



Society of St. Andrew

Gleaning America's Fields—Feeding America's Hungry Quarterly Report

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Urgent Needs Require Immediate Action

Efficiency and adaptation are essential within The Society of St. Andrew's hunger relief programs. Forty years ago, it seemed crazy to think about sharing fresh produce with hungry families. How could anyone distribute fresh food quickly enough that it wouldn't waste? How complicated the logistics would be to get the food from fields to fork in a matter of days, if not hours! It was the catalyst that prompted SoSA to develop a procedure for responding to urgent needs. And thanks to you, SoSA has been working efficiently, adapting to changing circumstances every day since 1979.

Thousands of farmers each year contact SoSA, eager to donate their crops. They're excited to know their excess and unmarketable crops can feed hungry people in their local community—and across the nation. Rapid and efficient response to these donations is necessary due to the short shelf-life of most fruits and vegetables. Farmers who offer fields for gleaning

are greeted within just a few days with teams of volunteers eager to glean their crops to get the food to feeding agencies—and ultimately to families in need—as quickly as possible.

While each food donation is unique and each event requires specific responses, each offer from a farmer is greeted by SoSA emphatically with some form of “We'll do our best to make it happen.”

At the height of the pandemic, food banks across the country, long expert in agency-to-agency distribution, began to adapt their methods to include outdoor “truck to trunk” food distribution. You may not know that SoSA pioneered truck-to-trunk food distribution in 1983, when the first potato drop was held!

Still today, after 40 years, at each crop drop, farmers, volunteers, donors, and partners gather to unload 40,000 pounds of fruits or vegetables and repackage that food into family-sized, ever-familiar, red mesh bags,

distributing those bags either directly to hungry families in the community, or to agencies serving those in greatest need—all within a single morning.

When the pandemic required social distancing SoSA staff rose to the challenge, quickly adapting gleaning practices to meet the changing circumstances. More gleanings with fewer volunteers soon gave way to staggered, same-day gleanings, with multiple socially distanced groups gleaning simultaneously in the same field.

Bad weather, bad water, and other urgent crises offer SoSA partners even more opportunities to respond. In recent weeks SoSA staff worked with early response teams to distribute food and cleaning supplies in areas of highest need. In Jackson, MS, the most recent crop drops have, instead, been bottled water drops, with volunteer groups working to get safe drinking water to area residents living with unsafe water systems.

With little fanfare, SoSA staff and volunteers adapt to meet urgent and unmet needs every day and especially during times of crisis.

Your support makes this possible. Every person and family SoSA serves is a neighbor in need. By partnering with SoSA, by giving, serving, and leading in the mission you address the most basic needs of neighbors, wherever they may be, at times when hope and help seem scarce. ■





Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson



Historically, SoSA's identity as a hunger relief organization was focused on expedience. The underlying question has always been, "Where can we find healthy food, and how can we get it quickly to the nearest people at risk for hunger?"

Still today, SoSA's neighbor-helping-neighbor gleaning model ensures that, whenever possible, food is on the table of a hungry family in the same county in which the food was grown. Often food gleaned in the morning can be served for dinner that day!

A focus on expedience ensures SoSA gets food to agencies in the largest cities. Logically, the greatest number of hungry people are in the largest cities, and that's often the case. That has been and will continue to be a good use for food SoSA has available.

In the last few years, though, we've extended our efforts, concentrating as well on areas of unmet need. This new concentration reflects the realization that resources are often (readily) available in large cities for people facing hunger. In these cities, larger funding sources, numerous feeding agencies, established transportation systems, and general proximity make the possibilities high that food needs will be met.

Yet in rural areas and isolated communities—far from cities—it's much harder to get healthy food to people who are hungry. The infrastructure isn't developed; families live further from resources, and many lack reliable transportation to get to a food pantry or food distribution event. In many rural areas of the Southeast, there may be a single grocery store—or in some cases, none—serving an entire county.

To grow beyond expedience and into intentionality, we've begun seeking out the 10 most underserved counties in each of SoSA's regional areas. We're building partnerships, asking questions to find out what the food needs are, and listening to folks on the ground—those with lived experience—learning how SoSA can best be of assistance.

In some places, establishing more avenues for regular, seasonal fresh produce distribution is our best path; in others, providing seeds for people to grow their own food is a better fit.

SoSA's mission is to "bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors." We're grateful for your support that shares healthy food and helps listen and learn from those in greatest need. ■

January–September 2022 Totals

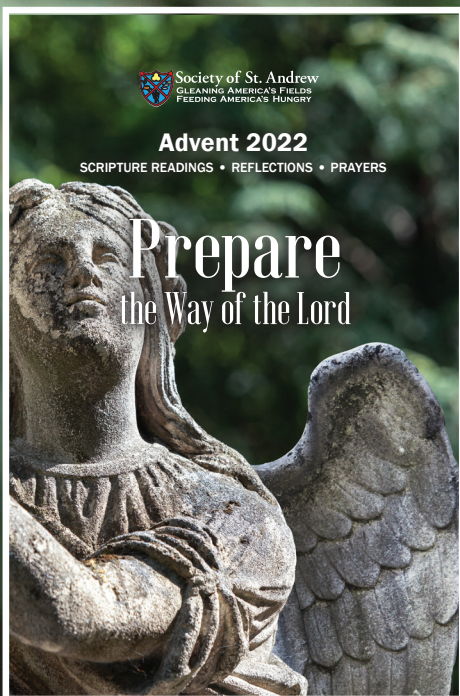
Fresh food saved and donated to feed hungry people

Nourishing Food Shared	16,218,841 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	64,875,364
Events	4,948
Volunteers	11,440
Farms/Providers.....	680
Distributing Agencies	1,204

Total Historical Pounds
Total Historical Servings

978 Million
3.91 Billion

Plan for Advent



It's not too late to get Advent materials

Download yours at
EndHunger.org/advent

Yam Jam

One volunteer, at one gleaning event, stands out amidst hundreds of excited SoSA volunteers who served in this year's 6-week-long marathon of bi-weekly fall potato gleaning events (21 events in all) in Central North Carolina, called Yam Jam.

Gleanings of this size and scale, with hundreds of people in the fields at each event, require volunteers to serve in a variety of capacities. There are more logistical challenges, paperwork, and moving pieces than any other type of event. It would be overwhelming to a single person but that's the beauty of being a part of the SoSA Network—you're never alone.

Most volunteers grab bundles of mesh bags and fan out, side-by-side to comb through the freshly-dug fields. One man proudly waves from his old pickup truck, with which he will ferry sacks of potatoes from the deepest parts of fields to the edges. Every pickup bed full of potatoes will be met and off-loaded by another group of volunteers. They'll re-load the potatoes into volunteer driver vehicles, to deliver the freshly picked yams to nearby feeding agencies.

It would be overwhelming to a single person but that's the beauty of being a part of the SoSA Network—you're never alone.

By the time this load of potatoes hits the highway, field gleaning volunteers will be filling the old pickup once again. This is where you'll find Tom.

Tom's a SoSA donor who first volunteered at a Yam Jam last



This is the incredible SoSA volunteer "Tom". Being a donor and volunteer, his story was shared using an alias for the sake of privacy.

year. Initially, he wanted to spend a weekend visiting his grandson, doing something they both found meaningful and memorable. He also relished the opportunity to see how SoSA put his donations to work.

In his 70s, Tom could choose a less physically challenging volunteer role, but there he is, tying bags full of the loose potatoes he has bent to gather, and loading them onto the truck. Bag after bag, truckload after truckload.

You might offer him that easier task, but Tom will turn you away. He says the



This grocery store employee volunteered at multiple events in 2022 and his shirt explains his motivation, plain and simple, for serving in the mission to end hunger.

joy is in being part of the community, in working side by side with others of all ages. He says he may not be the fastest, but he can still make a difference in a hands-on way.

Tom knows the secret. Yam Jam is not about who gleanes the most or the fastest. It's a celebration of God's abundance, a harvest festival where people of all ages gather and eagerly do their part. They enjoy the beauty of creation in the crisp fall air, while gathering good food to share with people who need it most. ■



A local grocer/retailer encouraged their employees to glean with SoSA as a way to live out their organizational promise to reduce food waste and be the best neighbor possible in the towns and cities they serve.

Being a Part of a Ca

83 year old **Danny Johnson** is the owner of Johnson's Orchard Family Farm. He has actively participated in the mission to end hunger since just before learning about The Society of St. Andrew.

Shortly before meeting two people from SoSA, Danny received an

a bounty to share with his neighbors, friends, and family.

To Danny's knowledge, his own family had never missed a meal due to a lack of food. He recalls tales from his grandfather about families making stews and serving the meat for the men and the broth and rice separately

handed. In fact, Danny invited Harold back multiple times, knowing there was enough to share and honored to be able to help Virginia neighbors in need.

Not long after that first encounter with Harold, SoSA founders Ken Horne and Ray Buchanan visited Johnson's Orchard hoping to make Danny an



Danny Johnson, 83, pictured center in the hat and blue jeans, poses for a celebratory picture with a group of young people who gave a few hours of their morning to glean apples from his farm to share with agencies and families in the surrounding community. Danny is inspired to see so many groups come out weekly to his farm, each Fall, to volunteer and help feed people.

unexpected visitor named Harold who drove 2.5 hours from a coal mining community in the heart of Appalachia, Southwest Virginia. Harold sought a compassionate arrangement with Danny in which he could pick any apples not being sold to bring home

for the children, so everyone had just enough food to make it through the day. Harold's story struck a chord with Danny.

Danny was moved by Harold's efforts and made sure he didn't leave empty-

ally in SoSA's mission and expand the variety of crops SoSA could share with families in need.

They explained SoSA's methods to Danny and shared their success in distributing a truckload of potatoes in

ring Community

areas of high need. They then asked if Danny ever found more apples than he could use without waste and if he'd be willing to share some with hungry

Whether his apple harvest exceeds expectations or only provides enough for Danny and his family to get by, Danny doesn't believe he has let a year

"In a great country like ours, there's no reason for anyone to go hungry like that. Layoffs and things happen, but there's so much food available right around the corner. We just need to work together more to get it where it needs to be."

- Danny Johnson

"Growing up, I was taught that loving your neighbor meant helping them when they needed it. It meant sometimes sharing what you have so everyone has enough. I live by that still today and that's one of the reasons I believe in the work of The Society of St. Andrew."

- Danny Johnson

families through SoSA. Danny saw this as a sign that he was being called to help—and already had ideas of how he could join the SoSA network.

Fast forward to today. Danny remains a zealous advocate of SoSA's mission to bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, prevent food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. And he's been doing it for more than four decades!

go by without inviting SoSA to glean his orchards and doesn't intend to while he's still able.

But inviting SoSA to plan seasonal gleaning events isn't enough for Danny! He invites schools and other groups to have field trips at his farm. He hopes to generate interest in farming, teach about the delicate nature of the food system, and show people the vast abundance available all around them.

Danny doesn't worry for his business, himself, or his family. He is confident their needs will be met and seeks every opportunity to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves.

Partnership with SoSA's network allows Danny to invite countless gleaners to his fields every year and send his apples to homes across Central Virginia. He hopes his actions and words bless his neighbors in need and leave a legacy that inspires generations to come. ■





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.



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

#GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 29, 2022
Endhunger.org/givingtuesday

The fields are full; help bring in the harvest today and a generous SoSA donor will help bring in tomorrow's harvest.

Make a donation on Giving Tuesday, November 29, to unlock a \$65,000 matching gift for SoSA's endowment, pledged by a generous anonymous donor.

Your gift will go to work immediately, bringing in this year's harvest. The \$65,000 matching gift will continue to share good food into the future, through SoSA's endowment.



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

In Memory Of

Ronald Ball
Sally Barger
Glenn Binkley
Carl A. Breitingner
Larry Caizza
Jean Camm
Jola Collier
Ms Billie Ann Culbreth
Bud Curtis
Patsie H. Cutright
Ginna Minnasian Dalton
Dr. Herbert Earnshaw
Harrison Hill Farthing
Harriet Garrett
George Jensen
Elizabeth Jones
Vada Kiser
Zoey Bryan Lonnes
Jean Makoujy
Carolynne Mays Kelly
Pamela Mays
Arnold McPeters
Kathleen O'Donnell
Our Parents
Joan & Harry Ranson
Jo Richardson
Al and Marilyn Rossow
Rev. David Smith
Rev. Dr. David Smith
Ken & Von Staiger
Lora B. Thomas
Mark Walker
Spencer Willard
J. Glenn Wilson
Mary Lou Yanker

In Honor Of

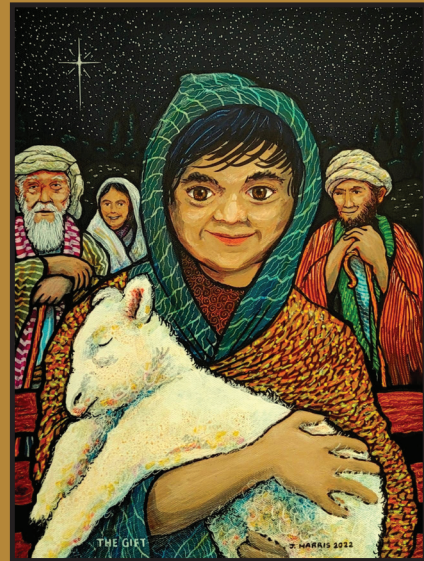
Chris & Bill Albers
Avondale United Methodist Church
Ginny Chilton & James Maxwell
Cooper and Jim Davidson
Bobby & Patty Eavers
Bob Forrest
Linda Fritz
Lewis Gardner
Irene Hanners
Payten Harcum
Phoebe & Rae Harcum
Stephen Hassmer, Jr.
High School Summer Gleaners Of Past Years
Nancy Irons
Tricia & Martha Jones
Pastor Gloria Jun
Jay Kelly
James W. Kruger
Chris & Ashley Maxwell
Cindy Parler
Sue Plummer
Kenneth Raper, On His 93rd Birthday
William Schminkey
Jean Siers
Jim Smith
South Covington UMM
Virginia Stager
Adrienne Holloway Standridge
Garnette Teass
Patricia Unkenholz
Donna West
Zion UMC, Builders Class

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

that donated \$1,000+ in the 3rd quarter of 2022

These foundations and corporations recently made contributions to the Society of St. Andrew as a part of their organizational alignment with SoSA's mission.

Calvin Fletcher Coffee Company Charitable Foundation
Indianapolis, IN
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Little Rock, AR
Community Foundation for a greater Richmond Richmond, VA
Croasdaile Village Residents Association Durham, NC
Davison Bruce Foundation Opelika, AL
Equal Justice Initiative Montgomery, AL
Fidelity Charitable Gifts Cincinnati, OH
Florida Blue Foundation Jacksonville, FL
Freeman Family Foundation Winston-Salem, NC
Jackson Leadership Foundation Jackson, MS
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation Bethesda, MD
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA
Navicent Health Foundation Macon, GA
Network For Good Bethesda, MD
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Indianapolis, IN
The American Online Giving Foundation Newark, DE
The Kroger Co. Cincinnati, OH



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

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.

☐ 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. 2 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

Volunteer Spotlight

Finding a Sense of Community

“Derek” is a teenage SoSA volunteer who shared his story under a promise of anonymity. He began serving to fulfill a requirement for court-appointed community service hours. Much to his surprise, he quickly made friends and enjoyed volunteering. He felt supported, accepted, and encouraged to be himself.



His struggle began in his first year of high school. Derek was an average teenager trying to find his place and

...he was bullied and ended up feeling isolated

make a few good friends. Instead, he was bullied and ended up feeling isolated. He quit trying to find his place and fell in with the wrong group of friends, which led to trouble and community service requirements.

“At first, I didn’t understand why people were so happy working in this hot weather for free. But I get it now ... and I’m glad to be a part of it. The people are awesome. I love it.” — Derek

Derek’s mother signed him up as a SoSA volunteer because he needed to earn service hours and she believed being outdoors and meeting new people would be beneficial. And she was right!

At his first gleaning event, he was apprehensive. However, after a warm welcome and meeting several kind faces, he began to let his guard

down. He returned to more events over the summer, saw familiar faces, opened up further, and made friends with other volunteers and even a few farmers!

Without realizing it, he found the place he’s been seeking in helping the helpers. He carried heavy buckets, reloaded supplies, brought water to others, waded through muddy fields, and filled whatever support role was needed. He was good at identifying others’ needs and earned a positive reputation.

As Derek found his stride, he made an effort to meet and welcome new people at each event. After his summer of service, he continues to look for opportunities to volunteer, even when it’s not required.

Without realizing it, he found the place he’s been seeking in helping the helpers.

Derek’s is only one story from the thousands of volunteers who served this year. Each seized the moment to serve their neighbors with the opportunities in front of them—and as a result, each has a unique story to tell. ■

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

For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • info@EndHunger.org • EndHunger.org
EndHunger.org/signup

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