



# Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

**GEORGIA GLEANING NETWORK / SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER**

## Gleaning Georgia fields to feed the hungry

Perfectly edible fruits and vegetables are making it onto the plates of those who are hungry\* instead of being dumped into landfills or plowed back into the ground. Society of St. Andrew's *Georgia Gleaning Network* is making a difference for the 12.6 percent of Georgia households who are food insecure.\*

Volunteers are taking to the fields and packing houses in increased numbers, gleaning\* cabbage, green beans, squash, onions, watermelon, peppers, zucchini, and apples! Gleaners are delivering this nutritious food to agencies such as food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens.

Repeatedly, as people have learned about the *Georgia Gleaning Network*, the response is "We are so glad you are here. There is so much that can be done."

There is MUCH that can be done! With just a handful of gleaners and growers, over 1.2 million pounds of Georgia-grown food has been saved so far in 2008.

YOU can make a difference in the lives of those who are hungry! Read this newsletter and pass it along to a friend. Return the form on the back or visit us on the web at [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org).

\*see glossary on other side



VOLUNTEERS LOAD CULLED CABBAGE FROM A PACKING SHED INTO BINS FOR DELIVERY .



## Where does the food go? Or, corn from the Cobb.

When I go to different groups to speak, one of the first questions often asked is, "Where does the produce end up?"

We try to find a home for all produce as close to where it was grown as possible. Most of the smaller, rural food banks are in greater need and recipients often have fewer alternatives. Many of these small rural food banks, actually food pantries, do not have the wherewithal to store food and no refrigeration and must get their shipments in as close to the distribution date as possible.

Let me share with you a small, albeit "corny", example of how God is working in this ministry. One of these food banks is financially supported by a church. In addition, the members work in a thrift store to provide funds to buy food, they go to the market to purchase the food, they come to the fields to collect the produce, and they box the food for the families in need and distribute the boxes. More than half of the members of First United Methodist Church of Colquitt, in Miller County, are involved in this ministry.

Allen and Alice Cobb are the volunteer Executive Directors of the food bank and work tirelessly to coordinate this large undertaking. As if this were not enough, when Allen is driving through the countryside, he is watching for fields and talking to farmers. Down in the southwest corner of the state Allen found a farmer who had sweet corn on the cob, already in the box, that he would donate to the Society of St. Andrew. There was nothing nutritionally or aesthetically wrong with the ears of corn, but the outer edges of the husks had a little yellow showing and that is not what consumers at the grocery store want to see. Allen Cobb told me he thought the farmer had quite a bit of corn and I quickly followed up.

You can imagine my delight when the farmer told me how many thousands of pounds he had available and how that turned to terrified shock when he told me how many semi tractor trailer loads that would equal. But this was fresh sweet corn, in the box, and on the cob! Calls went out and that corn, found by the work of Allen Cobb, generously and graciously donated by a farmer, went to Savannah, Albany, Atlanta, Thomasville, Montezuma, Brunswick, Tallahassee, FL, Chattanooga, TN, Columbia, SC, and Little Rock, AR. Then, in turn, this bounty of fresh corn spread out and was distributed to the small food banks and rural pantries at points in between. That is where this corn from the Cobb went.

*Submitted by: Janet Sheldon*

## GEORGIA GLEANING NETWORK

Rev. Rachel Radeline Gonias, Director • Mrs. Janet K. Sheldon, South Georgia Program Coordinator  
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## Janet Sheldon leads gleaning efforts in Georgia

Janet Sheldon is the Program Coordinator responsible for operating the *Georgia Gleaning Network* of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA). The network is comprised of growers, volunteers, and service agencies working together to provide fresh food for the poor and hungry throughout the region. Prior to joining the Society of St. Andrew at the beginning of this year, Janet had, for the past five years, been working in Georgia with farmers and community leaders on environmental, conservation, and agricultural issues. That work led to a network throughout the state, which she believes was laid in preparation for this job with SoSA.



Reverend Rachel Radeline Gonia, director of the Society of St. Andrew's Alabama regional office, said, "We are very pleased to welcome Janet. Her understanding and love of South Georgia along with her varied skills and wealth of experience bring a new synergy to the office. Motivated by her faith, she is eager to engage the communities of South Georgia in fighting hunger through gleaning." Gonia also oversees the Tifton office.

Sheldon said she is "thrilled to be a part of this marvelous ministry that is win/win/win." Janet lives in the midst of farmland and has seen first hand the waste of crops left in the field. "Through gleaning and salvaging," she continued, "we can help feed the hungry, help farmers make use of their unused produce, and help give individuals and groups a concrete outlet to serve their fellow man."

### Who's Hungry in Georgia?

- Poverty is the leading cause of hunger in the United States.
- Over 483,000 of Georgia's children (21.3%) live in poverty.
- The cost of food rose 5.8% from May 2007 to May 2008.
- 36% of the households accessing emergency food sources have at least one employed adult.
- Over 900,000 adults aged 18-64 lacked a high school diploma or GED in GA in 2005.

### Glossary

**Food Security:** Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum 1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food and 2) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, or stealing).

**Hunger:** The uneasy or painful sensation caused by a lack of food, the recurrent and involuntary lack of access to food. Hunger may produce malnutrition over time.

**Gleaning:** The biblical practice of entering the fields after harvest to pick up any crops that have been left in the field.



### What You and Your Church Can Do to Feed Hungry People in Georgia

Christ calls us to provide for those in need when we are faced with hungry people. YOU can join the Society of St. Andrew's *Georgia Gleaning Network* in feeding those who are hungry in our state. Come to the fields with us. Raise money to support the *Gleaning Network*. Have a speaker from SoSA talk at your church about hunger. Sign up to receive the e-newsletter. Join the *Georgia Gleaning Network* group or the Society of St. Andrew Cause at Facebook.

Fill out the form below and return it to the address at right or send this information by email to [gleanga@endhunger.org](mailto:gleanga@endhunger.org)

### GLEANERS RESPONSE FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_

- My church would like more gleaning registration information.  
 I want to help support gleaning financially. Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Donations also accepted securely online.)

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