Did you know that only one in ten Americans consumes an adequate amount of fruits and vegetables? If that’s the case for the entire population, how difficult is it to consume enough nutritious produce if you can barely afford food? Millions of our neighbors struggle to feed their families daily, and very few of our food-insecure neighbors have access to the fruits and vegetables they need to stay healthy and well.

You might hear the term “food insecure” a lot. Food insecurity could mean reducing the size of meals to stretch food further. It could mean someone in the house skips food for a whole day because there isn’t enough money in the budget for food. Food insecurity might also mean living on one type of cheap food instead of buying fresh produce at the grocery store because produce is more expensive than highly processed foods.

For families facing food insecurity, having access to fresh fruits and vegetables is a luxury instead of a daily occurrence.

Fresh produce is rich in essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals for healthy living. These nutrients promote healthy growth and development for children and can prevent chronic diseases for many adults. For families facing food insecurity, having access to fresh fruits and vegetables is a luxury instead of a daily occurrence.

Farm2Clinic (farm2clinic.com), a SoSA partner in North Carolina, provides fresh, donated, local NC produce to low-income, uninsured patients with type 2 diabetes. After giving these patients five pounds of SoSA-provided produce weekly for 24 weeks, along with individualized support, East Carolina University researchers found a measurable decrease in patients’ A1C numbers. That’s a significant step toward better regulation of their chronic condition!

Even better news is that every bit of produce rescued by SoSA volunteers goes to feeding agencies that do work like this: they give fresh fruit and vegetables to our most vulnerable neighbors. Your support through volunteering or donating puts nutritious food on the tables of families who need it most.

But our work is not done. About 49 million people need food assistance from food pantries each year. With your help, SoSA will be able to rescue even more produce this year so that those people in need have a chance to receive fresh, nutritious, local produce on their tables.
In late April, Harvard students with their school’s Center for Business and the Environment interviewed me to find out what makes the Society of St. Andrew tick. We talked about keeping fresh produce out of landfills and about addressing hunger by ensuring that good food quickly reaches the tables of people nearby in greatest need. For about twenty minutes it seemed as though my responses were exactly what the interviewers expected. But then they asked, “Tell us about your fee structure. What do you charge for the food you share, what kind of shared maintenance fees are there? Do agencies receiving food from you pay membership fees?”

They seemed incredulous when I replied that we never charge agencies anything. We supply the fruits and vegetables (and eggs and dairy and protein) that we rescue free of charge, just as we have for the last 40+ years. From our perspective, it’s just the right thing to do. When agencies don’t have to pay for the food they’ll share with their clients, it frees their budgets to do even more of the good work they are about in their local community. They may be able to add a shelter bed or install a client laundry facility. They might be able to put tires on the agency vans, or start a re-skilling program. (In fact, if you check out the Society of St. Andrew’s IRS 990 filing, you’ll see a list of agencies that received food through SoSA in 2023. It’s a long list.)

My interviewers then asked, “How does that work? How can you do that? If you give all the food away, how can you keep your doors open?”

That was my very favorite question. We can distribute healthy food at no cost to recipient agencies or individuals because of you! Farmers who share their excess and unmarketable crops, volunteers who go out into fields and glean, and donors who give so generously of their financial resources every single day make it possible.

You are the driving force behind this work that we are blessed to do. Thank you for sharing this passion to ensure that everyone in this country has enough food and healthy food to eat. Because of you, there is food on the table!
Wilson Oxner is only a junior in high school, but he's already making a difference in Leesville, SC. In 2020, when pandemic lockdowns began, Wilson got bored. He needed an active and safe way to spend his time so he borrowed some of his family's farming equipment and got to planting. And his Big Moon Farm was born. Wilson's garden has grown larger every year since! He started selling produce using a community-supported agriculture model (CSA) by assembling baskets of assorted vegetables and sharing them with neighbors from his farm stand.

Wilson often grows more than his neighbors need, though! Kristina Pickens, SoSA's Midland SC Area Gleaning Coordinator, contacted Wilson offering to glean the field after harvest, and Wilson was thrilled to share even more food! He said gleaners save the farmer so much time; he can leave what he can't sell because he knows SoSA volunteers will pick what is left. Wilson is particularly grateful to share beans because they grow all season long, and he finds them tedious to pick. He's started planting a row of veggies specifically for gleaners to harvest!

Wilson finds it challenging to balance school, extracurricular activities, and farming. Farming and sharing produce taught him about interpersonal relationships and time management. He had to learn how to stagger planting crops so that different vegetables would be ready throughout the summer and fall instead of all the produce coming in at once! The diversity of produce is a gift because it means gleaners will pick a wide range of vegetables at once. Hungry families in South Carolina will get an assortment of farm-fresh produce all summer and fall.

Even though Wilson finds farming very peaceful, rejuvenating, and rewarding, he does not plan to pursue agriculture as a career. He doesn’t know exactly what he wants to do, but he knows it will be service-oriented—something that helps people in need. Wilson found a way to serve his community by sharing produce and will continue to find new ways to meet the needs of his neighbors.

Caption: Wilson Oxner, 17, of Big Moon Farm grows beans, beets, bok choi, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, collards (especially for New Year’s Day), corn, cucumber, okra, onions, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini.
Lloyd Robinson attended his first Harvest of Hope event in 1996. He and his girlfriend, Sherri, assembled a group of fellow college students from their campus ministry groups and drove to Keelzetown, VA, for a weeklong camp for college-aged students. Lloyd did not know what to expect, but he knew The Society of St. Andrew gleaned produce and gave away a lot of potatoes. He and Sherri returned to Harvest of Hope camps for the next three years. Then they got married and have returned to Harvest of Hope ever since, even bringing their kids to serve with them!

Harvest of Hope is SoSA's faith-based, experiential service and learning opportunity. Service learning—the Harvest of Hope way—combines hands-on experience and classroom education to explore causes, effects, and solutions to the twin issues of hunger and food waste. Participants glean fields, distribute produce to local feeding agencies, and learn social justice concepts like equitable food access and the daily experience of many families struggling to get by. They also learn about the many benefits of preventing waste and using food for its highest purpose.

This combination of learning, doing, and reflecting provides a 360° perspective on the twin problems of food waste and hunger. Most participants' key memories involve a firsthand experience that opened their eyes to the breadth of the issues, the struggle that exists in their own neighborhoods, and the abundance of solutions all around.

One particular hunger awareness exercise made an impact on Lloyd years ago, and he's never forgotten it. The HoH director broke up the students into family units. Some families were four people, some were larger or smaller, and some were single. Each family got an envelope with the exact amount of money inside that their family would have received for SNAP benefits for one meal. (SNAP is Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, government benefits specifically for food.) Lloyd’s “family” was four people. They took their envelope to the grocery store and had to use the cash to buy their dinner that night! The average amount of SNAP assistance provided per person per meal is around $2 per meal. Lloyd’s pretend family of four had $8 to spend on dinner that night. They bought frozen broccoli, a can of tuna, a cheap starch, but not butter, oil, or spices. Luckily, the camp kitchen provided a supplemental “soup kitchen” so everyone had enough to eat.

Lloyd and his children are pictured here (right). Since first attending Harvest of Hope in 1996, he and his wife Sherri continue to make service a lifestyle rather than a once-a-year event. Harvest of Hope participants are encouraged to take what they experience back home with them so they might impact their families, communities, and churches.
Back Home

Lloyd’s eyes were opened at Harvest of Hope, and he began gleaning with SoSA throughout the year whenever he could. He once helped with a sweet potato distribution. Gleaners filled the bed of his truck with bagged sweet potatoes, and Lloyd started to drive to a food pantry. On the way, stopped at an intersection, he saw someone with a sign asking for help. Lloyd had no cash to give the person in need, but he had sweet potatoes! He knew it was an odd offer but approached the person anyway. The hungry neighbor was thrilled and yelled to a nearby friend that they had dinner to eat that night! They had a place to heat food on a fire and could bake the fresh produce. They told Lloyd it was the best thing they’d gotten all day.

Lloyd knew from HoH that the struggle exists in his own neighborhood, but there are some simple solutions to the problems of hunger and food waste, too! He keeps returning to Harvest of Hope because “the need persists, but this is a problem I can help be part of a solution for.”

EndHunger.org/hoh

Harvest of Hope

Hands-On Service/Study Events

YOU’RE INVITED TO ATTEND AN UPCOMING HARVEST OF HOPE MISSION TRIP

Join us for an intergenerational weekend this fall!

September 6-8 Hendersonville, NC

September 27-29 Lynchburg, VA

October 4-6 Keezletown, VA

November 1-3 Efland, NC

The Society of St. Andrew’s ecumenical study, worship, and mission retreat program is designed to educate participants concerning the domestic and global hunger problem and encourage them to commit to being part of the solution. To see the full trip schedule and what you can expect at HoH, visit the website below.

EndHunger.org/hoh
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**
- Robert T Bennett
- Mike Cherry
- Fr. Seraphim Cardoza
- Bud Curtis
- Fran Fachko
- Mike Gallier
- R. Sam Gentz
- Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Inge
- Jean Makoujy
- Darwin and Edna McAfee
- Darwin L. McAfee
- Roy Nelson
- Larry Powell
- Joseph Rey
- Jerry Sayles
- Ellen Parsley Smith
- Tom Tiemann
- My kind and loving husband, Warren D. Tudor
- D’Arcy Tyrrell
- Todd Tyrrell
- D’Arcy Tyrrell, II

**In Honor Of**
- Robert Woodfin
- Robert H. Woodfin Sr
- Otis Wright Sr.
- Dawn Barnes
- Nancy Brandt
- John Dalena
- Lynda Ferguson
- Lewis Gardner
- Barbara Gurtler
- Louanne Hill
- Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes
- John
- Debbie Jones
- Bentley & Dale Martin
- Dr. David B. Maxwell
- Lucinda Neff
- Merwyn Nelson
- Roxy’s Birthday
- Pat and Sheri Sherman
- Mark Speake
- Chesley Vohden
THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated $1,000+ in the 1st quarter of 2024

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.

The American Online Giving Foundation............................................Newark, DE
Blue River Community Foundation, Inc...........................................Shelbyville, IN
Canfield Memorial Trust....................................................................Indianapolis, IN
Davison Bruce Foundation ...............................................................Opelika, AL
Durham Congregations In Action ......................................................Durham, NC
Fidelity Charitable Gifts....................................................................Cincinnati, OH
Honda Foundation............................................................................Torrance, CA
James M. Frye Endowment Fund II of Community Foundation for a greater Richmond .................................................................Richmond, VA
James M. Frye Endowment Fund III of Community Foundation for a greater Richmond .................................................................Richmond, VA
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation .......................................Oakton, VA
The Kroger Co. ................................................................................Cincinnati, OH
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory .......................................Livermore, CA
Madison Drugs RX ..........................................................................Huntsville, AL
The Oak Hill Fund ...........................................................................Charlottesville, VA
Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 .........................................................Ocean City, MD
Paypal Giving Fund .........................................................................Washington, DC
Schwab Charitable ...........................................................................San Francisco, CA
Vanguard Charitable ........................................................................Warwick, RI
The Wawa Foundation ......................................................................Media, PA

Share Our Surplus

TURN YOUR GARDEN INTO HOMEGROWN FOOD FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

Do you find you grow more produce in your garden than you can eat? Is the fruit on your trees ripening and falling before you can even collect it all?

Give us a call! SoSA gathers surplus fruits and vegetables from home gardens and orchards too. This reduces food waste, helps growers keep a clean yard, and feeds hungry members of our community.

Take action now–reach out to learn how it works!

EndHunger.org/sos
Volunteer Spotlight

Gleaning is for Everyone

Megan Dodd found The Society of St. Andrew through a web search. She wanted to find a way to show her kids the meaning of giving and volunteering in a hands-on way, but she needed help finding something truly family-friendly that gave her kids something active and engaging to do. Then, she found SoSA and thought, “This is perfect!” Her kids need something interactive and meaningful, but they are young. They also need activities with movement and flexibility. Gleaning sounded like it fit the bill, so she brought her family to glean near Indianapolis.

Gleaning apples is a favorite for Megan and her daughter, Maggie. They both love the idea that “you can actually see what you are doing!” When you glean and watch bags of apples pile up, you see the impact you are making. It’s easy to see the progress you make throughout the morning, and at the end, you get to deliver the produce to a local food pantry in your area and see the results of your work.

Having the opportunity to deliver produce to a local pantry was an important experience for Megan and Maggie. Hunger becomes a more local and personal issue when you see the food pantry serving families living in your neighborhood or community. Volunteering with SoSA allowed Megan to show her kids how to serve others and share abundance locally.

Above all, Megan keeps gleaning with The Society of St. Andrew because of the people she meets. She loves bringing Maggie to glean because reducing food waste and preventing hunger makes so much sense. But she also loves that it’s a “come as you are and as you can” service opportunity. The fields SoSA gleans are filled with welcoming faces who are so thankful you showed up. Whether you glean once a year or once a week, whether you are 2 or 102, whether you have an hour or a day, we are glad to see you and grateful for your service!

Megan and Maggie love to glean because they can come as they are and when they can! Gleaning is a great activity for kids and adults of all ages. Everyone is welcome here!

A 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.

Learn More: 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 • info@endhunger.org • EndHunger.org
EndHunger.org/signup

© 1983-2024, THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED