Today in your community, some families do not know where their next meal will come from. Parents skip dinner so their children do not go to bed hungry. Children have trouble concentrating at school because of the rumble in their stomachs. Over 40 million people in the US struggle with food security each year.

Meanwhile, a farmer has three cartons of heirloom tomatoes left over after a long day at the weekly farmers’ market. She knows they are beautiful and ripe today, but they won’t be edible if she saves them to sell next week. Should she compost them or feed them to her animals so they don’t go to waste? More than one-third of the produce grown in the US is lost as waste.

Because of you, those worried families have food on their tables, and that hardworking farmer doesn’t have to dispose of edible produce! Society of St. Andrew volunteers pick produce from the field or farmers’ market, pack it up, drive it to distribution sites, and give away nutritious food daily.

Every dollar of your support goes toward connecting the dots between the abundance of food in this country and the scarcity experienced by our neighbors in need.

By reclaiming surplus crops and getting produce to those in need, gleaning not only provides sustenance but also pushes back against climate change. Preventing food waste conserves natural resources and keeps food out of landfills. Less food waste in landfills leads to fewer greenhouse gas emissions. What an easy way to help our planet!

Thank you for calling The Society of St. Andrew when you hear about a local university research station that does not know what to do with fresh eggs they can’t sell. Thank you for calling when you have a bumper apple crop harvest and want someone to pick up the excess fruit. Thank you for calling when you have a free Saturday and want to spend it outdoors gleaning sweet potatoes.

These problems are only solved through you. Let’s create a better world by working together to solve big problems!

Caroline and Cecelie glean a farmers’ market in Tennessee to rescue unsold produce so that local food pantries have fresh food to distribute to their clients. Above: Wilson is a farmer in South Carolina who is passionate about getting produce to people who need it most.
Fish, Deer, Yogurt, and Nuts... Oh My!

For forty years, we’ve talked to you about fruits and vegetables that, without intervention, would go to waste, left to rot in fields or landfills. Fruits and vegetables have been and will continue to be The Society of St. Andrew’s primary gleaning and food rescue items.

But sometimes at very little cost to The Society of St. Andrew, it’s possible to source protein, dairy, eggs, and nuts. When those opportunities come along, SoSA staffers are at their most creative, finding ways to turn those unusual opportunities into much-needed, highly nutritious food for hungry families nearby. In this newsletter, you’ll hear about an egg partnership with a university research station and a fishing tournament in the Chesapeake Bay.

With amazing frequency, opportunities present themselves for SoSA to acquire and distribute yogurt and milk from processors with production overruns. Likewise, commercially processed deer and game offerings are great protein sources, and nuts—from peanuts to walnuts to pecans—provide protein and fats good for brain health.

Every one of these opportunities comes to SoSA from someone who thinks a little bit outside the box, someone who can’t look at a problem without also seeking a solution—someone who’s willing to send SoSA an email or pick up the phone saying, “You know, this might be crazy, but what if...”

Friends, thank you for your quick thinking and your willingness to ask “what if”. The connections you make and the threads you weave, turn into food for our hungry neighbors every single day. We’re so grateful that you look for opportunities that match SoSA’s mission and reach out to share them with us—together, we are making a difference!
Cracking the Code of Egg Gleaning

Getting nutritious food to those who need it most is central to The Society of St. Andrew’s mission. It is built right into the mission statement: “build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.” But nutritious food doesn’t just mean fruits and vegetables. SoSA’s Gleaning Network also shares meat and other protein sources, like eggs!

For the last several years, a university research farm in North Carolina has generously donated eggs in bulk containers—that hold 36 dozen eggs. One volunteer will pick up the bulk boxes in a box truck from a local feeding agency, while other volunteers come together quickly to transport, process, and repackage the eggs into more manageable, family-sized portions for agencies to distribute. Drivers then deliver the boxes to multiple feeding agencies, so each one gets exactly what they can give away. Each volunteer role is crucial in quickly getting such large quantities of eggs to families in need!

Those dollars put nutrient-rich eggs on the tables of otherwise food-insecure families, adding protein to their diets.

Donors also step up, offering solutions to the bulk egg dilemma. Financial donations cover packaging costs for the family-sized containers. Those dollars put nutrient-rich eggs on the tables of otherwise food-insecure families, adding protein to their diets.

North Carolina isn’t the only place where teams of volunteers help rescue eggs. Frequently available throughout SoSA’s Gleaning Network, farm-fresh eggs reach hungry families in communities like yours. The generosity of SoSA’s partners, volunteers, and donors brings people together to take care of their neighbor’s needs every day.

Volunteers pick up eggs in various vehicles, drive safely to avoid damage, and deliver them to local food pantries, where they are given to neighbors in need! Every part of the process is carefully planned so no eggs go to waste.
Salisbury University annually holds a fishing tournament in Maryland. Fishers catch blue catfish and northern snakeheads in the Nanticoke River to thin the population and study the caught fish. Both species are considered invasive in the Chesapeake Bay, threatening the local ecosystem and other wildlife, like the famous Maryland blue crabs. The university only needs to study the caught fish. What happens to the fish next is a remarkable story that brings a community together, while solving two seemingly unrelated problems!

Clever and creative Society of St. Andrew volunteers had an idea! What if the Haitian community could take the fish caught from the tournament? It didn’t seem right to throw the fish away, and the community needed more options for quality protein. Multiple problems could be solved with one solution!

Volunteers at the fishing tournament served multiple unusual roles! One team caught nearly 1,000 pounds of fish. They brought those fish to a team of students and professors, who took the measurements that the university needed to study the blue catfish and northern snakehead populations. The next team loaded the fish into coolers filled with ice. Still more volunteers loaded the coolers into vehicles to take the fish to distribution sites.

For a number of years, another area of concern has had the attention of social service leaders. Several agencies and churches serving the regional Haitian community were seeking more food for the Haitian refugee and immigrant families. These residents, primarily from rural backgrounds, arrived on the shore seeking new jobs and opportunities. The expense of quality meat and produce has made those commodities difficult for residents living on the margins to access.

Two churches distributed the fish specifically to their congregants who needed them the most! St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Salisbury, MD gave out the fish right away. Anglers caught the fish on a Saturday morning; by Saturday evening, the coolers were waiting outside the church when mass let out. As Haitian congregants exited the service, they could pick up fresh fish to eat for dinner that same night!

Word of Life Family Worship in Salisbury stored the fish through the weekend and distributed it all on Monday. When they began drive-through distribution, cars lined the block to pick up fish. Neighbors were so excited to get fresh fish that they lined up early Monday morning! One recipient was particularly thrilled because “it’s a nice change from chicken” which is what is typically distributed if any meat is available.

Anytime food is rescued instead of becoming waste, there are positive environmental impacts. The resources that go into producing the food are not wasted. Less methane is released into the atmosphere. But, in the case of the fishing tournament, fewer harmful fish will damage the Chesapeake’s ecosystem. Plus hungry families get fresh fish to eat—a real treat since the cost of fresh fish in grocery stores can be high. This fishing tournament is a huge win for the whole community!
Volunteers from Salisbury University and SoSA Delmarva Gleaning Network join together to catch and prepare fish for transport.

Because of the hard work of volunteers, a community of Haitian immigrants got to eat nearly 1,000 pounds of freshly caught fish. Families got highly nutritious protein to eat instead of wondering where their next meal might come from.

Volunteers like you help solve these problems daily, finding the connection between seemingly unrelated problems like too many fish from a fishing tournament and a community in need nearby! One volunteer who helped with distribution said, “We must be the link, the friend.” She’s right! May we all be the link to a more equitable world.

Anglers caught so many fish on tournament day that Jean Siers (Delmarva Regional Director, pictured above) kept sending more and more volunteers to get ice! Everyone came together to make sure the fish arrived quickly and safely in the hands of people in need. It takes volunteers who are willing to do a lot of unusual jobs to make a glean like this happen.
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
- Donnie Baker
- Mrs Nancy Clem
- Bud Curtis
- Ed Foster
- Mike Gaillier
- Phoebe & Rae Harcum
- Gary Hill
- Jean C. Holland
- Tricia Jones
- Lenny Knoblock
- Jean Makoujy
- Irre Mays
- Aubery Moses
- Rev Hugh Nichols
- Clark Patterson
- Jo Shearer
- Miriam Taber
- Rev Dr Gene Thomas
- Jackie Wooten Usey

In Honor Of
- Betty Allen
- Benn’s UMC VBS volunteers
- Rev G.C. & Linda Branton
- Lewis Gardner
- Matthew Hassmer
- Lesley Huffaker
- Cathy Hughes
- Hasbrouck Hughes
- Don Jones
- Jay Kelly
- Carol Lee
- Chris & Ashley Maxwell
- Anniversary
- James & Ginny Maxwell
- Anniversary
- Elaine McDorman
- Susan Miller
- My Father
- Butch Nottingham
- Sarah Ramey
- St Andrews Club

#GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Endhunger.org/givingtuesday

#GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in unity—let’s rally to build caring communities by offering nourishing food to hungry neighbors. Give to SoSA on Nov. 28th!
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________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. 1 to ensure delivery
before Christmas. We will make every attempt to expedite
late orders.

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

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS
that donated $1,000+ in the 3rd quarter of 2023

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 pro-
vided fresh food to local families, at no cost to them.

Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond
Richmond, VA
Crosdaile Village Residents Association Durham, NC
Davison Bruce Foundation Opelika, AL
Entergy Baton Rouge, LA
Fidelity Charitable Gifts Cincinnati, OH
Florida Blue Foundation Jacksonville, FL
FLW Management LLC Raleigh, NC
Give Lively Foundation New York, NY
Hill Crest Foundation Inc Birmingham, AL
Honda Foundation Torrance, CA
Humana Inc Lexington, KY
Jackson Leadership Foundation Jackson, MS
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA
Navicent Health Foundation Macon, GA
Schwab Charitable San Francisco, CA
Selby & Richard McRae Foundation Jackson, MS
Shibe Vintage Sports Philadelphia, PA
TC Energy-TransCanada USA Services, Inc Houston, TX
The American Online Giving Foundation Newark, DE
The Memorial Foundation Hendersonville, TN
Titmus Foundation Sutherland, VA
US Bank Minneapolis, MN
Vanguard Charitable Warwick, RI

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

EndHunger.org/acc
Volunteer Spotlight

Thinking Outside the Pew: Unique Acts of Service

While most volunteers come to The Society of St. Andrew through field gleaning, church members at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS support all of SoSA’s programs, using their time, talents, funds, and even their space—hosting SoSA’s Mississippi office in their church building! When SoSA moved in 3 years ago, a deeper partnership began.

Briarwood members find inventive ways to use their many gifts and talents to support gleaning without breaking a sweat in the field!

Through their monthly “Mary/Martha Day,” Briarwood women undertake community projects that will impact the Jackson area. One of those projects is to prepare mesh bags for Mississippi gleaners. About 15 Briarwood women prepare bags twice a year on-site at their church, making enough bags each year to hold nearly 16,000 pounds of produce! It’s a simple, inclusive project that allows women of varying ages and abilities to participate together. Volunteers return the bags to SoSA staff down the hall until they are needed for a sweet potato gleaning.

This summer, SoSA held a Harvest of Hope service-learning retreat in the Jackson area. Campers spent their days gleaning blueberries in the hot summer sun and their evenings learning about hunger and food insecurity. The Briarwood congregation pitched in to prepare and share an evening meal with the mission work campers.

Briarwood has hosted SoSA’s Simple Suppers for members and the community as well, and a quilting group within the church has made tote bags for the Mississippi SoSA staff to sell at tabling events as a fundraiser.

Many congregants cannot glean fields with SoSA, but Briarwood continues to find creative ways to support the Society of St. Andrew’s mission!

There are many ways for folks of every age to volunteer even if field gleaning is not an option. Without bag-makers, Harvest of Hope chefs, thank-you note writers, pickup truck drivers, bloggers, AND gleaners, none of SoSA’s work would be possible and many more families would go hungry.

A lot of gleaned produce needs to be bagged in 10-pound mesh bags. The most cost-effective way to get those bags is to order a large roll of mesh that has to be cut into 34-inch sections and then tied at one end to create a pouch.

Briarwood Presbyterian Church members graciously volunteer their time throughout the year. Here, they are distributing bottled water with SoSA during a recent potable water shortage.