



Society of St. Andrew

Gleaning America's Fields—Feeding America's Hungry

Quarterly Report

VOLUME 43

NUMBER 2

2026

Hope is Winning

In the quiet corners of our communities, families are struggling to put food on the table. Hunger often feels like a problem too massive to solve and too entrenched to erase. But at Society of St. Andrew (SoSA), we see a different reality every day.

Because of you, neighbors have the food they need. Your commitment ensures that the simple act of gleaning a field transforms excess into abundance for families who need it most.

Just last year, your generosity made a difference:

- **21,516,539** pounds of fresh produce saved from going to waste



- **86,066,156** servings of nutritious food shared on the tables of hungry neighbors



It is easy to look at food insecurity statistics and feel a sense of paralysis.

47 million Americans struggle every year, and 14 million of those are children. When we see images of empty plates, our instinct can sometimes be to look away. We freeze in the belief that our individual efforts are just a drop in a bucket that will never be full.

Apathy thrives on the lie that nothing ever changes. But we know that hunger is not a problem of scarcity!

However, progress is happening every day. As Reverend David Beckmann, former president of Bread for the World, stated: "It is important for people to realize that we can make progress against world hunger, that world hunger is not hopeless. **The worst enemy is apathy.**"

Apathy thrives on the lie that nothing ever changes. But we know that

hunger is not a problem of scarcity! We grow enough food to feed every person in this country. In 2025, your gifts rescued 21,516,539 pounds of produce from being left in the dirt. Over 20,000 SoSA volunteers joined together in fields last year to ensure good food didn't rot in the ground. And every pound of produce delivered to a local pantry was an act of faith against the "hopelessness" Beckmann warns us about.

When you choose to act, you dismantle apathy. When you donate funds to rescue produce or give your time to glean, you aren't just filling stomachs! You are proving that the world can be better.

Hope is a practice. It's the decision to believe that a better world is indeed possible. By supporting SoSA, you are rejecting the "worst enemy" and standing on the side of progress.

Let's keep moving forward. Whether you're gleaning in the fields or supporting the Society of St. Andrew from home, you are the reason hope is winning. ■





January 1–March 31, 2026 Fresh food saved and shared with hungry people

Nourishing Food Recovered.....	2,418,164 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	9,672,656
Events	317
Volunteers.....	1,943
Farms/Providers.....	103
Distributing Agencies	452



Transform Your Worship This September

Fruitful Living is SoSA's brand-new 4-week worship resource bundle to mark the Season of Creation in September!

This bundle includes sermon starters, scripture readings, children's lessons, digital art, and more!

Your \$75 donation provides 1,500 servings of fresh produce to neighbors in need. Align your worship with your mission!

Order the Bundle today at EndHunger.org/creation

Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

In 2010, when I joined the Society of St. Andrew's staff, we were almost unique. SoSA was the only organization focused on keeping good food out of landfills, and nearly the only organization working to get perishable fruits and vegetables to the tables of hungry people.



Lynette Johnson

involved in growing and harvesting respect farmers more deeply. Purchasing and eating locally grown food becomes important to them, which supports the local farm economy.

Volunteers who take food to their neighborhood agencies see the face of hunger in their town. They begin to understand more about the situations that cause so many people to struggle to feed their families. The 20,000+ folks who volunteer each year become champions in addressing poverty in their own communities. SoSA volunteers become advocates for the systemic changes that will, God willing, end hunger in this country.

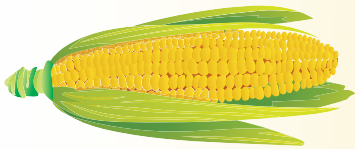
That landscape shifted over the last 16 years, as hunger has become an entrenched problem for 10-15% of the US population on any given day. What makes SoSA unique is our emphasis on volunteers coming together in fields, gleaning (picking, digging, gathering) fresh produce that will be shared as locally as possible. These same volunteers load produce into their vehicles and take it to nearby feeding agencies.

We don't talk nearly enough about the impact this model has in building caring communities. SoSA bridges the gap between farms and the rest of us. Volunteers who get a taste of the work

As you read this newsletter, you'll see various ways SoSA is adapting to a changing world, but the heart of our mission is constant: the power of a volunteer in a field. We are more than a food recovery organization; we are bridge-builders between the land, growers, and neighbors in need. By participating, you don't just help keep good food out of landfills—you build a caring community of individuals committed to systemic change. Dig deeper with us this season, whether in the fields or through your continued support, as we work together to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. ■

Volunteers are the **S O U L** of SoSA

The day begins in that quiet, blue-gray hour before the sun breaks on the horizon. While the world still sleeps, volunteers across the country are packing water bottles, lacing up sturdy boots, and checking their supplies. They are heading toward an orchard in Indiana, a farmers market in Ohio, a corn field in Florida, or a sweet potato field in Mississippi, arriving just as the first golden rays begin to stretch across the soil.



At SoSA, this is the normal rhythm of gleaning. But to the thousands who participate, it is more than just a morning of agricultural labor; it is a profound act of community-building and a continuous stand against food insecurity.

Every gleaning event follows a familiar, grounded ritual. It starts with a safety briefing from a SoSA coordinator, the distribution of tools, and a walk to the designated field for the morning. From there, volunteers work shoulder to shoulder, bridging gaps

of age, background, and experience. In one row, a veteran gleaner (who has spent seasons harvesting everything from blueberries to potatoes to corn) shares tips with a first-time volunteer learning the “snap” of a perfect green bean. Regardless of experience, every pair of hands serves the same vital purpose: ensuring that good food is rescued rather than wasted.

The work is tactile and rhythmic: fruit is plucked from vines, leafy greens are nestled into crates, and root vegetables fill durable bags. Within a few hours, the day’s labor is loaded into cars and coolers and is on its way to local food pantries and distribution agencies.

“Morning gleans are like a ritual. We rise with the sun and gather to set the tone for the day; greeting each other with good intentions, ready to connect and spread joy through the act of gleaning together.”

—Audra Boarman, Indiana Program Coordinator

On an average three-hour glean, a group can harvest anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand pounds of produce. While the physical weight is easy to measure, the social impact is unquantifiable. For many gleaners, what feels like an average morning is actually a radical act of compassion.

What does every pound harvested and every hour served really mean? It means access and dignity for neighbors. Because of these volunteers, millions of food-insecure households each year gain access to the fresh, nutritious food that is often the first thing cut from a tight budget.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of SoSA’s mission. Their appreciation for agriculture, connection to the land, and passion for showing up for their neighbors sustain the

2025 Volunteer Statistics

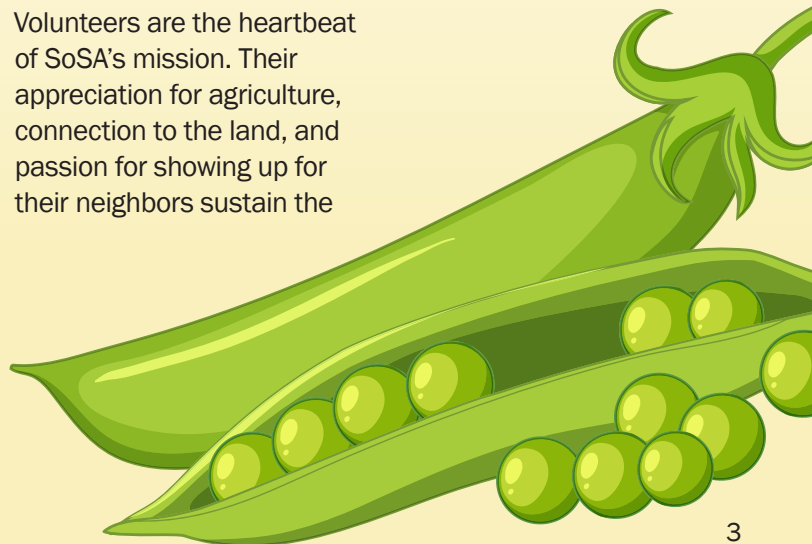
20,000+ dedicated individuals

55,900 hours served

Over 20 million pounds rescued
(That’s enough to fill 635 tractor-trailers with produce!)

SoSA Gleaning Network and change the landscape of their communities.

As the current gleaning season continues into the summer, fields remain a place of joy. Every person who attends a glean leaves a lasting mark on their community, proving that when we work together, the harvest is always abundant. ■



Cooking Up CHANGE in Lewiston, NC



East Carolina
University (ECU)

researchers tracking
the program found a
measurable decrease
in patients' A1C levels.

DID YOU KNOW that only one in ten Americans consumes an adequate amount of fruits and vegetables? For families facing food insecurity, fresh produce is often a luxury they simply cannot afford, forcing them to rely on cheaper, highly processed alternatives. But thanks to supporters like you, your neighbors have greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables through our partnerships with programs like Eastern Carolina University's Farm2Clinic program.

Led by Director Lauren Sastre, Farm2Clinic specifically addresses the needs of low-income, uninsured patients managing type 2 diabetes. The program supplements their traditional medical treatments with critical dietary changes, providing patients with produce from SoSA and other local farms.

The results speak for themselves: East Carolina University (ECU) researchers



tracking the program found a measurable decrease in patients' A1C levels. Through SoSA's partnerships, you provide vital healthcare interventions to neighbors in need.

This partnership was on full display in November 2025 during a special crop drop hosted at The Evidence Church in Lewiston, NC. Farm2Clinic providers and SoSA volunteers set up the church parking lot and fellowship hall to host a food distribution and interactive educational demonstrations.

Community members picked up freshly gleaned sweet potatoes and 4 varieties of fresh peppers outside the church. After loading their cars, these neighbors were invited into the fellowship hall, where 8 ECU students hosted live cooking demonstrations. These students showed attendees exactly how to prepare the vegetables distributed that day, offering creative cooking tips for the massive variety of peppers, including poblanos, cubanelles, Hungarian wax, and jalapeños.

About 100 people came through the church that day to learn and sample the produce. The spirit of community was so strong that many residents actually returned later in the day to pick up extra food to deliver to neighbors who couldn't attend. The town's mayor even volunteered, rolling up her sleeves to help out and expressing how much she loved the partnership.

The November event was a beautiful collaboration between ECU students, SoSA volunteers, SoSA staff, community members, and partner agencies. Everyone who attended left with exactly what they needed, whether it was fresh food, new cooking skills, or a stronger sense of community.

In fact, the event was such a success that ECU is already planning to hold more events with SoSA in 2026!

Every bit of produce rescued and distributed to our most vulnerable neighbors is made possible because you believe in building caring communities. With about 47 million people relying on food assistance each year, this work is far from done. But with your continued support, we can keep rescuing produce, hosting community drops, and proving that the best medicine is sometimes found on a plate. Thank you for making these caring communities a reality. ■





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

Dorothy and Robert Andrews
 Jodi Lee
 Dan Whittaker
 Bernard Cmar
 Ruth W Martin
 Gayle Hood

Delores Cole
 Little L

In Honor Of

Maria Caneli
 The Volunteers At Sosa
 Tony Pugh
 Elis and Sam Clarke
 All Of the High School Summer
 Gleaners Of Past Years and
 Present
 Pat Wiley
 Trish Pielnik
 Michael Cano
 Maria Gandy
 Marian Kelly
 For Lenten Devotional Guides
 Cathy Hughes



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS**
that donated \$1,000+ in the 1st quarter of 2026

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.

- Alfa Foundation.....Montgomery, AL
- American Online Giving Foundation Newark, DE
- Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation..... Manchester, CT
- Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond Richmond, VA
- Community Foundation of Eastern Shore..... Salisbury, MD
- DAFgiving360..... San Francisco, CA
- The Elizabeth C Lambert Foundation.....Miami, FL
- Fidelity Charitable Gifts..... Cincinnati, OH
- Give Lively Foundation New York, NY
- M&T Charitable Foundation Wilmington, DE
- The Martin Andersen-Gracia Anderson FoundationOrlando, FL
- MAV Foundation.....Stamford, CT
- Moses D. Nunnally, Jr. Charitable Trust B.....Winston-Salem, NC
- The Phase Foundation..... Germantown, MD
- Robert & Dee Leggett Foundation Great Falls, VA
- Southeast Produce CouncilMillen, GA
- T. Rowe Price Charitable..... Baltimore, MD
- United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore Salisbury, MD
- Virginia United Methodist Foundation Glen Allen, VA
- The Wawa FoundationMedia, PA
- William J and Isobel G Clarke Foundation Coral Gables, FL



Harvest of Hope

Hands-On Service/Study Events

**YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND AN UPCOMING
HARVEST OF HOPE
MISSION TRIP**

**Join us for an intergenerational
weekend this fall!**

September 25-27 in Harrisonburg, VA

September 25-27 in Fayetteville, TN

October 9-11 in Eastern NC

November 6-8 in Riner, VA

The Society of St. Andrew's ecumenical study, worship, and mission retreat program is designed to educate participants concerning the domestic and global hunger problem and encourage them to commit to being part of the solution. To see the full trip schedule and what you can expect at HoH, visit the website below.

EndHunger.org/hoh



Volunteer Spotlight

Bill and Candi's Decades of Faith in Action

For Bill and Candi, the mission of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) has resonated since they first heard it in the late 1980s. When Bill heard SoSA founders Ken Horne and Ray Buchanan speak at United Methodist Men gatherings, he was moved to act. The ideas were simple but staggering: millions of Americans are food insecure, yet a massive surplus of food exists. SoSA bridges that gap for mere pennies per serving. "That message is as true today as when

I first heard it," Bill reflects. Over the next thirty years, Bill and Candi made gleaning a family affair. From North Carolina to Virginia, they harvested sweet potatoes, apples, and corn. They led youth groups into the fields and served as committed regular financial donors, providing steady financial support to ensure the longevity of this work.

When they moved from Virginia to Tennessee and joined Christ UMC in Franklin, they were surprised to find the church hadn't yet hosted a potato drop. They set out to change that immediately. In March

2023, they coordinated the church's inaugural drop. What started with the help of a grant has blossomed into a congregational staple; for the past three years, Christ UMC has written the potato drop into its annual budget.

Their most recent drop on February 28, 2026, marked their fourth consecutive event, drawing between 100 and 200 volunteers. For Bill and Candi, the excitement never fades. "Each year, as a truckload of potatoes arrives in the church parking lot, we are excited to know that, within a few hours, a large group of volunteers will bag produce which will be transported to local feeding agencies," they share.

"Within a day or two of the drop, tens of thousands of servings of food will be on the plates of persons who otherwise might have to do without."

For those moving to a new area without an active SoSA presence, Bill's advice is simple: start small and speak up. Invite neighbors to a nearby gleaning, or ask your mission committee to host a SoSA speaker for a "mission moment."

Through their physical labor in the fields, their financial partnership, and their championing of SoSA in their congregation, Bill and Candi show that whether you are bagging potatoes in a parking lot or donating to the cause, every effort helps SoSA turn surplus into abundance for all. ■



A 30-Day, Fundraising Challenge that raises \$1,000 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 gleaning and feeding work of the Society of St. Andrew.

Learn More:
EndHunger.org/abfn

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
EndHunger.org/signup**

© 1983-2026, THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

