put farm-fresh food onto the tables of parents struggling to feed their children.

You can make a meaningful impact on the lives of hungry people who may just be your neighbors.

---

Footnote: Extra daily serving of fruits or vegetables can save lives and billions in health care costs. Union of Concerned Scientists. (2013, August 8). ■





# Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

## January–September 2021 Totals Fresh food saved and donated to feed hungry people

Nourishing Food Shared .....	41,505,798 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	124,517,394
Events .....	4,922
Volunteers .....	13,258
Farms/Providers .....	718
Distributing Agencies .....	1,581

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

**958 Million**  
**2.87 Billion**

The Society of St. Andrew's work, connecting with farms to access fresh produce that is quickly shared with nearby people in need, is a logistical art form.



Minimizing miles food travels, eliminating warehousing, and getting food into the hands of people who need it within hours of harvest is what SoSA staff and volunteers do every day.

In these areas of high hunger needs, getting fresh fruits and vegetables to people isn't as simple as leaving a few hundred pounds of tomatoes and corn with a food pantry for distribution. It involves ground-work, talking with pastors and community leaders, asking, "How can we be of service?" And how SoSA can be of service looks different in each community.

In one place, it may be facilitating Produce Pick Ups—two pick-up trucks filled with green beans reaching church parking lots on opposite ends of the county every Monday at 5pm.

In another, it may be a School-to-Farm program that takes students to glean a crop and then bring some back to their school to share with all the school families.

And in yet another, it may be SoSA's Seed Project supplying vegetable seeds and seed potatoes to people who have the capability, but no means to purchase seeds to grow their own food.

I'm excited to share these possibilities with you as we begin to live into this strategic goal, building relationships in new places and working with underserved communities to share healthy food in ways that make sense to them. ■

Generous farmers growing food near big cities ease SoSA's logistical challenges. Farmers markets are prime partners for SoSA gleaners to share excess market produce. It's not too difficult to create a suburban/urban pipeline that quickly gets nourishing food to food insecure city dwellers.

However, we have issued ourselves a new strategic challenge: getting healthy food, in appropriate quantities, to areas with the highest unmet hunger needs. These areas are often rural, lacking grocery stores, lacking agriculture, and lacking social service infrastructure—areas even food banks have trouble supplying with shelf-stable food.

## #GIVING TUESDAY

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021**  
**[Endhunger.org/givingtuesday](https://Endhunger.org/givingtuesday)**

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

**Increase your impact by making a donation on Giving Tuesday, November 30! Gifts will be matched to a pledged total of \$50,000 by a generous anonymous donor.**

The need is high and your gift ensures good food is shared with neighbors who need food and hope.





# You Can Make A Difference Right Where You Are

**H**unger and food waste are big issues that will be solved, in part, through small actions.

You can make a difference right now, right where you live, work, or play. You don't even have to live near a farm to get involved in gleaning food and delivering it to agencies and families in need!



Pictured above and below: SoSA staff gleaned fruit trees at a tire repair shop and a fast-food restaurant. By being alert to the potential around them a handful of passionate people rescued fresh fruits that would otherwise have gone to waste and instead delivered them to local feeding agencies the same day.

Hunger affects families in every part of this country. Families living in or near metropolitan areas face a unique struggle, surrounded by food resources

while not able to afford or access the healthy food they need the most.

Did you ever stop to think that good food can be found growing in the heart of the city? Many businesses use edible plants in landscaping, and berry bushes and nut trees grow wild beside greenways and in parks! Recently, SoSA partners in multiple states challenged each other to seek out



Every situation could turn into an opportunity to bless your neighbor! Any landscaping bush or tree could include fruit-bearing plants. Pictured above, a traffic jam gave a SoSA staffer time to discover a blueberry bush bursting with fresh berries, ripe for the picking.

and identify unexpected food sources in urban spaces. They all won the challenge, finding and gleaning enough food to share with hundreds of families.

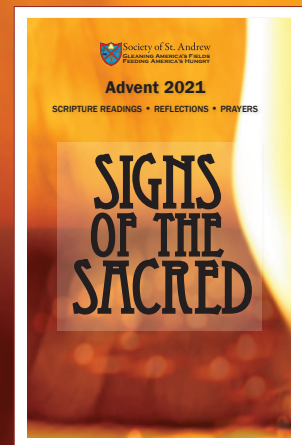
They found apples, pears, peaches, blueberries, figs, and even pomegranates growing in surprising places: tire repair centers, fast food restaurants, service stations, and churches were all home to overlooked or neglected food-bearing plants!

By simply keeping their eyes open to the possibility of abundance in the

city, SoSA partners made astounding discoveries! One person discovered a peach tree, laden with ripe peaches, while waiting for their tires to be rotated. Another discovered an apple tree, ready for harvest, while pumping gas.

Take a look around! When you find a fruit tree bending under the weight of unpicked fruit or a bush brimming with berries, ask the property owner if they'll let you come back and glean! You'd be surprised how often the answer is yes. And if you don't have time or the physical ability to glean, give SoSA a call! We have thousands of partners across the country, eager to serve, maybe even in your city. ■

## Plan for Advent with SoSA



**Download your copy of Advent today!**

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



# How to Build a **Caring** Community

**Y**ou can solve almost any problem by working together with the people and resources that exist all around you, in your local area.

In 2017, Susan, Debbie, and Mindy started a farmers' market gleaning project to bring much-needed fresh food to their local food pantry, Jewish Family Services. They contacted SoSA for help coordinating this project.

## Farmers Market Gleaning

is an easy way to glean fresh produce when farm fields are not available.

SoSA coordinates with the market to arrange a time for volunteers to visit, usually at closing time, to collect any unsold food that won't be good at the next week's market.

and the food pantry was grateful for the fresh fruits and vegetables. However, growing pains accompanied the growing project. Volunteers realized some donated food was too ripe to last until the food pantry's distribution day. Throwing those more ripe fruits and vegetables away didn't seem like a good solution.

Why not prep and serve them immediately instead? The local Food Waste Reduction Task Force connected Susan with two hunger-relief agencies equipped to handle "prep-ready" food—Constance Abbey and St. Luke's UMC. These agencies appreciated receiving ripe fruits and vegetables, because

they could quickly turn them into hot meals and prepared foods for same-day service to their hungry guests.

In 2020, the farmers' market offered Susan the opportunity to glean an additional day each week. This provided an opportunity to involve Temple Israel, a sister synagogue, in the project—making yet another community connection.

Jan, at Temple Israel, saw the opportunity Susan presented as an answer to prayer. Some time before, she and a few volunteers had started a community garden to grow and donate fresh produce to Plough Towers—a



**"I love this project because there's something positive in every aspect. It's easy to see how every person involved experiences joy in showing love to their neighbors."**

Susan Moinester,  
Beth Sholom Volunteer

SoSA provided guidance and support, connecting them with a nearby farmers' market. The market vendors invited Susan and her team to glean one day a week. Each week's gleaning yielded bags full of farm-fresh food for their local food pantry.

The market vendors appreciated the meaningful use for their unsold food,



150-unit subsidized senior apartment community. While the garden successfully produced fresh food, it also required an unsustainable amount of time, labor, and expense. Jan knew

**Volunteering during COVID seems daunting, but gleaning is outside and it's a great way to connect with others. Gleaning allows us to help others with our bodies and minds and there is a tangible, immediate outcome of our labors.**

Heidi Rupke, Food Waste Reduction Task Force

the community garden would soon end and had been seeking a solution to continue donating fresh food to the seniors at Plough Towers.

Jan and her new volunteers found that one day weekly gleaning the farmers' market could yield the same amount of food as the entire growing season from their community garden. Freed of the community garden upkeep, Jan's volunteers used their time to glean, deliver the food, and display it in a way that allowed the seniors to "shop," taking only what they wanted and would use.

Susan's tireless commitment to serving her neighbors brought together a caring community, as she solved each challenge by making a new community connection. So far, this project has delivered

over 4,000 meals to hundreds of families, seniors, and a half-dozen feeding agencies in the Greater Memphis Area. ■

"The residents at Plough Towers

loved the beautiful, fresh fruits

and vegetables. It was a treat to

have healthy, delicious food delivered

to them, during this challenging time

in the world."

-Leigh Hendry,  
Plough Towers Executive Director



The images above show the many steps taken by dedicated volunteers, from multiple groups, gleaning their local farmers market to harvest and share healthy food with individuals and families in great need who might otherwise go without.



**"It's gratifying to get so much good food to so many people who need it. It barely takes two hours of my time and it gives fresh food to people who consider vegetables a luxury item they cannot afford."**

Jan Reisman,  
Temple Israel Volunteer



## Recent Individual 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 Baker  
 Rev. Mr. Lou Belldina  
 Jim Bier, A Generous Man and  
   Filled With Faith  
 Snead Boley  
 Mildred Bradburn  
 Rector Brown  
 Rec & Helen Brown  
 Bud “the Spud” Curtis  
 Gary Colbert  
 Ray Cook  
 Deceased Family and Friends  
 Rocco Desiderio  
 Mary Sue Floyd  
 Mrs. Edie Harris Ford  
 Sharon French Harris  
 Betty Heishman  
 Robert Hodge  
 Elmira Holcey  
 Clyde Hough  
 Edward Kertis  
 Lyle & Modelle Laing  
 Dave Lehnertz  
 Audrey Levy  
 Jean Makoujy  
 Sudie Manning  
 Ronnie McNabb  
 Freda Miller  
 Anne Shuff Minnick  
 Richard J Mohrbacher  
 My Mom, Jeannette

Louie Nolan  
 Stephanie Parker  
 Rob Pruitt  
 Jo Richardson  
 Eric Robinson, Sr.

### In Honor Of

Cathy Barker  
 Benn’s UMC VBS volunteers  
 Bethel/Emmanuel UMC  
 Harriet Bryan  
 Eleanor Rose Burk  
 Lawrence Cuthill and Patti  
   Thackeray’s Wedding  
 Kim Dills  
 Lewis Gardner  
 Rae & Phoebe Harcum  
 Thomas Hughes  
 Crystal Long  
 Chris & Ashley Maxwell  
 James & Ginny Maxwell  
 Refugee Families of Refugee  
   Support Services of the  
   Carolinas  
 Jean Blish Siers  
 South Covington UMM  
 Tom Truban  
 Mayor Mae Umphlett  
 Donna H. West  
 Nancy Windsor



Volunteers of all ages, from across the country, find joy in volunteering for a few hours to glean and share fresh food from local farms with individuals and families struggling with hunger in their local communities.



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING  
FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS**  
that donated \$1,000+ in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021

These foundations and corporations recently made contributions to the Society of St. Andrew as a part of their organizational alignment with SoSA's mission. Their funds were invested in local communities with high levels of hunger and food insecurity which provided fresh food to local families, at no cost to them.

Alabama Civil Justice Foundation.....Montgomery, AL  
Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville.....Huntsville, AL  
Croasdaile Village Residents Association .....Durham, NC  
Davison Bruce Foundation .....Opelika, AL  
Durham Congregations In Action .....Durham, NC  
Entergy Foundation .....Jackson, MS  
Fidelity Charitable Gifts.....Cincinnati, OH  
Hill Crest Foundation Inc.....Birmingham, AL  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory .....Livermore, CA  
Navicent Health Foundation .....Macon, GA  
Network For Good.....Bethesda, MD  
Publix Super Markets Charities.....Lakeland, FL  
The Freeman Family Foundation .....Winston-Salem, NC  
The Caring Foundation .....Hoover, AL  
The Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond .....Richmond, VA  
UNFI Foundation.....Providence, RI  
Vanguard Charitable.....Warwick, RI



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

**When you give, you make a direct impact.  
Your gifts also empower volunteers, equip  
leaders, and encourage farmers— so that  
even more good food is rescued and put on  
the tables of families in great need.**



**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**

**Alternative Christmas Card**  
Minimum donation gift for each card is \$15  
Do not send cash through mail.  
Donations are 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.  
☐ 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. 3 to ensure delivery before Christmas. We will make every attempt to expedite late orders.**

**Mail to: Society of St. Andrew, 3383 Sweet Hollow Road,  
Big Island, Virginia 24526**

(ACC-NL)

# Volunteer Spotlight

## United In Purpose

SoSA volunteers, like SoSA donors, share a commitment to feeding their hungry neighbors and preventing food waste. Two Florida families are great examples of that commitment. Tamariyah, her husband Derek, their children, and mother-in-law Nadine, became regular SoSA volunteers this past year once they learned food insecurity plagued families in their neighborhood. Pat, Carl, and their son Steven grew into regular SoSA volunteers over time because of their long-standing relationship with a partner food bank in their hometown.



Though they live 200 miles apart and come from very different backgrounds, these two families now belong to the same community—the SoSA volunteer community. It began when they saw hunger in the faces of their neighbors and made a resolution to do something about it. It has grown into a steadfast commitment to volunteer with SoSA as often as possible, and as long as possible, to share farm-fresh food with families in need.

In addition to the many unexpected trials of the pandemic, these families each faced multiple obstacles to volunteering: inflexible weekday work schedules;

children's varying temperaments; special needs that required planning and accommodation; and weather that never quite wanted to comply with the day's plans.

However, commitment trumped obstacles, and they persevered, each family driving considerable distance on



occasion to volunteer. Amazingly, the families met and grew close by serving shoulder-to-shoulder in the fields. They commit to each other to participate in gleanings, so they always know there will be at least two families in the field!

When you donate to the Society of St. Andrew, you underwrite the cost of arrangements and logistics for field gleanings. You also empower and encourage SoSA volunteers like Tamariyah, Pat, and their families. And though you may never meet Tamariyah or Pat, you are, with them, part of a community united in purpose. ■

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](mailto:sosainfo@EndHunger.org) • [EndHunger.org](https://EndHunger.org)**  
**[EndHunger.org/signup](https://EndHunger.org/signup)**

© 1983-2021, THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

