



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY Quarterly Report

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From the Frontlines – A Candid COVID-19 Response

To give you a firsthand account of the what it's like on the frontlines of hunger relief during a pandemic, we decided to connect with Kelly in Florida. Below are some highlights from that conversation.

What is your name and role with the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA)?

My name is Kelly. I serve as the Program Coordinator for SoSA's Florida Gleaning Network. I started in September 2019 and love doing something worthwhile with my career. The regular gleaning season is busy but it's at least twice as busy during the COVID pandemic.

Regarding the COVID pandemic, please tell us what it's like on the frontlines?

Frantic. There's a lot of pressure to rescue all the food we're offered and engage all of the volunteers who want to serve, while strictly following CDC guidelines. Everyone knows the stakes. No one has all of the answers and it can just feel overwhelming.

My first few months at the Society of St. Andrew were busy but nothing like the type of busy during COVID. Food pantries need more food than ever. It seems like there's always another food pantry calling. Farmers have more left in the fields because businesses are closed and aren't buying it. Although the weather isn't any worse, it feels hotter than usual when you're wearing a mask, gloves that don't breathe, and doing twice as much work since there are fewer volunteers in the fields.

What's the hardest part you deal with?

Personally, it's hardest not to be able to get it all. It's hard to clock out and go home at any point. There's always another farmer offering food. Or another group of SoSA volunteers willing to take another pass through a farm field. Or another pantry explaining how quickly the food went we just delivered and how they could desperately use more.

I'm the kind of person that simply cannot say no when I see someone needing help. Even if it means I overcommit myself. My family and friends really are my sources of support. They help me stay balanced and practice self-care.

If someone is able, how can they help?

The Society of St. Andrew's gleaning network needs "all hands on deck". At first, we needed more volunteers, and then some came. Then we needed more farms, and then some called. Then we simply needed transportation to deliver the food we were gleaning- and a company donated the use of their fleet of pickup trucks. Now we continue to need a little help from everyone-volunteers, donors, and drivers. Each person has an opportunity to help.



Kelly gets into her work, literally! This is a photo of her pre-COVID-19 exploring a citrus tree from the inside-out to make sure all of those delicious fruits are rescued. She doesn't want a single good fruit left behind.



2020 1st Quarter Totals

**Fresh food saved and
donated to feed hungry people**

Produce Gleaned	7,109,552 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided	21,328,656
Events	920
Volunteers	3,933
Farms/Providers	214
Distributing Agencies	755

Total Historical Pounds	877 Million
Total Historical Servings	2.63 Billion

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

This is an excerpt from a letter shared in April.

State of the Gleaning Network Address

Please know that we are thinking about you and praying for your health. Our hearts, like yours, hurt every day we can't be physically present with those dear to us.



I am so very grateful for the generous financial support SoSA donors have provided over the last several weeks, and I want you to know that Society of St. Andrew staffers are working every day to acquire and distribute healthy food to people in great need.

I'd like to talk with you about recent news coverage about farmers plowing under fields of fresh produce—millions of pounds of great looking, nourishing food every day, tilled back into the earth. We've all wondered why so much waste, when so many people desperately need that food.

The short explanation is that the food supply chain in this country follows two tracks, a retail track that brings food to the grocery store for you and me to purchase and eat at home; and a commercial track that brings food to restaurants, to hospitals, to cafeterias, to airlines, schools, etc.

The retail track is still functioning well. We're finding that smaller local family farms are nimble and have quickly established online order systems and safe, curbside pickups for family-sized quantities of food.

But the commercial food track, which accounts for the majority of food produced in this country, is experiencing a 50-80% average drop in demand. And unfortunately, the supply chain that handles that commercial food service is like a mile-long barge that doesn't turn around easily in a river.

Farms that grow for commercial sale contracts package their food for assembly-line use: 1,500 pound totes of shredded lettuce, for example. If they were to send a tractor-trailer filled with 1,500 pound totes of shredded lettuce to a food bank, the food bank would have no means (especially with a pandemic-related volunteer shortage) to repackage the lettuce into family-sized bags within the very short shelf-life that lettuce may have. As a result, so much of produce is simply left to rot in fields or tilled under.

Continued – See State of the Gleaning Network on page 2

COVID-19 CANT STOP GOOD-THATS A FACT

“COVID can’t stop good” has been a declaration defining the SoSA mindset and commitment over the past couple of months as all engrossed in the mission have persevered, adapted, and served despite ever increasing odds and obstacles.

The Coronavirus itself is a terrible sickness, affecting so many families in our country and throughout the world. Before the pandemic began, so many of our neighbors were already living on the edge financially. Now they and 36.5 million more people in this country are living with layoffs, furloughs, lack of childcare, and more. As a result, the number

“COVID can’t stop good.” That phrase has come to define the spirit of generosity and community we at the Society of St. Andrew are seeing every day.

of families seeking emergency food assistance has doubled since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Farmers are struggling, too, as they’ve found themselves unable to sell much of their food due to business closures and supply chain disruptions.



This unnamed volunteer donned her COVID-19 gleaning attire (gloves and a mask) to spend her morning sorting and sharing food at an event in Virginia where the line to receive a single bag of food stretched for miles.

Despite all of that, we know that “COVID can’t stop good.” That phrase has come to

define the spirit of generosity and community we at the Society of St. Andrew are seeing every day. Amid the chaos of the pandemic, hundreds of new donors have stepped forward to help the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) cover transportation and packaging costs. New volunteers have stepped up to lend their support gleaning in fields and sharing nourishing food with people in greatest need in their communities. Each day, more people reach beyond their worries and fear to make a difference.

Because of so many caring people—farmers sharing food, donors gifting money, and volunteers offering time and labor—in these difficult days, the

We need YOU to continue giving,
serving, learning, and leading others
into SoSA's mission this summer!

Society of St. Andrew has shared 45% more food over the last nine weeks than during the same time period last year. Just in the month of April, 2.7 million pounds of food reached hungry neighbors because of caring people like you.

As the summer months approach, the volume of food available to share will continue to increase—and that’s great news. We need YOU to



This husband and wife in Alabama, along with others, were standing alongside the road holding up encouraging signs for SoSA volunteers, food pantry partners, and other community leaders who spent a morning last month rescuing and sharing food at an event.

It is tough for us to see so much good food lost, and tougher still for the farmers whose livelihoods are riding on the success of their crops! We've been asked, "Couldn't the farmers just change

entire operation for a once-in-a-lifetime situation that they (and we) pray will end soon.

We at the Society of St. Andrew and all of our partners in this work—from small farmers to commercial growers, small neighborhood



These beautiful red tomatoes were rescued and shared with families in need in Indiana.

than ever to see that hungry neighbors are fed, and that sharing good food with others doesn't put our nation's farmers out of business.

Again, we appreciate you and all that you are doing during these

We at the SoSA and all of our partners in this work—from small farmers to commercial growers, small neighborhood food pantries to major food banks, government agencies to legislators—are working longer, harder, and more creatively than ever to see that hungry neighbors are fed

food pantries to major food banks, government agencies

to legislators—are working longer, harder, and more creatively

pandemic days to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for continuing to support the Society of St. Andrew with your gifts.

Health and hope to you and those you love,

Lynette Johnson
Executive Director

their systems and process or package food in family-sized containers?"

They work through regular, long-established supply chains. And though those supply chains and processing capacities aren't working at the moment, it could require hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars for them to re-tool their



Long & Scott Farms farms sharing how the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected their business and how they are still dedicated to sharing their food with nearby nonprofits.



Kelly Sizelove, SoSA staff in Florida, would not let a little rain prevent her from sharing cucumbers with a local food pantry, after gleaning one morning.

Recent Donations

These names represent gifts made “In Memory Of” and “In Honor Of” special people and/or significant occasions while contributing to the mission to bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. Thank you.

In Memory Of

Phillip Arthur
 Peggy P. Bowen
 Bud Curtis
 J. Berkley Drinkard
 Erin Ellis
 Ann Ferguson
 R. Sam Gentz
 Rev. Charles Grovenstein
 Elton & Janismarie Hassmer
 Deanna Heflin
 Jeanne Henry
 Daisy James
 William Joseph
 Patricia Hoover Kay
 Ted & Mabel Keller
 Tom Kingsley
 Jean Makoujy
 Arnold McPeters
 Doris Mento
 Alvin R. New
 Mrs. Grace Bradley
 Larry Rood
 Kenneth Staiger
 Robert Stayton
 Ronald Stultz
 Bonnie Tickle and Henry Tickle
 My kind and loving husband,
 Warren D. Tudor
 Rev. Walter Whitehurst

In Honor Of

Darla Adkins
 Evelyn Albrecht
 Dawn Barnes
 Rev. & Mrs. Marc Brown
 Carol Carpenetti
 Ed & Martha Colligan
 Diane and Emily
 Eva- In Honor Of Her Birthday
 Gaston Charge - Gaston UMC
 Harper and Mary Harris
 Kevin John Hemstreet-Grimmer
 Chad Hrbek
 Brother Mark Jones
 Catherine Kelley
 Nelda King
 Lent Study
 Mom Linsell
 John McCormack
 Mrs. Betty Meadows
 Pleasant Grove Church
 Children's Buckets
 Tess Popik
 Sarah Ramey
 Sarah Rines
 Mike Smith, Concord UMC
 Jim Smith
 Rev. Dr. Adam B. Snell
 Kathy Spradlin
 Kathleen Steele
 Jenny Trevey
 Uzzell UMC
 Mike Waldmann
 Kyle & Stephen Miller



Adopt a Bushel, Feed a Nation

A new 30-Day, Fundraising Challenge that raises \$806 when your team works together to help feed people in need

Take the challenge! Encourage your class, faith community, group, organization, or business to adopt a bushel of fruits and vegetables to support the gleanings and feeding work of the Society of St. Andrew. **Details: EndHunger.org/abfn**

Did You Know?

U.S. HUNGER HAS DOUBLED IN THE PAST 2 MONTHS

March 1, 2020



April 27, 2020

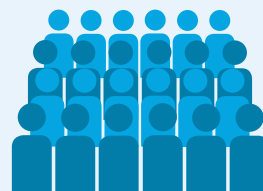


AND U.S. CHILDHOOD HUNGER HAS QUADRUPLED IN 2 MONTHS

March 1, 2020



April 27, 2020



The need for your support has become even more critical.

What gives you the energy to keep going?

The people. I've learned that the SoSA's success is due to the people who passionately give what they have to offer- the farmers, volunteers, donors, drivers, and recipients. They're dedicated to helping their community.

Farmers continue offering food to the Society of St. Andrew. They wholeheartedly invite SoSA volunteers to glean because they know people still need food, even though the market doesn't. I know my volunteers are tired, both physically and emotionally but they show up every time there's an opportunity. And the



Packaging and transportation are the largest expenses in rescuing good food.

people at the food pantries. Everywhere we deliver food, people are eagerly waiting to unload our vehicles and get that good food to the families who need it most.

What else do you want people to know?

First, I want people to know farmers aren't wasteful. They want the food they grow to be eaten, not thrown away or tilled under. Second, volunteers are selfless. They fill my heart. There isn't enough time to thank everyone who deserves it. We are working our hardest. We have the maximum number allowed of people gleaned in fields, working passionately to deliver the food as quickly as possible. And

**There isn't enough time to
thank everyone who deserves it.
We are working our hardest.**

finally, food is being rescued almost every day. In March and April alone, the Society of St. Andrew and its partners rescued and gave away more than 3 million pounds of good food across the nation. ■

continue giving, serving, learning, and leading others into SoSA's mission this summer!



Volunteers won't be stopped in the mission to get good food to families in need. Even if that means sometimes taking the bus!

As the need for emergency food rises, so will the number of opportunities to share good food with your neighbors in their time of greatest need.



Thousands of protein packed eggs are distributed across multiple states.

Be encouraged knowing you've made a huge impact already. Continue to work with SoSA, there's still more work to be done! Thank you! ■



These volunteers in Alabama wanted every Farmer, Donor, SoSA Volunteer, Food Pantry Partner, and Recipient to know that we are on all the same team-the Team to End Hunger!

Join the mission to end hunger. You're more than welcome, you're invited!

While volunteering is an exciting way to get involved, it's not a perfect fit for everyone. If you live far from the nearest gleaning event or have a physical limitation that might make gleaning in farm fields difficult, or don't have a desire to be outdoors lifting, bending, and stooping, then there are other ways you can serve.



Make a donation to SoSA. We do not charge fees for our services but rely 100% on donations. Gleaned food is shared with recipients at no cost to them.

Your donation covers all the logistics of rescuing food, including packaging materials and transportation of the food gleaned by volunteers as well as rejected food from the grocery stores that SoSA rescues. Those materials and transportation bring food safely from the fields and stores to the tables of families who need it most.

It's simple and a small gift makes a huge impact. A \$25 monthly donation through the 12 Baskets Monthly Giving Program is a great way to start. Your monthly gift brings more than 800 servings of food, every single month, to the tables of families in need.

For more information about 12 Baskets Monthly Giving Program, go to EndHunger.org/12

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated \$1,000+ in the 1st quarter of 2020

Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund Boston, MA
 Benevity Calgary, AB
 Canfield Memorial Trust Indianapolis, IN
 Clay Township of Hamilton County Indianapolis, IN
 CP and MG Lunsford Charitable Trust Winston-Salem, NC
 Enterprise Holdings Foundation Saint Louis, MO
 Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC Dallas, TX
 Fidelity Charitable Gifts Cincinnati, OH
 Lawrence Livermore Labs Princeton, NJ
 Madison Drugs RX Huntsville, AL
 Network For Good Bethesda, MD
 Paypal Giving Fund Washington, DC
 Schwab Charitable San Francisco, CA
 Southeast Produce Council Millen, GA
 The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation Lynchburg, VA
 Vanguard Charitable Warwick, RI
 Virginia UM Foundation Glen Allen, VA
 Wonderful Giving Los Angeles, CA
 Your Cause Plano, TX

Hunger Action Month September 2020

More than 40 million people in the U.S.A. today are hungry or food insecure, and many millions more as a result of COVID-19 and recent job losses. And yet, we will throw away over 133 billion pounds of good food this year.

Plan now to make September a time for your congregation to stand together against hunger. Commit to doing one or more of the following in September:

1. Follow the Hunger Action Month Calendar
2. Volunteer to serve as a hands-on part of the mission
3. Host an event to raise awareness

Find the Hunger Action Month calendar as well as more information here: EndHunger.org/ham

Growing, Serving, & Learning...

I am proud to be a part of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) during this pandemic. By working together with partners across the country, more food has been shared in more places than ever before.

I still sometimes feel disappointed and overwhelmed. To enforce social distancing, we canceled and postponed all Harvest of Hope Mission Trips for the 2020 summer. As the Director of Harvest of Hope, it's difficult to cancel or postpone any mission trip. The registered groups and participants, eager to serve, also share the disappointment with a canceled event.

Last year, SoSA hosted 223 participants. Through 6 Harvest of Hope trips, these passionate people shared more than 60,000 pounds of fresh food with 29 agencies, across 3 states.



Rachael Lee, Harvest of Hope Director

Each morning they began their days with rescuing food. In the afternoons, they came together and studied about hunger. They explored the reach and impact hunger has on people in the community. Each trip ended the same way. They end with a group commitment or covenant. These commitments were

goals to apply their experience and serve their hometown/community.

Despite the change brought by the pandemic, one thing has remained the same. People are still eager to grow, serve, learn, and love their neighbors. That fact encourages me and lifts me up when I begin to feel disappointed. I am inspired knowing there are still many people serving their neighbors in this time of great need.

Our plan is to safely resume Harvest of Hope mission trips this fall. We currently have a few trips scheduled and people are signing up. If you're interested, you're invited to sign up too.

For now, I spend my time assisting the teams in SoSA's Gleaning Network. I coordinate large company donations from partners who are donating food by the literal truckload. It's also been a refreshing opportunity connecting with local recipient agencies. I've been learning about their needs, their capacities, and the families they serve.

It's been a privilege to build relationships with new recipients and partners. It's reminded me that personal relationships, from one person to another, are at the core of what we do and why we do it. Sometimes we need to remind each other, from one person to another, that we are loved, valued, and "this too will pass."

If you're reading this and are eager to serve in the mission, I am talking to you. Consider partnering with us this summer through "Share Our Surplus". This SoSA program is an effective way you can get involved. It's also a

great way you can serve, while social distancing. Through this program, you will share fresh food with your neighbors in this time of great need. Visit the SoSA website for more information: www.endhunger.org/sos

Anyone can do it! If you plan on growing tomatoes or a small garden, you can do it. "Share Our Surplus" allows you to make a difference from your own backyard!

Send a message to info@endhunger.org asking for more information about "Share Our Surplus". We will send you more details about the program. This summer, you can safely turn your backyard into a part of the mission to end hunger.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Rachael Lee
Harvest of Hope Director

Harvest of Hope

**Plan Now for Your Church
Mission Trip This Fall**

Find details at
EndHunger.org/hoh



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

For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • sosainfo@EndHunger.org • EndHunger.org
Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram and sign up for monthly updates
EndHunger.org/signup

