



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

Delmarva Gleaning Network **2025 Impact Report**

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 Delmarva Gleaning Network's work in seeking and rescuing fresh produce helps alleviate community health and hunger issues while also reducing the environmental impacts of food waste. 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 that 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 harvest or packing due to cosmetic grading standards.

In 2025, the Delmarva Gleaning Network reduced the environmental harm equivalent to taking

**2,846 cars
off the road**

According to the EPA, every ton of produce left to rot emits as many 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, the DGN reduced environmental harm equivalent to taking 2,826 vehicles off the road, as fresh produce was rescued and eaten rather than left to rot.

The Delmarva Gleaning Network connects the dots between available fresh produce from farms, orchards, or distribution centers and volunteers and feeding agencies that share it with hungry individuals. Delmarva's 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. The DGN provides farmers a mutually beneficial means of moving unmarketable food out of their way. We make 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 by whatever means are best for the farmer. DGN staff lead and train volunteers in farm and food safety, and the fresh fruits and vegetables are delivered to nearby nonprofit feeding agencies.

2025 Impact

In 2025, more than 1,500 individuals, farmers, agencies, and organizations donated their time, energy, or financial resources to The Society of St. Andrew's Delmarva Gleaning Network to assist in its produce rescue and distribution program, which puts fresh fruits and vegetables on the tables of our hungry neighbors across the Delmarva peninsula and all of Maryland. 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.



2,530,000

POUNDS OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD

750,000

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

436

GLEANING EVENTS

114

RECEIVING AGENCIES

1,181

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

62

FOOD DONORS

The ABCs of Food Rescue

Last July, when SoSA Delmarva staff sat down with Carlton Cartwright, the Community School Liaison for Pocomoke High School in Worcester County, we knew good things were in the works! PHS had recently built community gardens at their school, and students were actively involved in planting, tending, harvesting, and sharing the fresh produce. Carlton was eager to find new ways to connect his students with the food system and to serve their community.

What grew out of that meeting was more than any of us initially anticipated! First, we planned a “watermelon drop” for their Back-To-School night in August. We delivered 40,000 pounds of beautiful, Delaware watermelons; Worcester County Schools staff unloaded them; PHS students helped share them with families as they arrived at the school to meet with their teachers! In all, about 3,000 watermelons went home with families for a taste of summer!



“Carlton was eager to find new ways to connect his students with the food system and to serve their community.”



Since then, Carlton has brought students out to the fields to join us in active gleaning. They have picked pumpkins, sweet potatoes, butternut and spaghetti squash, kale, and more! They share with local agencies and take it back to PHS for school families as well. All in all, great life lessons outside the school walls!

Summer Camp With Produce!

Each year, SoSA Delmarva hosts youth groups from around the country as they attend Harvest of Hope experiential camps on the beautiful Eastern Shore of Virginia. In 2025, we spent a week at Camp Occohannock on the Bay, joined by 67 campers and youth leaders from five churches across North Carolina and Virginia.

After a hearty camp breakfast, youth and their leaders join us in the fields to gather excess produce and share it with local agencies in Northampton and Accomack counties.

In all, our hardworking campers gleaned 3,100 pounds of watermelons, 630 pounds of tomatoes, 3,000 pounds of corn, and 5,000 pounds of potatoes, which they then helped deliver to 7 agencies ranging from the Food Bank of Southeast VA and the Eastern Shore, two ministries working with migrant farm laborers, a subsidized apartment complex, and several church pantries!

While the campers have a great time, enjoying the beach and the Bay, they're also learning valuable lessons about food insecurity, food waste, and why so many people struggle to put food on the table when so much is thrown away. These are lessons they can take back to their own communities, creating ripple effects felt long after camp ends.



The Still Great Pumpkin

Is there anything lonelier than a pumpkin after Halloween? Driving around Delmarva, it's easy to see whole fields of pumpkins left behind, unmarketable and seemingly unwanted. Perhaps the farmer raised more than they had a contract for. Or the pumpkins aren't quite perfect enough for someone's front stop.

But SoSA Delmarva Gleaning Coordinator Alena Wright found several agencies that were eager to receive the pumpkins that didn't get harvested!



Two separate farms let SoSA volunteers glean multiple times, and agencies were thrilled to get the nutritious vegetables for the people they served.

In all, 10,000 pounds of pumpkins went to neighbors all across Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore! Several agencies offered classes on how to clean and cook pumpkins and make them into healthy soups, breads, and more. That's a treat for everyone!

Our Partners

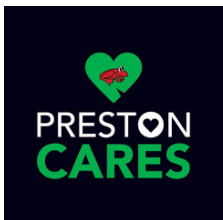
The Delmarva Gleaning Network thanks the 146 individual donors, 41 congregations, and the following organizations and foundations. Your continued support has a tremendous impact, leaving a broad and meaningful footprint across every part of the Delmarva Peninsula, engaging persons of all ages in service 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 Delmarva. THANK YOU!



the **CAMPBELL**
FOUNDATION



United Way
of the Lower Eastern Shore



The **M&T** Charitable Foundation



Our Team

Interested in learning more about Society of St. Andrew's work on the Delmarva Peninsula and surrounding area? Please call us! We love to talk to people about the good work of saving nutritious food and getting it to people in the community who need it!



Jean Siers
Delmarva Regional Director
410-713-0895
delmarva@endhunger.org

Alena Wright
Delmarva Program Coordinator
410-603-0536
dmv-glean@endhunger.org





**Thank you for your
ongoing support.**

Society of St. Andrew
Delmarva Gleaning Network
302 St. Alban's Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-713-0895
delmarva@endhunger.org
EndHunger.org/Delmarva