We Accomplish So Much When We Lend Our Strengths to Work Together

The Southeast Produce Council (SEPC) brings together produce industry professionals to collaborate and learn from each other. Every year, the SEPC hosts expos, so the members can network and learn new ideas and practices around all aspects of growing, distributing, and selling fruits and vegetables. At the expo trade shows, growers and distributors bring their “cream of the crop” fruits and vegetables to showcase their products and expertise. The growers don’t haul their produce back with them at the end of the show, which means that there is a great deal of good food just left behind, destined for the dumpster at the convention center. The leaders at the SEPC couldn’t bear to see this food wasted. They reached out to the nearest Society of St. Andrew office for assistance in handling this wonderful surplus. Of course you know how excited SoSA folks are to get a call saying good food is available—they come running!

In addition to “gleaning” after their expos, members of the SEPC send semi-trucks full of food to the Rockin’ Appalachian Mom Project (RAMP) each year to serve families in rural communities in Kentucky. Several SEPC farmers donate the food and SEPC truckers help deliver it. As this project has grown, coordination has become more difficult. This kind of coordination, however, is exactly what SoSA does on a regular basis and SoSA eagerly stepped in to lend its support with the logistics of this event.

Through teamwork and over time, the SEPC and SoSA have grown from partners to something like a family. Members of both organizations have grown into a powerful community of friends dedicated to ensuring healthy food is shared rather than wasted. This community also shares in the ultimate goal of not only feeding hungry families, but empowering entire communities.

Because of this partnership, so much has happened; Hundreds of thousands of pounds of fresh food have been delivered into Appalachian communities. The “best and brightest” fruits and vegetables are shared with dozens of urban agencies surrounding the food expos. Fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered to areas of Florida devastated by hurricanes in 2018. Many thousands of dollars have been granted by the SEPC in support of gleaning activities, as well.

The offering of unique gifts and resources by each organization is only more enriching for all involved, as generosity and hospitality show continued on back cover
January - September 2019 Totals
Fresh food saved and
donated to feed hungry people

Produce Gleaned........................15,142,131 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided........45,426,393
Events ........................................4,313
Volunteers ....................................15,640
Farms/Providers ..............................742
Distributing Agencies ..................1,516

Total Historical Pounds 866 Million
Total Historical Servings 2.59 Billion

Recent Donations

In Memory Of
Joyce K Bennett
Carl A. Breitinger
Bud the Spud Curtis
Cecil E. Daniels, Jr.
Edwin H. Daniels, Sr.
Nosakhare Ekuwe
H. Timothy Ewing
Nancy Floyd
Dr. & Mrs. William Carroll
Freeman
Bill Fox
Dave Gilmore
Thelma Green
Bobby Hunter
Pat Inge
Jack Jernigan
Harry Jones
Evine King
Joe King
Bill Leaver
Jean Makoujy
Kelly McMillen
Dorothy Norfleet
Lillian Reeves
William Schminkey
Mary Serbousek
Ferne Shreffler
Bonnie L Sutherland
Warren Tuder

In Honor Of
Mary and Charlie Allen
Dawn Barnes
Rhonda VanDyke Colby
Concord UMC Community Garden
Andrea Cruz-Solano
Rev Harriet Bryan and Mr
Dewain Harris
Cross Roads Food Pantry, Inc.
Joseph & Theresa Damon
Firestone Park Christian Church
First UMC-Hueytown
Virginia Fowler
Victor & Heather Gomez
Bob & Virginia Gunn
Chip & Taylor Hanks
Mollie Landers Hatt
Nancy & Larry Hedden
Todd Higginson
Lesley Huffaker
Jean Siers, the Best Supervisor
A Team Can Be Led By!
Jesus Christ
John and Betsy
Lighthouse Point UMC
Lynette Johnson
Dr. Elton Aaron King
Andy Lemmon
Wade Mays
Patricia Meadows
Roy & Louise Miller
Mission & Outreach Committee
Members and Wash Clothes
Rev Bill Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Putnam Jr.
Todd Richards
School Composting Nashville
Rev. Dr. Brian Sixbey
Jim Smith
Ellen Smith
Kam & Bethany Stabler
Jasmine Tomasetti
Won & Diana Un
Ann Vest
Ann Waller
Janet French Webb
Westover Hills United
Methodist Church

Executive Director’s Report

By Bill Leach, Program Director

You and I Have Something In Common

I started with SoSA in 2013 after working 27 years in the
Pharmaceutical Industry. I grew up in Virginia Beach, VA and
graduated college with a BS in chemistry in 1985.

So, how does a city boy, who has never been on a farm, never
been on a mission trip or know much
about hunger issues, end up in rural
Virginia?

Maybe like you, I always knew I wanted
to help others. I always had a desire to
give back. I wanted to spend more time
with my family and the youth at church.
I told myself, “as soon as my schedule
lightens up and when I am more rested I
will be His hands and feet”. I learned that
when praying and asking for guidance,
blessings and quick changes can appear well in advance of
your own plotted plans for change. Through answered prayers I
found myself working as a SoSA Program Director responsible
for 8 regions, supporting a talented team of individuals with
motivated hearts who provide fresh produce to those with less,
and I couldn’t be more fulfilled.

My experience with SoSA has been awesome. By meeting and
working with farmers, speaking at events, working with youth
groups and volunteers, getting my hands dirty while gleaning,
and working with incredibly dedicated people, I’ve learned we
all share the same passion as we help our neighbors in need.
And that the opportunity to be in community with each other, to
put the needs of others before our own is there.

These shared beliefs are about loving our neighbors, being true
to our resources by not wasting, and the joy of working together.
These are fundamental to every one of us. They are not rocket
science. They are simple and basic, and this is what SoSA
does best.

Activities like gleaning, cutting bags, making phone calls,
funding through multiple programs (Vacation Bible School,
Advent and Lent devotionals), and donating dollars to keep
food moving are a few examples of ways to get involved. The
time it takes to get involved is far less that you would expect,
and it is so easy. Check out our website and see what interests
you, or call one of our local offices. We would be excited to
hear from you.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you. Your interest and support
for SoSA is wonderful, but greater is you willingness to help and
support others.
Bill stood up and made an announcement for two minutes each Sunday for three weeks. This effort led his church to raise enough money to share more than 50,000 servings of food with families in need. His lesson from this experience: “It’s easier than you think.”

Bill Chaffin attends a church just outside of Richmond, VA and loves to be involved in projects serving his community. He says that it’s a special reward when he gets to see the faces of people he’s served and know their lives are impacted for the better. He appreciates getting to spend time with the people in his community, even if it’s doing manual labor.

When Bill discovered the “Adopt a Bushel” program, he was intrigued. He had a passion for the mission to end hunger and “Adopt a Bushel” was so simple he knew it would be an easy way to further serve his community.

He enlisted help from the “Service to Others” group at his church. He knew they would be interested in a project that could make such a large impact for families in need and they would know the best ways to put this plan into action.

Each Sunday morning for three weeks, Bill spoke during the announcements time. He briefly explained that hunger was an issue in their community and that he was seeking support for the Society of St. Andrew to help alleviate hunger. He briefly explained how “Adopt A Bushel” works and invited anyone interested to see him after the service. To help spread the word, announcements were added to the church bulletins and newsletter for those three weeks.

The truth is: “Adopt A Bushel” is truly that easy! Each plastic piece of produce has a dollar amount written on it, so folks can choose a piece of produce based on how much they would like to donate. Each piece of produce comes with its own info sheet explaining exactly how much their donation does in the mission to end hunger.

According to Bill, it doesn’t get much simpler than “Adopt A Bushel.” He also attributes their success to the mindset of his church: “They’re the kind of people who see a need around them and are willing to help out.”

Bill Chaffin (left) attends St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, near Richmond, VA.
The fields are full, help bring in the harvest. Share the gift of good food with families in need. Make a donation on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3rd! Gifts will be matched to a total of $21,000. This is your last chance to double your impact in 2019.

“All good gifts around us are sent from heav’n above; ...oh, thank the Lord, for all His love.”

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

Alabama A&M University Foundation, Inc. .......... Normal, AL
Amaturo Foundation .......................... Fort Lauderdale, FL
Atmos Energy Corporation .......................... Dallas, TX
Croasdaile Village Residents Association .......... Durham, NC
Davison Bruce Foundation ........................ Nashville, TN
Fidelity Charitable Gifts .............................. Cincinnati, OH
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, Inc. .......... Raleigh, NC
Forrest General Hospital ............................. Hattiesburg, MS
George J. & Effie L. Seay Foundation ................. Dallas, TX
M.F. Moorman Family Foundation ..................... Thaxton, VA
Publix Super Markets Charities ..................... Lakeland, FL
Selby & Richard McRae Foundation .................. Jackson, MS
Shows, Pearman & Waits, Inc. ....................... Hattiesburg, MS
State of Tennessee ...................................... Nashville, TN
T&T Family Foundation .............................. Nashville, TN
TD Ameritrade ............................................. Omaha, NE
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Nashville, TN
The Meera and Ashok Vasudevan Foundation ............ Stamford, CT
The New York Community Trust .................... New York, NY
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC ................. Saint Louis, MO
Wrenegad Sports Foundation ......................... Burlington, VT
Your Cause ................................................. Plano, TX

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