



# Society of St. Andrew

Gleaning America's Fields—Feeding America's Hungry

## Quarterly Report

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## More Taters, More Caring Communities

**B**uilding caring communities is the heart of all that the Society of St. Andrew does. That may sound lofty for a gleaning organization, but it's exactly what happens when you support this mission. Every gift you give multiplies into acts of compassion, nourishment, and connection that grow far beyond a single piece of rescued produce.

West End Community Church in Birmingham, Alabama, lives out what it means to be a caring community. The church leaders and their neighbors have cultivated a network of ministries that meet people where they are: offering meals through the WE Café (a pay-what-you-can lunchroom), after-school and summer programs for children, workforce development opportunities, and even homeownership support. Their work is by residents, for residents.

When West End Community Church began hosting a joyful community harvest party for the sweet potatoes grown in their WE Garden, they quickly learned that demand for potatoes far outpaced what they could grow. So last year, Pastor Harper reached out to SoSA for help. Thanks to your support, SoSA staff delivered several pallets of potatoes to supplement their harvest. Volunteers bagged them up, and the entire neighborhood joined in for a day filled with laughter, food, and fellowship. Despite truck troubles, rain, and more than a few logistical hurdles, the event was a success, complete with



t-shirts proclaiming, "More Taters. Less Haters."

This year's event ran even more smoothly. SoSA provided more potatoes, a liftgate truck, and a donated pallet jack, helping the West End community share food and fun once again.

As we approach the end of 2025, SoSA fields calls from partner feeding agencies who are in greater and greater need of more fresh produce. The need is increasing daily, particularly through the holiday season. Your support means organizations like West End Community Church can share more food with neighbors AND have funds to spend on children's programming or financial support for the community.



When you give to SoSA, you're doing far more than rescuing produce. You are fueling events like potato harvests, empowering neighbors in West End, and helping churches and volunteers everywhere come together around good food. That's what building caring communities looks like. ■





**January 1–September 30, 2025**  
**Fresh food saved and**  
**shared with people in need**

Nourishing Food Recovered.....14,567,020 lbs  
 Servings of Fresh Food Provided..... 58,268,080  
 Events .....2,965  
 Volunteers..... 7,418  
 Farms/Providers..... 451  
 Distributing Agencies .....1,181

## Order Advent Today



**Advent materials are shipping now!**

Order or download yours at  
[EndHunger.org/advent](https://EndHunger.org/advent)

# Creating Caring Communities

by Lynette Johnson



Lynette Johnson,  
 Executive Director

**T**he Society of St. Andrew's mission statement contains the bold phrase that SoSA is about building caring communities. It sounds audacious! How could a small grassroots gleaning organization even begin to think it could do such a thing? Yet, building caring communities is the heart of what YOU do when you volunteer with or financially support SoSA's ministry.

SoSA's work starts when YOU decide that you want to make a difference – when YOU decide that it bothers you for people to go hungry. Maybe you don't know a specific person or family that is struggling to get by, but you know they exist in your city or town or neighborhood. You believe in your heart of hearts that everyone deserves to have enough food and healthy food to eat. And you realize that YOU can do something about that.

YOU have something to share, whether that's financial

resources or fields of ripe vegetables or your time.

When we think about hunger globally or even nationally, it can seem overwhelming. The systemic issues are too big and tangled to grasp, and so very many people are in need. But as Mother Teresa said, "If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one." That's the genius and the beauty of the Society of St. Andrew's work. One simple, commonsense action on your part will put healthy food on a hungry neighbor's table tonight.

That's the foundation of a caring community, isn't it? And when your simple action is mirrored and multiplied by a dozen other volunteers or donors from your town, and hundreds of people across your state, and thousands of others across the country, the Society of St. Andrew builds not only caring communities, but the momentum to end hunger in our time.

In sharing food with the gathered crowds and gathering the leftovers to share with others, on a Galilean hillside long ago, Jesus modeled meeting the most basic human needs. That miracle continues every day because YOU care enough to see that good food is blessed and shared with those who need it. Thank you. ■

# Executive Director, Lynette Johnson, to retire in September 2026

A message from the Society of St. Andrew Board of Directors

We are happy for Lynette, but sad for us. After more than 15 years of service to The Society of St. Andrew, Lynette Johnson announced her retirement to begin in September 2026. A national search for her successor is already underway.

**"Thank you, Lynette, for being a faithful leader and helping us to build 'a bigger table' where we can all sit down to share a meal and celebrate God's great abundance."**

Lynette began her service to food-insecure families in AL and TN as the Regional Director of SoSA's Nashville office. She moved to the Big Island, VA headquarters as Director of Church Relations, then became Executive Director in 2017. Our organization has greatly benefited from Lynette's oversight and faithful use of funds to serve hungry families in over 10 states and to keep millions of pounds of usable food out of landfills. Under Lynette's leadership, SoSA celebrated sharing one billion pounds of rescued produce in September 2024.

Heather Gomez, Board Chair, remembers how they met. "For nine years, Lynette has been a powerful example of how we can transform lives by simply sharing. When I first met Lynette, fittingly, we had lunch together at an old barbecue restaurant where they had built these long tables for big family dinners and gatherings of friends.

Thank you, Lynette, for being a faithful leader and helping us to build 'a bigger

table' where we can all sit down to share a meal and celebrate God's great abundance."

Lynette says, "It has been the challenge, honor, and privilege of my lifetime to lead the Society of St. Andrew's ministry since 2017, and to serve on the organization's staff since 2010. Our mission is compelling, compassionate, and critical, grounded in common sense and meeting hunger needs. We engage people of all ages in simple, hands-on work that keeps healthy food from going to waste and provides nourishment to hungry neighbors. We do this work efficiently, effectively, and quietly every single day – as we have for nearly 50 years. Most importantly, we open people's eyes to physical and spiritual hunger in their midst, offering

them opportunities to help people in their own community, building the will and growing a movement to see that everyone has access to the good food they need to thrive. The Society of St. Andrew's board and staff are wise stewards and creative problem solvers, tailoring solutions that put tens of millions of servings of fruits and vegetables on dinner tables across the United States every year. Generous farmers, donors, funders, and willing volunteers make this work possible. I am so grateful for each person who is part of this amazing ministry, including you!"

Stay tuned to this newsletter for updates and more information on a retirement celebration coming Spring 2026! ■



Lynette Johnson is pictured here with SoSA partner David Masser, the CEO of The Masser Family of Companies. Masser grows and shares potatoes with SoSA several times per year, including through Southeast Produce Council events like the Macon drop featured on page 4.

# Carloads of Care

Building Caring Communities Through Local Partnership

What do the Society of St. Andrew, Atrium Health Navicent, the Macon Mayor's Office, Southeast Produce Council, Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, and you all have in common? For one Friday in June, you all came together to serve over 2,000 families in Macon, GA.

On June 13, 2025, cars lined up for miles, first thing in the morning, waiting for boxes of fresh produce to take home. Volunteers and community leaders packed produce boxes with a wide variety of fresh fruit and vegetables provided by the Southeast Produce Council (SEPC). SEPC growers unite for this big giveaway every year, coordinating thousands of pounds of fresh, seasonal, and nutrient-rich produce. SEPC is committed to sharing nutritious produce with people in need. This year, SEPC members didn't just donate produce; they showed up to serve! SEPC members served alongside local volunteers to share 3,000 thirty-five-pound boxes of produce to the cars waiting in line.



Behind the scenes, Atrium Health Navicent, the local hospital system, provided financial support toward the cost of packing the produce boxes to ensure that fresh produce reached high-need neighborhoods efficiently. Atrium's support ensures families in need

receive not just food, but nourishment and adequate nutrition.

The Mayor's Office of Macon-Bibb County managed traffic and coordinated the clean-up after the giveaway. Among the most dedicated volunteers were people from multiple faith-based organizations. These volunteers arrived ready to work, load boxes, direct traffic, and greet neighbors with smiles.



Because of your generosity, SoSA builds bridges between partners like these every day: connecting growers, companies, civic leaders, and volunteers to meet real needs in real time. Your support matches people in need with the abundance that already exists.

By the end of the day in Macon, more than 100,000 pounds of produce were shared with 2,000 families, thanks to an extraordinary partnership between a remarkable network of 15 community partners and 201 volunteers.

Because of your faithful support, 2,000 families in Macon drove away with more than just a box of food: they left knowing their community cares for them. Children ate fresh fruit that night. Seniors opened their refrigerators to



find produce instead of empty shelves. Parents breathed a little easier, knowing there would be enough for dinner.

This is what happens when people unite around a shared mission to end hunger and reduce waste. And with your continued support, we will keep building caring communities like this—where every pound produce, every volunteer hour, and every act of generosity helps our neighbors thrive. ■

Angela Partain, SoSA Georgia Regional Director, says her goal in all she does is to improve the quality of food within the local and state charitable food system. "Our combined efforts help improve the health and nutrition of GA residents in need. This shared initiative is what connects SoSA GA to hospitals." All of the volunteers and partners pictured here help make that dream a reality.



## in Middle Georgia



Recent Individual Donations

These names represent gifts made “In Memory Of” and “In Honor Of” special people and/or significant occasions. As loved ones are honored or remembered these gifts bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. Thank you.

<b>In Memory Of</b>			
Judy Anderson	Carolyn King	Dick and Pat Unkenholz	Bill and Edna Jamerson
Jimmy Ballowe	Kayte Kocher	Fr. Viktor	Pastor Gloria Jun
Shirley Ann Belkoff	Denise Konte	Phillip G Vines	Jay Kelly
Andrew Benjamin	Jean Makoujy	J. Glenn Wilson	Jim Smith
Karen Bohin	Elaine Newman McDorman	Fr. Zhivko	SoSA's Carolinas Staff
Carole Bowen	Bob Miller		Adrienne Holloway Standridge
Rev. Jack Chalk	My Aunt Evie	<b>In Honor Of</b>	Sue Ensor Todhunter & Mark
Joan Lee Chowning	Betty Zane Strickland Pierce	Michael Binger	Norman Lundren
Bud and Eva	Betty Jo Reil	Jolie Blankenship	Chesley Vohden
R. Sam Gentz	Jo Richardson	Audra Boarman	Amy Ward
William Goode	Fr. Seraphim	Kim Dills	Irene Ward
Ft. Goran	Shanky	Maria Gandy	Dr. Donna H. West
John Gum	D'Arcy Tyrrell	Judy Greer	Elizabeth Wix
Pat & Tommy Inge	Todd Tyrrell	Cathy Hughes	
	D'Arcy Tyrrell II	Hunger Month	



Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday, December 2!

Thanks to a \$47,000 matching gift, every dollar you give on Giving Tuesday will be matched to share food with those who need it most.

- Every dollar:
- Rescues surplus produce before it goes to waste
  - Delivers nourishing food to families, children, and seniors
  - Builds caring communities where neighbors support each other

Give online at EndHunger.org, give by phone (800.333.4597), or send a check with “Giving Tuesday” in the memo line to have your gift matched (up to \$47,000).

Your gift ensures our neighbors in need will have the nutritious produce they need to thrive.

Neighbors helping neighbors — that’s what caring communities look like.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated \$1,000+ in the 3rd quarter of 2025

These foundations and corporations recently made contributions to the Society of St. Andrew as a part of their organizational alignment with SoSA's mission. Their funds were invested in local communities with high levels of hunger and food insecurity which provided fresh food to local families, at no cost to them.

- Albertsons Safeway, Inc. ....Phoenix, AZ
- American Online Giving Foundation .....Newark, DE
- CAF America .....Princeton, NJ
- Charities Aid Foundation America .....Lake Buena Vista, FL
- Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond .....Richmond, VA
- Davison Bruce Foundation.....Opelika, AL
- Fidelity Charitable Gifts ..... Cincinnati, OH
- The Food Shippers of America Inc..... Geneva, IL
- Freeman Family Foundation ..... Winston-Salem, NC
- Givewell Foundation ..... Lakeland, FL
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA
- Peake Federal Credit Union .....Towson, MD
- Randolph College.....Lynchburg, VA
- Renaissance Charitable Foundation ..... Indianapolis, IN
- Stewardship Foundation .....Tacoma, WA



Christmas cards featuring original artwork by Beth Hopper are now available to order! Every \$15 card you purchase shares over 300 servings of fresh food with neighbors in need. Order your card(s) online or send in the order form below. EndHunger.org/cards

Christmas Cards

Minimum donation gift for each card is \$15 Do not send cash through mail. Donations tax deductible as allowed by law.

Make check payable to “Society of St. Andrew” or

Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT Total enclosed or charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send \_\_\_\_\_ cards TO ME for personalizing and mailing.

☐ SoSA to send out cards on my behalf.

Note: Use a separate sheet to list additional names, addresses and what name you would like signed at the bottom of the card (who the card is from). Example: “Love Nana & Pop Johnson”

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sign this card: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders must be received by Dec. 5 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Mail to: Society of St. Andrew, 3383 Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, Virginia 24526

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Full Bellies, Less Food Waste.

### How Catherine Wright Builds Caring Communities

When Catherine Wright, a professor of Religion and Ethics at Wingate University, first learned about the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA), she didn't have time to glean every week. But after retiring from an administrative position last year, she felt called to do more. With the political climate causing more people and the environment to need help, she wanted to build stronger infrastructure in her community, starting with full bellies and less food waste.

Each time a volunteer picks up a bucket of tomatoes, a farmer opens a field to gleaners, and a gleaner delivers that food to a family in need, caring communities are built!

These days, Catherine is a familiar face at gleaning events around Charlotte, NC. She keeps gleaning again and again for one reason: connection. "The people and the impact," she says. "It's not every day you get to work with people so motivated to feed others and diminish

food waste." As a food and faith researcher, she sees SoSA's grassroots model as a direct response to the hunger and climate crises. "This innovative solution to hunger helps mitigate policies that endanger the health and happiness of so many of our neighbors."

She also finds deep joy in the physical and spiritual rhythm of gleaning. "Whether I'm wearing a wool cap in a vineyard gleaning muscadines, a raincoat with water flowing down my arms as I pick blueberries, or the sweat is dripping off the end of my nose as I carry buckets of the most beautiful, ripe tomatoes, my body is tired, but it's a weariness that comes from doing truly good work."

**"I love seeing the faces of the staff or clients as 700 lbs of watermelons or squash come rolling out of my Subaru! Knowing that good, nutrient-dense foods are helping lift people up in my community is a reason I will do this as long as I am able."**

Her SoSA story doesn't stop at the field or the pantry: it continues in her classroom. At Wingate University, she developed a unique course called *Food & Faith: Health and Happiness Around the Many Tables of Our Lives*. Over 100 students explore the links between food, justice, and hospitality each semester. They cook together (some students for the first time), share table fellowship, and prepare meals for neighbors who can't easily cook for themselves because of housing insecurity, illness, or even broken appliances.

Students cook many of those meals from SoSA-gleaned produce—blueberry crumble from berries frozen earlier in the season, or homemade tomato sauce from August's harvest. "We make God's love for our neighbors, delicious," she says, quoting theologian Norman Wirzba.

Through her work with SoSA, Dr. Wright also partners with Operation Reach Out, Heart for Monroe, and a network of churches and faith-based organizations. Together, they

ensure that every pound of rescued produce finds its way to a table where it's needed most. "Teamwork makes the dream work. My students learn the many faces of food insecurity. Our next generation of leaders is contributing



and finding delicious ways to build stronger communities."

Every gift to the Society of St. Andrew fuels this cycle of care—connecting volunteers, farmers, students, and neighbors through sharing food. Together, we're bringing people together around the table.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW IS A NATIONAL 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

**For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • [info@EndHunger.org](mailto:info@EndHunger.org) • [EndHunger.org](https://EndHunger.org)**  
**[EndHunger.org/signup](https://EndHunger.org/signup)**

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