



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

2022 Delmarva Impact Summary

The Mission

The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishing food to hungry neighbors.

Thank you for making 2022 a banner year in SoSA's newest network!

SoSA staff put down roots and opened the office doors in June and immediately threw themselves into doing what SoSA does best: Building relationships!

This past year was filled with recruiting volunteers, visiting farms, and building connections with local community leaders and agencies from New Castle County, DE, to Northampton County, VA.

As a result, more than a half million servings of nutritious food were already shared with your neighbors on the shore!



Harvesting & Sharing Healthy Food

Hunger and food insecurity are pervasive in pockets throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. In Somerset County, MD, alone more than 25% of children live in food insecure households. Somerset County also has the highest poverty rate on the Delmarva Peninsula. And just next door, nearly 100,000 people in Delaware also struggle to consistently access fresh food. Meanwhile, one of the most fertile farming regions in the country, providing delicious fresh produce to people across the East Coast, the United States, and around the world, can be found on the Eastern Shore.

This is exactly why SoSA moved into the area—to connect people struggling to get by with the abundance of good food that exists all around.

The season kicked off in July, in broad, sandy potato fields in Virginia and continued going strong through September, as volunteers gleaned gorgeous cherry tomatoes in Somerset County. This good food was able to be delivered to partners, a food bank, and other agencies only miles from the farms.

2022 By the Numbers

Pounds gleaned	Servings distributed	Volunteers	Food providers	Feeding agencies	Donors/Grants
132,012	528,048	51	14	19	135
pounds	servings	volunteers	providers	agencies	financial gifts

EndHunger.org/Delmarva

Bringing People Together

Food IS community! Those three words say so much with so few letters. Few things bring people together like good food and the opportunity to share it with people we love.

When a very small agency in Somerset County agreed to accept a very large load of watermelons — 56 bins of them! — it took an entire community effort to make it happen.

The farmer's donation was far too large for one agency to distribute in a timely manner without waste; so other partners and agencies were brought in to make sure those delicious and nutritious fruits reached as many people as possible as quickly as possible.

As the loading and unloading process took several hours and the sun began to set, members of the community came together to make it a night to celebrate the surge of good food— available for so many families who might otherwise have gone without.



This young lady enjoyed sharing good food with families in her community.

Building Caring Communities

In more ways than one, we started from scratch finding both farms to donate food and agencies to receive it. We were blessed to find enthusiastic, caring people everywhere we looked. We simply asked people to help spread the word. And it spread quickly!

Agencies told us about local growers they knew needed help and some growers even directed us to food pantries they wanted to help support.

At every step of the way, SoSA volunteers filled in the gaps! From raising awareness and making introductions to picking food and delivering it to local agencies.



Just before Thanksgiving, one grower donated 1,800 pounds of winter squash simply because he wanted to help. He knew inflation was causing problems for his neighbors and he also knew he could help put good food on the table.

In one day, SoSA picked up two large pallets of squash and pumpkins, and distributed them to six agencies, in two states.

It's a true testament to the power of a community caring for its own and SoSA was excited to be leading the efforts on the Delmarva Peninsula!

We believe we are called to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. This is reflected in all that we do and demonstrates the power and effectiveness of a true community in addressing critical human problems, particularly hunger.

Beautiful winter squash just in time for Thanksgiving Tables!

Partners & Recipient Agencies

Maryland

BMore Community Food
Delmarva Evangelistic
Church
Faith in Action
Grace Place at St. John's
Episcopal Church
HALO Center of Hope
Maryland Food Bank
(Baltimore)
Maryland Food Bank
(Eastern Shore)
Parkway Church of Good
Renovate Church

Delaware

First State Community
Action Agency
Food Bank of DE :
(Newark Branch)
Harvest Ministries
Love, Inc.
Society of St. Vincent
De Paul
The Shepherd's Office

Virginia

Food Bank of
Southeastern VA and the
Eastern Shore
St. Peter the Apostle
Migrant Ministry

Reducing Food Waste

Did you know that food is the largest single category of waste in landfills?



Did also you know more fruits and vegetables are lost as waste than are eaten in the US?

By partnering with SoSA, you can keep that good food out of landfills and ensure it reaches its highest purpose—feeding hungry people.

Last fall, we received a call that more than 5,000 pounds of honeynut squash had been rejected by a major grocer's warehouse. Simply because it wasn't pretty enough for their visual standards. Quick thinking allowed us to activate a nearby partner who happened to have a truck and driver in the area! By the end of the day, that good food was rescued and on the shelves of a hunger-relief agency in Baltimore, MD. Without intervention, that farm-fresh squash would be have been dumped in a landfill rather than filling plates of families across Baltimore.

The tragedy of losing food as waste, is all of the energy, inputs, and resources that went into planting it, harvesting it, and shipping it are lost too.

Thank you for making it possible to steward all of God's resources wisely, in the mission to rescue good food and use it for its best purpose.



Rather than waste, this squash became a blessing!

We Need Your Help!

Sign up now! Be on the ground floor and help build the SoSA's gleaning network on the Delmarva Peninsula!

There's a place for you! Roles include: Gleaners, drivers, growers, agencies, donors!

Let's talk! We would love to speak to your congregation or group— to talk with you about food waste and hunger issues and how you can be a part of the solution.

Do you have a green thumb or produce to share? We can glean backyard gardens, your fruit or nut trees, as well as fields large and small! If this is you, let's connect to discuss how you help your surplus food feed a neighbor!

And if you are looking for more fresh produce for your agency, we want to help!

Send a message or call us anytime.

Contact Us

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Offering Nourishment to Hungry Neighbors

Although it can be easy to focus on pounds and numbers, your support is about much more than those simple facts. Your support makes a difference in the lives of people every day. It brings fresh food to a family who might not be able to afford a sun-ripened tomato or a bag of fresh apples. Your support matters to the senior whose fixed income doesn't stretch far enough to provide both life-saving medicine and fresh fruit at the end of the month.

Every bit of work you do prevents unnecessary waste and ensures good food meets its intended purpose of feeding people.

We are called to love, not just in words, but in deeds and in truth. This serves as the foundation for all that we do. We provide opportunities for others to serve, fostering renewal in people's lives, in congregations, and in the communities in which we serve.

Whether it's gleaning fields that go as far as the eye can see or picking pears from someone's backyard tree, the goal is always the same: get good food to the places it's needed most.

Thank you for making SoSA' first year in the Delmarva Region one full of food, fun, fellowship, and feeding people!



Many volunteers find joy as well as food in these farm fields!

EndHunger.org/Delmarva