



# Society of St. Andrew

CLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

## Alabama Gleaning Network

Elizabeth Wix, Regional Director

205-245-3215

[alabama@endhunger.org](mailto:alabama@endhunger.org)

Adrienne Standridge, Program Coordinator

205-245-3214

[al-glean@endhunger.org](mailto:al-glean@endhunger.org)

## 2020 End of Year Report



In 2020, 19 foundations, 48 churches, and 120 individuals provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew - Alabama Gleaning Network to assist in its produce rescue and distribution program which puts fresh fruits and vegetables (at risk of going to waste) on the tables of our hungry neighbors across Alabama. The Alabama Gleaning Network wants to share the news of our record breaking year with you!

Each year, the Society of St. Andrew makes vital connections between farmers with excess or unmarketable produce, the volunteers who harvest and transport the produce, and nonprofit hunger-relief agencies who receive and distribute the food to those in need.

**SoSA National Programs:** According to the EPA, each year in the United States we waste more than 206 billion pounds of perfectly good food. That's more than enough to feed all of our hungry residents. Through its Gleaning Network and the Potato & Produce Project, the Society of

St. Andrew was able to save and distribute over 42 million pounds of excess fresh produce throughout the country in 2020.

### Alabama Challenges & Accomplishments:

In our 16<sup>th</sup> year of operation in Alabama, Society of St. Andrew—Alabama Gleaning Network went through some personnel changes. Ms. Jesse Hoyer, formerly the Alabama Regional Director, took a role with another mission, so we then welcomed to the team former Community Food Bank of Central Alabama Director of Partnerships, Elizabeth Wix, as the new Alabama Regional Director in the fall. The Alabama Gleaning Network had a tremendous year, increasing produce recovery and distribution across the state and participating in the USDA's Farmers to Families



Program by distributing over 1.4 million pounds in pre-packed food boxes to families struggling to make ends meet in this challenging year in addition to gleaning.

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The Alabama farmers and growers are extremely generous. They love their land and their work; they hate to see good food go to waste, and they are willing to reach out and help others in need. The good, nutritious fruits and vegetables they shared reached the plates of hungry people who were at risk of diet-related disease, offering both immediate and long-term health benefits.

Since the Alabama Gleaning Network began its work in 2005, over 22.9 million pounds of food have been saved and distributed across the state, providing 68.7 million servings of nutrition to low-income Alabamians. Over 15,000 volunteers have given countless hours of their time to glean this nutritious food for the hungry. In 2020 alone, over 1,334 volunteers gleaned with us in Alabama, providing over 3,486 hours of service, despite the challenges COVID-19 presented.

<b>Society of St. Andrew—AL Gleaning Network</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Pounds of Food Salvaged or Gleaned	508,581	2,693,115
Servings of Food Distributed	1,525,743	8,079,345
Value of Food Distributed	\$207,988.88	\$2,727,578.15
Farmers / Providers	118	72
Volunteers	1,644	1,334
Agencies Served	136	220

The Alabama Gleaning Network builds community spirit by engaging individuals in different types of local food recovery efforts – field gleaning, farmers’ market gleaning, and pick-ups at packing houses. Gleaning in fields, our volunteers meet local farmers and often experience field-fresh fruits or vegetables for the first time. Taking gleaned produce to local hunger-relief agencies for distribution, they see and address the real human need in their midst. All of this work develops a bond of neighbor helping neighbor.



**Efficiency/Stewardship:** Just as good stewardship of food resources is important to the Society of St. Andrew, so is efficient use of vital financial resources. Through our work we are committed to ensuring that all of our supporters achieve the most good through their funding. Nationally we maintain one of the lowest overhead percentages of any nonprofit organization in the country. This is one of the primary reasons we are so effective—and one of the primary reasons our supporters believe so strongly in what we do. The Society of St. Andrew maintains a program-focused approach, with a clearly defined mission. We work with existing organizations in local areas to see that good food is available for people in need instead of trying to duplicate the efforts that already exist. This keeps us nimble and able to respond favorably during difficult economic times. A yearly



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independent audit of the Society of St. Andrew's finances ensures that money and mission are both in order.

### Impact of Your Giving in 2020:

- **Nearly 2.7 million pounds of food** salvaged, rescued, or gleaned and then distributed
- That's **over 8 million servings** of fresh produce, grains, and dairy on the tables of hungry Alabamians
- **72 Alabama farmers and providers** sharing the bounty of their harvests with neighbors in need at **475 gleaning events**
- Improved nutrition in the diets of low-income families, rendering them better able to face today's challenges and offering the possibility of improved long-term health outcomes
- Healthy food with excellent nutrition provided at no cost to **over 220 community feeding agencies** (food banks, food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, senior and child nutrition programs, emergency food box distributions, Title I schools, etc.) already at work feeding vulnerable residents throughout Alabama
- **Over 1,334 volunteers** spent **over 3,486.5 hours** of their time helping persons in need in their own communities
- Partnership in an effective, successful hunger-relief program making a difference right here in Alabama



Your contribution to the Society of St. Andrew - Alabama Gleaning Network has tremendous impact. Through your support, you have left a broad and meaningful footprint across every part of Alabama, engaging persons of all ages in service to others, reducing food waste,

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and addressing critical human needs. We thank you and look forward to continuing our partnership in the fight to end hunger in Alabama. **THANK YOU!**