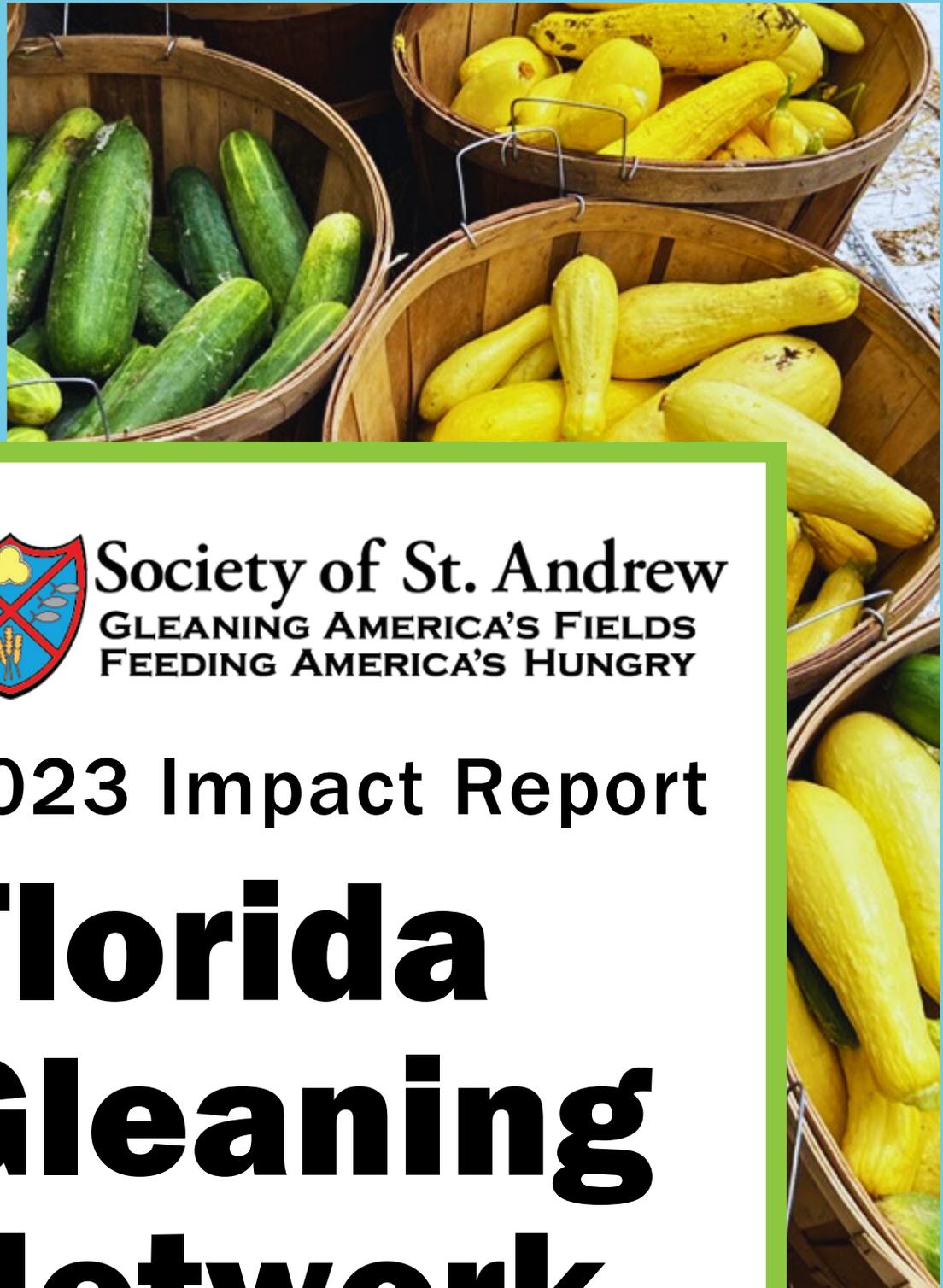




**Society of St. Andrew**  
GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS  
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

**2023 Impact Report**

# **Florida Gleaning Network**



# Mission & Purpose

**The Society of St. Andrew's mission is to bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.**

The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) Florida office focuses on two main projects- The Florida Gleaning Network and the Fresh Produce Salvage and Distribution Project. Our Team rescues fresh produce to alleviate community health and hunger issues, while also reducing the environmental impacts of food waste. Our fundamental premise is that all the food necessary to meet the nutritional needs of all people in the U.S. is available but only partially utilized. Each year, 40% of U.S.-grown fruits and vegetables are never eaten.

Food loss occurs across the supply chain, from farm to fork, and about 58% of produce loss occurs before consumers even catch a glimpse of it. In fact, the USDA Economic Research Service found, over 9.1 billion pounds of produce loss occurs "upstream" during agricultural production, harvest, postharvest, processing, and packaging. This includes crops that are not harvested because a buyer fell through or the market price is too low to make harvest worthwhile; and produce that is graded out at the time of harvest or packing due to cosmetic grading standards.

**In 2023, SoSA Florida reduced the environmental harm equivalent to taking **4,037** vehicles off of the roads for 1 year.**

According to the EPA, every ton of waste left in the fields emits as much greenhouse gases in its decomposition as the annual emissions from 2.25 passenger cars, and 82% of those greenhouse gases are emitted in transit to landfills from farms and retailers. **Last year, SoSA Florida reduced the environmental harm equivalent to taking 4,037 vehicles off the road for a year, as fresh produce was rescued and eaten, not left to rot.**

The Society of St. Andrew and the Florida Gleaning Network connects the dots between available fresh produce from farms, orchards, or distribution centers with volunteers and feeding agencies to distribute to hungry individuals in their communities. The Florida farmers and growers are extremely generous. They hate to see good food go to waste; however, harvesting, packaging, and transporting a crop that will not generate income doesn't make financial sense. SoSA provides farmers a mutually beneficial means of moving unmarketable food out of their way- We offer our services at no cost, making it easier for them to donate excess than to till it under or dump it in landfills- both of which cost them money (and emissions) in fuel and labor.

We utilize volunteer gleaners to harvest donated crops, and the fresh fruits and vegetables are taken to nonprofit feeding agencies nearby. Last year, SoSA Florida staff led and trained 2,642 volunteers in farm and food safety, and it is because of volunteers that we were able to distribute over 3.6 million pounds of food in 2023.

# 2023 Impact



In 2023, almost 3,000 individuals, farmers, agencies, and organizations donated their time, energy, or financial resources to The Society of St. Andrew- Florida to assist in its fresh produce rescue and distribution program, which puts fresh fruits and vegetables on the tables of our hungry neighbors across Florida. This food would have gone to waste in landfills or rotted in fields without volunteers generously donating their time to gleaning, packing, and transporting it to local feeding agencies. We are especially grateful to the Florida Farmers who partner with SoSA to donate this healthy food via gleans or large load donations.

**3,611,653**

pounds of  
nutritious food

**2,659**

dedicated  
volunteers

**1,444,660**

individuals served

**179**

receiving agencies

**297**

gleaning events

**>1,805**

tons prevented  
from waste

**60**

food donors

# Serving Hope by the Pound

249,473

## from Gleaning in Fields

One major area of food waste in America is in farmers' fields, where crops that don't meet top-grade quality are left to rot or be plowed under. Gleaning is the gathering of crops that would otherwise be left in the fields to rot, or be plowed under after harvest. Gleaning involves picking, digging, or gathering crops left behind after commercial harvest. SoSA staff train volunteers on farm and food safety and work with farmers to open their fields to volunteer gleaners.

100,238

## from Food Distributions

Distribution events help reach needy individuals by bringing the food directly to the community. SoSA partners with food banks and local farms to provide food to those who normally do not have access or can not afford to purchase it. Families and individuals can stay in their cars and drive through the distribution line. SoSA volunteers create assembly lines and pack, load, and distribute the food, placing it directly in the cars.

3,266,942

## from Salvaged Loads

Often fresh produce is refused by food distributors, restaurants, or processing facilities due to cosmetic standards, or a warehouse will have an excess they cannot sell quickly enough. Truck drivers must either dump the food at landfills to empty the trailer or find a place to drop it off. Rather than waste the load, we redirect the food to the closest hunger-relief agency or centrally located parking lot where we can offload and have many agencies gather to pick it up.

# Seed Program

**13,251** pounds from seed yields

In 1989, the Society of St. Andrew began the Seed Potato Project (now The Seed Project) as a self-help program for Appalachian family farms. The program has since been expanded to include seeds for other produce and extends into multiple regions, including Florida.

The Seed Project focuses on food desert areas, community gardens, inner city gardens, small family farms, church gardens, and high-need school gardens in rural communities. The recipients prepare the fields, plant the seed potatoes, cultivate the crop, and harvest the produce.

The Seed Project offers a “hand up” to families and communities as children, youth, adults, and seniors grow food to feed themselves and share with their neighbors in need and extended families. It is truly a cooperative effort to provide for people in need through this innovative self-help program.

The Seed Project’s success is built on a partnership with Seed Programs International, a North Carolina-based nonprofit that has spent decades developing hardy seeds for domestic and international hunger relief programs.

In the spring, the Society of St. Andrew Florida office delivered seeds to The Picnic Project, The City of Orlando Office of Sustainability, individuals, and community distributions.

**762**

**Seed Packs  
Distributed**

**13**

**types of  
vegetables**

**2**

**types of  
fruit**

**4**

**types of  
herbs**

# An inside look at SoSA Florida

The Society of St. Andrew, Florida, is the only SoSA office that gleans year-round due to Florida's many climates and micro-climates. The height of our busy season is December-June. We wrapped up December 2023, gleaning 134,953 pounds in just three weeks! SoSA volunteers worked tirelessly around the state, gleaning tomatoes, strawberries, starfruit, lettuce, broccoli, mustard greens, sweet corn, and green peppers throughout Central, West, and Southeast Florida.

Each year, we find ourselves highly grateful to all the farmers throughout Florida- the ones that have been partnering with us for years and the new partnerships we create each year. Many farms we have been gleaning at for years have expanded and have started growing "experimental crops." What used to be peach and blueberry U-pick farms have developed into so much more. With that comes requests to quickly glean so that farmers can plant again. Gone are the days when we knew which vegetable or fruit we would pick because so much more is being grown and harvested at each farm.



In 2023, we also saw an increased desire for food distributions throughout Florida. Calls came in from churches, food pantries, schools, and other organizations throughout the state, asking for help. SoSA jumped in to help provide food, volunteers, and equipment. These events serve a multitude of communities that struggle with food insecurity, food deserts, and housing crisis. SoSA volunteers unloaded, packed, bagged, and distributed over 100,00 lbs of nourishing produce to hungry Floridians in 2023.



# Our Partners

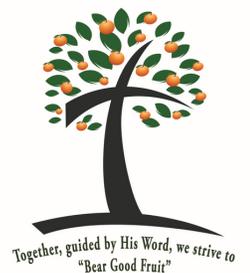
The Society of St. Andrew Florida office would like to thank the many organizations and foundations, including the ones listed below. The continued support has a tremendous impact, leaving a broad and meaningful footprint across every part of Florida, engaging many communities in service to others, reducing food waste, and addressing critical human needs. We THANK YOU and look forward to continuing our partnership in the fight to end hunger in Florida.



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS  
**CHARITIES**



Bernard A. Egan Foundation



FRANK E. DUCKWALL  
FOUNDATION  
Making Tampa Bay A Better Place



---

**John K. Bastien Foundation**

---

The Alex & Agnes O.  
**McINTOSH FOUNDATION**

---

# Our Partners

The Society of St. Andrew Florida office would like to thank the following partners, congregations, and recipient agencies. Your continued support has a tremendous impact, leaving a broad and meaningful footprint across every part of Florida, engaging persons of all ages in service to others, reducing food waste, and addressing critical human needs. We thank you and look forward to continuing our partnership in the fight to end hunger across Florida.

**All Faith's Food Bank, Apopka Temple, Barnabas Center, Blessings and Hope Food Bank, Bao An Temple Broward Partnership, Calvario Church, Calvary Chapel Inverness Food Pantry, Center for Hope, Christian Food Pantry, Church of the Palms-Sarasota, City of Orlando, Coalition for the Homeless, Davie Community Church, Community Enhancement Collaboration, Community UMC -Fruitland Park, Dean Temple, Dream Center of Lakeland, Epic-Cure, Farmshare- Jax, Homestead, Quincy, Farmworkers Association, Feeding NE Florida, Feeding Tampa Bay, Feeding the Gulf Coast, Feed The Need, First Baptist Church of Leesburg, First Baptist Church of Paisley, First Baptist Church of Umatilla, First Presbyterian Deland, Freedom Tour Food and Disaster Relief, Giac Lam Temple, Grace Tabernacle Food Pantry, Grace United Bible Fellowship, Hands for the Homeless, HavServe, Heartland Food Bank, HELP Agency, His Compassion Food Bank, Hope Center, JFS- Pearlman Food Pantry, Kissimmee Temple, Lake Baldwin VA Clinic, Lake Cares, Lazarus Project-St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Love Extension, Mandarin Food Bank, Mat Son Temple, Metropolitan Ministries, Midway Baptist Food Pantry, New Covenant UMC Pantry, Ocoee Temple, One Heart For Women and Children, One More Child, Orange County First Rescue Stations, Orlando Union Rescue Mission, Pantry of Broward, Palm Beach County Food Bank, Phap Vu Temple, Phat An Temple, Picnic Project, Pine Hills Temple, Quan Am Buddhist Temple, Riverland Community Fridge, Sanford Union Rescue Mission, Schulbacher Center, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Sharing Putnams Bounty, Sikh Society of Central FL, SOZO Kids, St. John's Food Pantry, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Southeastern Food Bank, Sudakoff Youth Shelter, The Caring Place, The Cupboard, The Salvation Army, Trinity Food Bank, True Wisdom New Hope Ministries, Veterans Center of Live Oak, VISTE, Wintergarden Food Pantry, Wildwood Food Pantry, Wildwood Soup Kitchen, 4Roots, and 40+ agencies in the Florida Panhandle!**

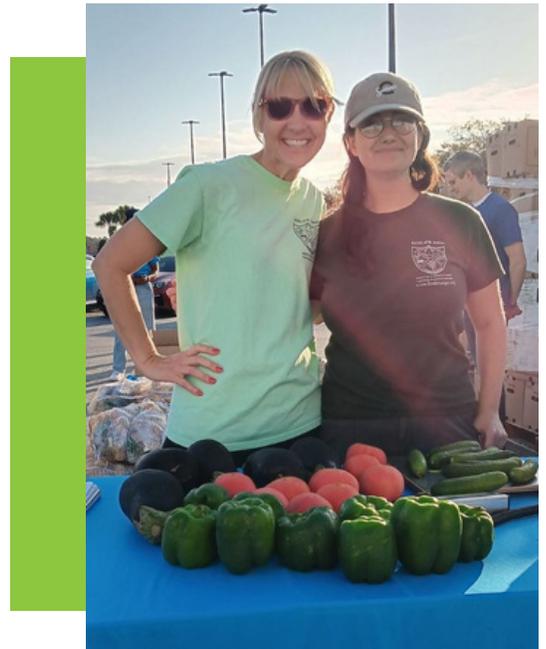
**New Hope UMC, Central Florida Presbytery, Point Washington UMC, First UMC- Eustis, All Saints of Winter Park, White City UMC, Christ Methodist Church, Winter Park Presbyterian, Cocoa Presbyterian Church, Satellite Beach UMC, Restoration Anglican Church, First UMC Chattahoochee, Sisters of the Charity of the BVM, Lake Como Community of Hope, Glenwood Presbyterian Women, Floral City Umc, First Lakeland UMC, Community Presbyterian Church**

# The Florida Team

Two full-time staff work to bring gleaned food to hungry Floridians. Kelly Stainer is the Florida Regional Director, and Rebecca Brockman is the Florida Program Coordinator.

The SoSA Florida office has five part-time area coordinators who glean and support farmers and food agencies in different parts of the state.

Katy Cain has been with SoSA for five years and is the Southeast Area Coordinator. Forrest White began volunteering with SoSA in 2001, and after moving from Virginia to Florida, he became the West-Central Area Coordinator. Mike Connor began with SoSA in 2023 as the NE Area Coordinator, and Meghan Baxley started as the Panhandle Area Coordinator in Fall of 2023. In February of 2024, Rose Belliveau, joined SoSA as the Central Florida Area Coordinator after volunteering with SoSA all around the state last Spring.



**Kelly Stainer and Rebecca Brockman**



**Katy Cain-**  
[sflgleaning@endhunger.org](mailto:sflgleaning@endhunger.org)



**Forrest White**  
[westcentralfl@endhunger.org](mailto:westcentralfl@endhunger.org)



**Mike Connor**  
[Northeastfl@endhunger.org](mailto:Northeastfl@endhunger.org)



**Meghan Baxley**  
[panhandlefl@endhunger.org](mailto:panhandlefl@endhunger.org)



**Rose Belliveau**  
[Centralfl@endhunger.org](mailto:Centralfl@endhunger.org)

The national office is led by Executive Director, Lynette Johnson, who has been a part of the organization since 2010. Since becoming Executive Director in 2017, she has led the Board of Directors through a re-visioning process that resulted in a new mission statement and a new strategic plan.

**We thank you for  
your ongoing support  
of our program.**



**Society of St. Andrew**  
**GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS**  
**FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY**

Society of St. Andrew  
406 E. Amelia Ave  
Orlando, FL 32803  
863-224-0472  
[Florida@endhunger.org](mailto:Florida@endhunger.org)  
[EndHunger.org/Florida](http://EndHunger.org/Florida)