



Society of St. Andrew

Gleaning America's Fields—Feeding America's Hungry

Quarterly Report

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Gannon the Hunger Hero

For more than 40 years, SoSA's Seed Project has shared hundreds of millions of servings of food across the Southeast, Midwest, and much of Appalachia. SoSA distributes seed potatoes in communities with a high need for food and sufficient space and/or ability to plant seeds for a larger harvest. Local homeowners and community gardeners plant the seed potatoes to provide potatoes to eat throughout the year.

In 2023, two truckloads of seed potatoes were sent to a longstanding local partner in Ohio—Jackson Area Ministries (JAM). Within a few hours, local volunteers unloaded, repacked, and distributed those seed potatoes to nearly 20 different agencies and organizations across Southern Ohio.

"I guess I do it because I know people need food. And it feels good in my heart knowing that the people appreciate the food and think it tastes good!"

One of these seed potato recipients stood out from the rest—Gannon. He's eleven years old and from a small neighborhood on the outskirts of Jackson, OH. Even at a young age, Gannon has a heart for serving his community in any way he can.

"After big storms, I help clean up trees, debris, or whatever folks need help with. I like doing things where I can work with my hands, get dirty, and I really LOVE driving the tractor."

Using the ample space in his grandfather's backyard and the tools available to him, Gannon takes a small amount of seed potatoes and transforms them into a larger blessing that serves dozens of families. Gannon has planted and harvested potatoes for four years now!

Gannon himself slices the seed potatoes, preps them for planting, weeds the garden, tends to it daily, and even brainstorms ways to ensure a bountiful harvest.

"Honestly, the hardest part is keeping those deer out of my garden. It's hard work. But I learned that deer don't like zinnia flowers. So I will plant those and a few other things to scare the deer away from my plants."



Gannon (11 years old) is pictured here planting, tending, and harvesting potatoes he grew for his community. Gannon is not afraid to get his hands dirty to ensure his neighbors have fresh produce to eat. He enjoys farming, and he also loves serving his community.

At 11 years old, Gannon can dispatch fallen trees, drive a tractor, till the soil, prep seed potatoes, consistently tend them, and then harvest the crop. When the harvest is finished, and the food is cleaned, Gannon goes door-to-door to share fresh vegetables with his neighbors until it's all gone.

Gannon brings to life a spirit of serving others and sharing abundance. This spirit can be found all across SoSA's nationwide hunger relief network. In communities everywhere, there are people like Gannon who simply say, "I see a need, and I'll do something about it."

Gannon doesn't run a nonprofit or even have a driver's license. But his generous heart and willingness to serve others helps many people who might otherwise go without. ■





2023 Year End Totals Fresh food saved and shared with hungry people

Nourishing Food Recovered.....	24,036,179 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	96,144,716
Events	7,583
Volunteers.....	23,190
Farms/Providers.....	929
Distributing Agencies	2,005

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EndHunger.org/lent



Deepen your faith & experience renewal in your own life with Society of St. Andrew, as you join our online readership family during the season of Lent.

February 14 — March 28

Gleaning Creates Connection

A Note from SoSA's Board Chair

By: Andrew Dillon

If you had called The Society of St. Andrew during the summer of 1997, your call might have been received by a plucky college student, “Hello! This is The Society of St. Andrew, Andrew speaking!”



Andrew Dillon

During the summer that I interned with Harvest of Hope, I was fortunate to travel across Virginia, North Carolina, and Alabama to support gleaning events and dive into how SoSA creates opportunities for communities to meet their own food needs. Gleaning creates connection—between farmers, volunteers, community organizations, and hungry neighbors. I'm excited to be reconnected to SoSA to serve as Board

Chair and think together about how we can reduce hunger in the United States.

As SoSA strives to deepen its impact, it's essential that we know who our hungry neighbors are and be more connected. Here are some recent statistics from the US Department of Agriculture if you want to unpack which American households are food insecure. Your hungry neighbors were more likely to live in either urban or rural areas (rather than in suburban areas). Your hungry neighbors were more likely to be African-American or Hispanic. Your hungry neighbors were more likely to have children in their households than not. Data helps us see trends and make sure our strategy to end hunger is aligned with who is hungry in our community. Each hungry neighbor is important.

Throughout the newsletter, you'll find some great examples of SoSA's work of connection. Thank you SoSA supporters—donors, farmers, volunteers, and staff! ■



Hunger Hides in Every Community

Car after car arrived at a recent drive-through food distribution in Orlando, FL to receive a box of assorted produce from the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) and shelf-stable pantry staples from partner agencies. Old cars, new cars, expensive models, rundown junkers, trucks,

people could possibly have in common—except they drove there because they needed food.

Did you know that 100% of counties in the United States have families experiencing food insecurity? That means there are families in every single county who do not know for sure where their next meal will come from. In early 2024, 44 million people in this country are considered food insecure. That's an additional 9 million people struggling to put food

time” distribution to agency partners. Health-giving food is shared at the peak of freshness, often the same day it was gleaned!

As the new year begins, SoSA's network is already hard at work getting fresh produce directly to these agencies. With increasing hunger needs, your support is more important than ever in 2024 to ensure SoSA remains nimble and responsive to the needs around us. We are so grateful that you choose the Society of St. Andrew as your partner in this work!

New opportunities to rescue food arise daily, and the

cars with car seats, cars with pets, cars with several elderly people inside, cars that folks clearly lived in.

The people inside each car looked as unique as each car did: every race, nationality, gender, and age. There was no single thing that all of these

on the table since the pandemic.

In 2023, support from donors like you made it possible for SoSA to share fresh produce with over 2,000 feeding agencies, from major food banks to small local congregation pantries, to after school programs and emergency shelters, and more. SoSA is nearly unique among food rescue programs in focusing on field-fresh fruits and vegetables and “just in

need for fresh produce is growing daily too. Gleaning is in high gear in warmer regions. Every day, SoSA volunteers deliver produce to agencies overwhelmed with need. And every day, supporters like you make a difference once again. ■



An Apple a Day Keeps H

One of SoSA's nonprofit partners, The Farmlink Project, called last fall with a big opportunity. West Virginia apple growers had two bumper crop years in a row, and now many contracts with buyers were falling through because there was so much excess! Thanks to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture, these "extra" apples would be available for donation through the fall.

Within a few weeks of that initial call, nearly 100 distribution locations expressed interest.

One of those locations was in Laurel, DE. SoSA's Delmarva (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia peninsula) office just opened in the summer of 2022, but partners in the area were eager to rescue produce! Laurel Farmers Auction Market stepped up to be an unloading site for apples. Julie and Bud Howard unloaded three tractor-trailer truckloads of apples in October and November as their first experience with SoSA. They moved apples from plastic shipping bins into cardboard bins and problem-solved when the bins ran out. Forty-seven food pantries in Maryland and Delaware picked up apples right from the Auction Market's loading dock.

In Jackson, KY, Breathitt County Hunger Alliance (BCHA) was thrilled to take a truckload. BCHA serves whomever is in need within Breathitt County, giving away as much food as possible. BCHA alerted the community when the truckload of apples arrived, and in less than 24 hours, local individuals and families claimed every last apple.

Often, after one agency in a community distributed a truckload, SoSA staff members would get two phone calls: one from the same agency asking for more and another from other nonprofits in the area who



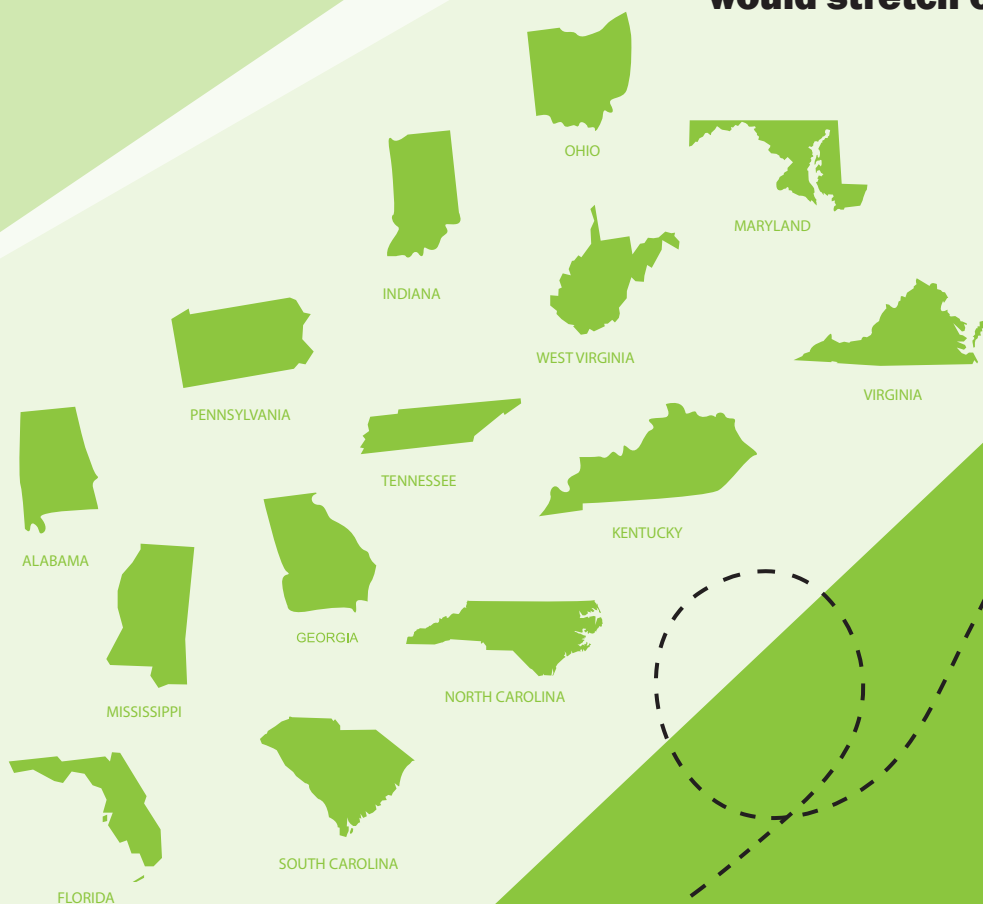
lunger at Bay

wanted apples! Word traveled fast through volunteers and churches who knew how crucial nutritious fruit would be for their neighbors. Michael Binger, Carolinas Regional Director, said agencies realized they could handle more than they originally planned. Many would call back asking for another truckload after their first!

SoSA partner agencies distributed 94 truckloads of apples

That's over 11 million individual apples

Lined up in a single line, the apples would stretch over 500 miles!



Over 60 partner agency sites across 14 states took apples in October and November. Each of those 60 sites served dozens of individual agencies. Churches, American Indian reservations, municipalities, and drive-thru distribution sites worked quickly to get apples to those in need.

SoSA's network of volunteers, churches, and feeding agencies

rose to the challenge of distributing four million pounds of apples. This experience highlighted SoSA's multi-state network of partner feeding agencies that can respond quickly and efficiently to share tons of food in their communities.

Apples are a nutritious and filling fruit for families in need. Through the dedication of SoSA's entire network—



Apples are loaded into volunteers' vehicles to deliver to local feeding agencies (left photo). Volunteers in North Carolina bagging apples from bulk bins into family-sized portions (photo on right and above). Some apples were Honeycrisp, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Pink Lady, or Gala!

volunteers, churches, feeding agencies, and you—hundreds of thousands of families had fresh food on their tables last fall. ■

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.

In Memory Of

Will Andrews
Judith Ann Bair
Donnie Baker
Scott Bartges
Barbara Bean
Bob Boal
Carl Breitingner
Thomas L. Bryant
Fr. Seraphim Cardoza
Catherine
Bobby Cheek
Jack & Dorothy Christie
Stephen Cleaton
William Crider
Harold T. Crowder
Bud Curtis
Nelson “Bud the Spud” Curtis
Wendy Damm
Joseph & Theresa Damon
James F Davis
Paul Davis’ Father
Sally Derflinger
Trina Dumont
Malcolm Ferguson


Richard Gates
George
Gary Hall
Milton & Marion Hathaway
Doug Johnson
Patti Kay
Lambs UMC Deceased
Family & Friends
Jodi Lee
Jean Makoujy
MaryJane
Barbara Mohrbacher
Roy A Moon
William (Bill) A. Moon, Jr.
Marion & Marjorie Newman
Ray & Ann Niederer
Nancy Parr
Rusty Peterson
Becky Brown Roberts
Eric L. Robinson, Sr.
Mrs. Sally Roseveare
Carl “Big Daddy” Spanyer
Ken & Von Staiger
Miriam Taber
Frances Thaggard

My kind and loving husband,
Warren D. Tudor
Rev Wesley Welborn
Robert Wilmouth
J. Glenn Wilson
Patricia Wright

In Honor Of

Mr. Frank Baldwin
Dawn Barnes
Jay Barton
Janine Bartram
Mary Beardall
Franco Benedict
Mike Benedict
Benn’s UMC Navigators SS
Class
Wayne & Cheryl Blythe
Marianne Boska
Bryan, Mercedes, Riley, Angie,
Shane & Katie
Wayne & Barbara Burgess
Calvary UMC Richmond Charge
The Campbell Family
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O.H. Cline, Jr.
Margaret & Ed Cornely
Jack & Agnes Corrigan
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Cynthia Curtis
Eva Curtis
Gayle Danielsen
Cooper & Jim Davidson
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United Methodist Church
Molly Dean
Doug’s Birthday
Frank & Bertha Earnest
Ebenezer UMC
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Harold & Mary Ella Fuquay
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Rev. Jim Harris
Joanne Hawley
Judi Hewett
Linda Hewitt
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Lynn Hoyt
Hasbrouck & Mera Hughes
Nancy Johnson
Bill & Linda Jones
Pastor Gloria Jun
Janet Schell Kaczmarek
Eric Kaiser
Dr. John Kay
Mrs. Nelda King
Diane Koropchak
Ken L.
Mark L.
Lacey
Gayle Lanier
Jenelle Marsh
Laura & Britt McNeill
Barry Metzger
Chuck & Nancy Moon
Charles Moses
Janet Moses
Annita Nelson
Amanda Nichols
The Norvilles
Oakdale UMC Richmond
Charge
Open Table Study Group
Mary Ann Paljug
Joyce Parson
Stella Pool
R. Poranski
The Powers
Ray
Andrew Reed
Reliance-Ridings Chapel
Charge
Uncle Todd Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Roseveare
Barbara and Jerry Sayles
William Schminkey
Jo Self



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Abundance Orchard for VBS!

where faith grows and hungry people are fed

Year 1: Old Testament
Year 2: New Testament

EndHunger.org/vbs

Both programs offer a FREE complete hunger action-themed VBS, a 2-3 hour program for up to 5 days.

Senior High Gleaners Of
the Past
Thomas E Short
The Shults
Jonathan & Robbin Sloan
Ellen Smith

South Roanoke UMC Staff
Adrienne Standridge
Kenneth Summers
Noel, Karen, Cornelia &
Gerald Sweezy
Reverend Tammy Talbert

Tanya & Spurgeon
Thursday's Journey
Jim Tibbs
D'Arcy Tyrrell
Todd Tyrrell
D'Arcy Tyrrell II

The VA UMC Extended Cabinet
Bob Webster
Howard Webster
Jim Webster
Linda L Womack
Wood's United Methodist
Church

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated \$1,000+ in the 4th quarter of 2023

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.

Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond Richmond, VA
Alabama Power Foundation Birmingham, AL
The Allen Foundation.....Midland, MI
Alpha Foundation Inc..... Huntsville, AL
American Funds Norfolk, VA
The American Online Giving Foundation Newark, DE
Ameriprise Financial Minneapolis, MN
Assetmark Trust Company Phoenix, AZ
Atticus Trust Nashville, TN
Beazley Foundation, Inc. Portsmouth, VA
Bedford Community Health Foundation Bedford, VA
Big Lots Foundation.....Columbus, OH
The Brave Heart Foundation.....Fishers, IN
The Caring Foundation Hoover, AL
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Centra Health..... Lynchburg, VA
CFD Research Delta Foundation Huntsville, AL
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Davenport & Company Richmond, VA
Draper Holdings Charitable Foundation Milton, DE
The Duke Endowment..... Charlotte, NC
EBSCO Industries, Inc. Birmingham, AL
Edward Jones Trust Co. Maryland Heights, MO
Eliza Mount Thomas Fdn/Bank of America Dallas, TX
Enterprise Holdings Foundation..... St. Louis, MO
Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC..... Albuquerque, NM
Fidelity Charitable Gifts.....Cincinnati, OH
First Bank Wealth Management.....Winchester, VA
Florida Blue Foundation Jacksonville, FL
FLW Management LLC Raleigh, NC
Foundation For The Carolinas..... Charlotte, NC
Frank E. Duckwall Foundation Tampa, FL
Freeman Family Foundation Winston-Salem, NC

Give Lively Foundation New York, NY
Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation..... Lynchburg, VA
Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation Birmingham, AL
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake..... Annapolis, MD
International Harvester Collectors of NC.....Gold Hill, NC
J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund Jenkintown, PA
Jackson State University Jackson, MS
Janney Montgomery Scott LLCPhiladelphia, PA
Johnson County Community Foundation, Inc. Franklin, IN
Johnson Family Foundation.....Miami, FL
Kohl Foundation..... Grapevine, TX
Lattner Family FoundationDelaray Beach, FL
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA
LPL Financial.....San Diego, CA
Morgan Stanley..... Baltimore, MD
Moses D. Nunnally, Jr. Charitable Trust B.....Winston-Salem, NC
Navigate Gives Back..... Birmingham, AL
Pershing Advisor Solutions LLC.....Jersey City, NJ
Publix Super Markets CharitiesLakeland, FL
Raymond James Global AccountsSt. Petersburg, FL
Renaissance Charitable Foundation..... Indianapolis, IN
Roanoke Women's Foundation.....Roanoke, VA
Rotary Club of Forest..... Forest, VA
Saul Schottenstein Foundation B.....Cincinnati, OH
Schwab Charitable..... San Francisco, CA
SEI Private Trust Company Oaks, PA
Southeastern Grocers Gives Foundation Jacksonville, FL
SpartanNash..... Byron Center, MI
Stewardship Foundation Tacoma, WA
TD Ameritrade Omaha, NE
The Trust Company Holland, OH
Vanguard Valley Forge, PA
Vanguard Monroe, WI
Vanguard Charitable..... Warwick, RI
The Wawa Foundation Media, PA
Wells Fargo Advisors Virginia Beach, VA
Wells Fargo Advisors St. Louis, MO
Weyerhaeuser NR Company Seattle, WA

Agency Spotlight

The Power of Produce: Public Health and a New Pantry

Would you be surprised if the next prescription your doctor wrote was for vegetables? Access to fresh produce can be a major barrier to better health for food-insecure individuals, so Atrium Health Navicent in Macon, GA is working with SoSA gleaners to eliminate the obstacles to nutritious food in their community. Atrium recently opened a “Food as Medicine” market with Macon community partners, including The Society of St. Andrew!

“The partnership with Atrium Hospital’s Food as Medicine Market is exciting,” says Angela Partain, SoSA’s Georgia Regional Director, “and we are thrilled to see the program come to life. SoSA’s food donations have made a real difference in offering healthy options to food-insecure patients.”



“Our most recent community health needs assessment identified food insecurity as a major barrier to health care in our area and found that there’s a need for not only increased access to healthy food but also knowledge about how to make healthier food choices,” said Delvecchio Finley, President and CEO of Atrium Health Navicent.

This “client choice” model is great for the patient, and it also reduces food waste because patients do not take food they will not eat.

Patients needing food assistance or who have specific nutritional needs can make an appointment to shop at the free market. Patients take a shopping cart around the pantry and choose food they like and need. This “client choice” model is great for the patient, and it also reduces food waste because patients do not take food they will not eat. Clients can supplement what they have in their refrigerators and stretch their budgets further.

When there is gleaning in the Macon area, SoSA volunteers deliver farm-fresh produce to the Food as Medicine Market. In fact, staff members from Atrium have gleaned regularly with SoSA for three years at local farms, always bringing some back to the market to share!

“The Food as Medicine Market and Food Pharmacy program will give individuals in our community tools to live healthier, prevent illness, and address serious health conditions that can be caused or worsened by insufficient intake of certain foods, like fresh fruits and vegetables,” said Finley.

To promote fruits and vegetables for better health, nurses and doctors with Atrium Health Navicent also teach nutrition classes at the market and share recipes. Staff members host cooking demonstrations to demystify unusual fruits and vegetables. Atrium’s Food as Medicine Market recognizes food insecurity can cause lasting harm to the body.

SoSA volunteers work hard to get produce to the Food as Medicine Market, so lack of funds and access to

fruits and vegetables will not determine someone’s health outcomes. Community partnerships, like the Food as Medicine Market in Macon are making a difference! ■



SoSA Georgia staff members Anna Foreman and Angela Partain accept a community partnership award with Atrium Health Navicent (top photo). The Food as Medicine Pantry is easy to find and full of nutritious fruits and vegetables (two photos above and photo on the left).

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 • EndHunger.org
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