



Society of St. Andrew

Gleaning America's Fields—Feeding America's Hungry Quarterly Report

VOLUME 42

NUMBER 1

2025

A Billion Reasons to Keep Going: Sharing Abundance to End Hunger

SoSA celebrated sharing its billionth pound of food in 2024, and while hunger still exists, you are working to eradicate it. Every single day, volunteers give their time and energy. Farmers give more than we knew was possible. Donors surprise us with generosity. Every single day, SoSA's community goes above and beyond, exceeding expectations with their generosity, dedication, and compassion.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his 1964 Nobel Lecture stated: "Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? ...There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will."

The "deficit of human will" to provide for neighbors is not with you. Volunteers show up in fields, markets, and warehouses, devoting countless hours to gleaning fresh, nutritious food. Farmers open their gates, offering crops they've worked so hard to grow, ensuring none goes to waste. Donors surprise us with abundance again and again, enabling the work to feed families in need.

The billionth pound of food shared last year was not just a marker of quantity—it was a symbol of hope, a testament to what we can achieve together when we share our abundance.

Together, we are proving that hunger is a problem we can solve—one pound, one field, one serving at a time. Let's keep going. There's more work to do in 2025. ■

"Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? ...There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will."
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Over the past 5 years, food insecurity rates have gone up and down due to different COVID-19 relief measures and varying assistance programs. Today, 47 million Americans are still food insecure, and we are grateful that you remain steadfastly committed to rescuing food and feeding those in need.



Gracious volunteers serve daily to ensure their neighbors have enough to eat. Every volunteer can make a difference, one pound of produce at a time.





January 1–December 31, 2024

Fresh food saved and shared with hungry people in need

Nourishing Food Recovered.....	21,840,035 lbs
Servings of Fresh Food Provided.....	87,360,140
Events	6,756
Volunteers.....	22,446
Farms/Providers.....	809
Distributing Agencies	2,083

Receive a daily devotion in your inbox throughout Lent.

It's not too late to sign up.
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.

Lent is March 5 — April 19

Creating Caring Communities

by Lynette Johnson



Lynette Johnson,
Executive Director

communities.” That’s really at the heart of everything we do.

Caring communities start with farmers who see an opportunity to share abundance with others when they have surplus food in their fields. They grow when caring people of all ages and all walks of life show up to volunteer, gathering fruits and vegetables left behind; when volunteers load that good food into their vehicles and drive it to a nearby food pantry to share with anyone who wants fresh, nourishing food to eat.

During a recent interview with a job candidate, I asked, “What do people who are hungry look like? What are their characteristics?” The candidate quickly and insightfully responded, “Anyone can find themselves hungry without access to the food they need. It just takes one thing.” That’s so true! It just takes one thing to upset the careful balancing act that keeps the wolf at the door.

Getting laid off; your own or your child’s illness calling you to call out sick one time too many; a wildfire or flood; a rent increase; fewer tips than usual. All of us could find ourselves without enough food to feed our families. And as 2025 begins, with more than 47.4 million people in this country facing food insecurity, if you and I aren’t hungry, someone we know is.

A pillar of the Society of St. Andrew’s mission statement is “building caring

And caring communities flourish when volunteers show up time and time again to do more, when they invite their neighbors to join them in the fields, when they draw their network in to support SoSA’s work financially, when they listen to those they are serving and join them in advocating for food access for everyone.

One piece of fruit, one serving of vegetables at a time, one day at a time, your work with the Society of St. Andrew feeds hungry neighbors. In 2024, you shared about 87 million servings of nourishing food, reaching folks in more than 2,000 neighborhoods and communities. That’s a lot of caring. Thank you! ■

A Sweet Day in the field



Steve Reiss, a dedicated SoSA volunteer, writes letters to his grandkids weekly. A few months ago, he wrote to them about gleaning corn.

Early one morning, he and 14 fellow seniors set out from New Covenant United Methodist Church in The Villages, Florida to Long & Scott Farm. They joined 20 additional SoSA volunteers in the field and picked corn for 3 hours, filling bag after bag and box after box. By the end of the morning, they had filled 126 boxes with sweet corn weighing over 2 tons!

But their work didn't end there! Steve and their group brought corn back to their church parking lot, where 14

food pantries eagerly waited. These organizations ensured the fresh produce reached those in need, spreading nourishment and kindness throughout the community.

Volunteers like Steve make a huge impact in their communities! Steve connected with his fellow church members, got to know additional volunteers in the field, rescued corn that would have otherwise been wasted, AND shared much-needed nutritious produce with families in his community. Beyond that, he wrote to his grandkids to tell them all about the experience. The day wasn't just about corn: it was about serving neighbors, building community, and creating stories to share for generations. ■



Potatoes and Partnerships in Roanoke

When the Roanoke Police Department's Community Engagement Team, local elementary school, Roanoke Women's Foundation, Smith's Farm, and the Society of St. Andrew joined forces to feed Roanoke neighbors in January 2025, they did more than distribute food; they showed how to build a caring community!

The Roanoke (VA) Police Department's Community Engagement Team recently partnered with SoSA to host a potato drop for Roanoke residents. The Community Engagement Team works hard to know their town; being engaged in the community builds rapport, helps officers address concerns before they become big problems, and gives them insight into ways to help meet community needs. The Community Engagement Team knew exactly what

neighborhoods had the greatest need and worked with SoSA to arrange a food distribution event there.

The morning of the drop, a full-sized tractor trailer with 20 pallets of potatoes in 50-pound bags pulled up to a Roanoke elementary school parking lot where a volunteer forklift driver carefully unloaded each pallet so volunteers could rebag those large 50-pound bags into a size more suitable for distribution to families.

Nearly 130 volunteers from nearby churches, the police department, plus a group of police department recruits banded together to bag potatoes. They formed assembly lines and crowded around the pallets to sort and rebag the 42,000 pounds of potatoes for families in the community.



Nearly 130 volunteers from nearby churches, the police department, plus a group of police department recruits banded together to bag potatoes

Several volunteers knew of additional locations and feeding agencies in Roanoke that could use potatoes. They quickly called friends and family,



Roanoke, Virginia



and three Roanoke food pantries received potatoes, thanks to some additional work by these dedicated volunteers. Some officers loaded their vehicles with potatoes to deliver directly to housing developments and other families in need. These collaborative partnerships forged through distributing potatoes will continue to address hunger throughout the year.

After about 3 hours of bagging and a few more hours of deliveries, the potatoes all found new homes with Roanoke residents. For many families, these potatoes were more than just a meal. They were a reminder that their community cares for them. ■



From left to right: (1) A SoSA sign directs volunteers to the bagging site at a Roanoke elementary school. (2-3) Volunteer bag potatoes into family-sized portions for distribution. (4) Tents protect the potatoes from getting wet in the rain. (5) Roanoke police load up a vehicle with potatoes to share with neighbors. (6) Potato Drops are a real team effort, and this group of volunteers rose to the challenge.



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

Anderson Family	Fr. Saraphim
Paul & Shirley Antill	Fr. Goran
Barry Arrington	Andrew Frank
Mr. Ronnie Ashcraft	Larry & Lois Fry
Donnie Baker	Mollie & Marshall Guthrie
Madeline Belk	Elizabeth Hancock
Franco Benedict	Dick & Anne Harris
Mike Benedict	Tim Henderson
Harold "Buzz" Best	Mike Humphries
Andrew Brannan	Olive Karch
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L Bryant	Patti Kay
Barbara Burgess	Anke Leadabrand
Joseph Burnette	Inell Lee
Mrs. Peggy S. Carey	Thomasine & Johnny Lemons
Jack & Dorothy Christie	Jean Makoujy
Andrea Claxton	Lynthia Marshall
Bessie Conner	Nan Maxwell
Margaret & Ed Cornely	Darwin McAfee
Nelson "Bud the Spud" & Eva Curtis	Kerri McAfee
Kitty L. Dadisman & Peekey	Elaine Newman McDorman
Edwin H. Daniels, Sr.	Grace McFeaters
Bruce & Malcolm Ferguson	Dick Mead
Mark Ferguson	Anne Minnick
Fr. Zhivko	Mary Murphy
Fr. Viktor	Annita Nelson
	Marion & Marjorie Newman
	Linda Nietman

John Perry Nunes
Nancy Parr
Steve Plummer
Stella Pool
David L. Raine, Jr.
Glenn Rapping
Shelia Reeder
Christine Riley
Eric L. Robinson, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald N. Roseveare
Greg Ruter
Jerry Sayles
William Schminkey
Ros Sloan
Lori Stahl
Ken & Von Staiger
Stonewall Methodist Church
Ray Talton
P. C. & Erma Tankersley
Mildred Thomas
The Tyrrells - D'Arcy, D'Arcy II
Todd Tyrrell
Uncle Todd
Raymond A Vohden, Sr.
Frances Sue Walker
Peter D. Weaver
J. Glenn Wilson
Calvin & Macklyn Woodford
Mrs. Sally N. Yates

James Payten Harcum
Wanda Henson
The Horwitz Family
Jesus
Eric Kaiser
John Kay
Marion Krentz
Lacey
Gayle Lanier
Joyce Ey & Dorothy Lott
Theo Lord
Richard & Carol Pearsall
Stella Pool
R. Poranski
Justin & Catherine Quinley
Janis Ranck
Hayden & Brennan Regan & Charley Fulton
Carol Robb Rhoads
The Rice Family
Jamie Russo
Jerry Schlabach
Tom Short
Jean Sigmon
Susan Sineath
Marie & Jody Smith
Donna & Lewis Straub
Summer Sr. High Gleaners
From Past Years
Chesley Vohden
Evan Wilkes
Our Children William & Emily



A charitable legacy gift is a capstone to a life well lived. It honors the values you express during your lifetime and continues to support The Society of St. Andrew in perpetuity. Be on the lookout for a letter from Executive Director Lynette Johnson in the next few weeks, inviting you to consider becoming a Legacy Partner of The Society of St. Andrew.

In Honor Of

Chris & Bill Albers
Andrew
Wayne & Cheryl Blythe
Rev G.C. & Linda Branton
Barb Burg
Dick & Lynn Campbell
Fannie Cato
Mary Jane Clark
Eva Curtis
Cynthia Curtis
Cooper & Jim Davidson
Frank & Bertha Earnest
Ebenezer UMC
Barbara Emison
Ray Gooch



Scan this QR to
donate and provide
fresh, nutritious
produce to people
in need today!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

that donated \$1,000+ in the 4th quarter of 2024

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.

The Al Stroobants Foundation Lynchburg, VA
 Alabama Power FoundationBirmingham, AL
 The Allstate Foundation Southfield, MI
 Alpha Foundation Inc. Huntsville, AL
 ArborBrook Consultants..... Destin, FL
 Atmos Energy Corporation Dallas, TX
 Atticus Trust Nashville, TN
 AYCO Charitable Foundation..... Albany, NY
 Beazley Foundation, Inc. Portsmouth, VA
 Bedford Community Health Foundation Bedford, VA
 BWX Technologies, Inc. Lynchburg, VA
 Centra Health Lynchburg, VA
 Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Little Rock, AR
 Chesapeake Wealth Management Kilmarnock, VA
 Chichester duPont Foundation Inc Wilimington, DE
 Christian Church Foundation Indianapolis, IN
 City of Cincinnati Cincinnati, OH
 Coastal Credit Union Foundation Raleigh, NC
 Coleman-Adams Construction, Inc..... Forest, VA
 Community Foundation for a greater Richmond.....
 Richmond, VA
 Community Foundation of South Georgia
 Thomasville, VA
 Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore
 Salisbury, MD
 Corporation for Global Community Development
 Jackson, MS
 D. A. Davidson & CoGreat Falls, MT
 The Dr. P. Phillips FoundationOrlando, FL
 Draper Holdings Charitable Foundation..... Milton, DE
 The Duke Endowment Charlotte, NC
 EBSCO Industries, Inc.Birmingham, AL
 Eliza Mount Thomas Foundation Dallas, TX
 Enterprise Holdings Foundation..... St. Louis, MO
 Fidelity Charitable GiftsCincinnati, OH
 Florida Baptist Children's Homes, IncLakeland, FL
 Florida Blue Foundation Jacksonville, FL
 Hill Crest Foundation IncBirmingham, AL
 Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation
 Birmingham, AL
 Johnson Family FoundationMiami, FL
 Kohl Foundation Grapevine, TX

The Kroger Co. Cincinnati, OH
 Lattner Family Foundation Delray Beach, FL
 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore, CA
 The Memorial Foundation, Inc..... Madison, TN
 National Philanthropic Trust..... Jenkintown, PA
 Navigate Gives BackBirmingham, AL
 Publix Super Markets CharitiesLakeland, FL
 Renaissance Charitable Foundation .. Indianapolis, IN
 Rotary Club of Forest Forest, VA
 Saul Schottenstein Foundation B Cincinnati, OH
 Schwab Charitable San Francisco, CA
 Southeast Produce Council Millen, GA
 Southeastern Grocers Gives Foundation
 Jacksonville, FL
 Stewardship Foundation..... Tacoma, WA
 Vanguard Charitable Warwick, RI
 Virginia TechBlacksburg, VA
 Weyerhaeuser NR Company Seattle, WA
 Woodard Family Foundation.....Charlottesville, VA



Abundance Orchard
for **VBS!**
Try it this year!

Year 1–
Old Testament

Year 2–
New Testament

**where faith grows
and hungry people
are fed**

EndHunger.org/vbs

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

Volunteer Spotlight

Gleaning, Giving, and Going the Extra Mile

You can't go gleaning in the Charlotte, NC, area without meeting Joe Harrison, a Charlotte-gleaning legend. First to arrive, last to leave, Joe is always ready to rescue food and serve his neighbors.

Joe doesn't just volunteer his time to glean. When he's not in the field, you'll find him mowing lawns for blind neighbors, picking up and delivering food to feeding agencies, or baking delicious cakes. He once brought pies made with Muscadine skin

about people talking to you. You just keep gleaning." He gets out there and focuses on rescuing as much food as he can!

From sweet potatoes to apples, Joe has gleaned just about every kind of produce,

gleaning experience as a gift. The world is better because of Joe!"

Joe Harrison's dedication reminds us all that we can make a big difference in our communities.

**Joe is always
ready to rescue
food and serve
his neighbors**



Yujia Wu (left) and Joe Harrison (right) gleaned mustard greens to share with North Carolinians.

Joe started gleaning sometime around 1998 with his church. Raised on a farm, he loves that he can help people in need by gleaning. Gleaning and sharing produce is an easy way to serve neighbors, and Joe is all about that!

to a gleaning, to show that everything can be used.

Even with worsening hearing, Joe isn't slowing down, and he gets into the field as much as possible. "When you're gleaning, you don't have to worry too much

and he fills in as field supervisor when needed. SoSA Program Coordinator Maria Gandy relies on him a lot in Charlotte! "Joe is my go-to guy when I am stuck with a field issue. He knows the fields better than I do, and I take his 27 years of

Thank you, Joe, for being a shining example of service and caring for your neighbor! ■



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

© 1983-2025, THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

