

Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



Share Our Surplus is a great way to:

- encourage healthier eating in your congregation
- address the issues of food waste and hunger in your community
- support the work of the Society of St. Andrew

Here's how it works:

1. Present the program to your congregation's Board or Session and seek their permission to implement it in your congregation.
2. Invite backyard gardeners in your congregation to bring their surplus produce to share each Sunday/Sabbath throughout the summer months.
3. Set up a table in your narthex, vestibule, or fellowship hall where surplus produce may be shared. The table should be set up at least 15 minutes before activities begin and remain in place at least 15 minutes after activities end. It is helpful to staff the table with a missions volunteer during high-traffic times.
4. Place jars or baskets on the table with the produce, for love offerings. Make available grocery sacks for those taking produce.
5. Invite members of your congregation to take produce for their use. Encourage them to take only a quantity that they can reasonably consume within a few days. Ask those who take produce to leave a love offering in the jar or basket. The love offering should reflect either what they think represents a fair price for the produce they've taken or what they can afford to give.
6. At morning's end, have a volunteer gather any remaining produce and take it directly to a designated recipient agency for their use in feeding the hungry. Make a list of what is taken, and in what quantities on the form provided. Please send the lists to the Society of St. Andrew on a monthly basis, so we can measure the impact of your program. (For help in locating an agency able to receive donated produce, contact your local SoSA Regional Office.)
7. Count the day's love offerings and turn the monies into your congregation's treasurer. At month's or season's end, ask your treasurer to send a check to the Society of St. Andrew for the total amount of the love offerings collected.
8. It is appropriate and meaningful each week to take a basket of the produce into the sanctuary to dedicate on the altar or communion table with the offerings, recognizing it as a gift from God and consecrating it for feeding God's children.