



Volunteers under one of the covered pavilions arranged by the Newton-Hamilton potato drop rip open the 50-pound bags of white potatoes and re-package them to be distributed to hungry families all over the region.

who don't know Christ. It has fostered cooperation and communication among the churches, as well as ecumenical involvement with other denominations, and community organizations." ➔

## THANK YOU to the following FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS that donated \$1,000+ in the second quarter:

- Beazley Foundation ..... Portsmouth, VA
- Central Alabama Community Foundation ..... Montgomery, AL
- Cheshire Pork ..... Goldsboro, NC
- Duke Food Recovery Network ..... Durham, NC
- Fidelity Charitable Gifts ..... Cincinnati, OH
- Foundation for the Carolinas ..... Charlotte, NC
- Georgia College ..... Milledgeville, GA
- Griffin Endowment ..... Greensboro, NC
- Hill Crest Foundation ..... Birmingham, AL
- James M. Frye Endowment Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia ..... Richmond, VA
- John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation ..... Bethesda, MD
- John K. Bastien Foundation ..... Boca Raton, FL
- Network For Good ..... Bethesda, MD
- Order of the Arrow-Conclave ..... Vienna, VA
- Publix Super Markets Charities ..... Lakeland, FL
- Selby & Richard McRae Foundation ..... Jackson, MS
- Shepherdstown Rotary Club ..... Shepherdstown, WV
- Walmart Foundation ..... Bentonville, AR

### Rev. Willie Petty: An example of volunteering - continued from cover

to others in the community. At one of these events, Petty saw a woman approaching "in a hurry." She had raised \$60 in spare change from various sources in the community and wanted to make sure and get it to him quickly to support our gleaning efforts.



Rev. Willie Petty carries flats of blueberries to deliver to a food pantry.

Willie Petty went from a volunteer gleaner, to a field supervisor, to coordinating efforts over a large region of the state. CeeCee Petty helps coordinate events and promotes their efforts on social media. And members of their church community collect spare change to help fund the mission. There is a role for everyone to get involved. No effort is too small to help change someone's life.

\*Andy Lemmon is SoSA's Program Coordinator for Mississippi and Arkansas

## Harvest of Hope Limited Fall Spots Still Open!



*15% of Americans are food insecure.*  
SoSA saves and distributes 25-30 million pounds of fresh food each year.  
Register online at [EndHunger.org/hoh](http://EndHunger.org/hoh) or contact us at 800-333-4597.



# Society of St. Andrew

## GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY Quarterly Report

VOLUME 33

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### Rev. Willie Petty: An Example in

# Volunteering

By Andy Lemmon\*

Rev. Willie Petty (right) and his wife, CeeCee, began volunteering with the Society of St. Andrew by gleaning fields and picking up excess produce at warehouses. This is where most volunteers start, and where many people find it easiest to be involved. Eventually, the Pettys became field supervisors, leading others by demonstrating proper field safety and field etiquette. They would turn a group of new volunteers into a well-trained team that could make quick work of gleaning that field.

Although Willie is a full-time pastor in Caledonia, Mississippi, he has now joined our staff, part-time, as SoSA's gleaning contact for North Mississippi. When there is food available at farms and warehouses in the region, he's the man who coordinates farmers, volunteers, and feeding agencies so food can be collected and distributed to those who need it most.

Willie Petty's involvement continues to grow. And yet there are ways to volunteer that don't involve picking produce in the hot sun. There are senior citizens in Rev. Petty's community who sometimes receive food from his church's feeding program and also help sort and give away food

Image right: Reverend Willie Petty and volunteer prepare to deliver potatoes to a food pantry.



Continued — see Rev. Willie Petty: An Example of Volunteering on the back cover

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For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • [sosainfo@EndHunger.org](mailto:sosainfo@EndHunger.org) • [EndHunger.org](http://EndHunger.org)

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## January through July Statistics

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

Gleaned Produce.....	9,771,836 lbs
Potato & Produce Project.....	5,302,927 lbs
Events .....	2,790
Volunteers.....	15,295
Farmers.....	620
Partner Agencies.....	1,120

**Total Historical Pounds**                      **814.7 Million**  
**Total Historical Servings**                **2.4 Billion**

## Recent Donations

### In Memory Of

Mrs. Ruth Ashcraft  
 Webb Babcock, Jr.  
 Betty Brian  
 Mrs. Judy Brown  
 Rev. Judith Brown  
 Steven Emery Carpenter  
 Bud Curtis  
 Flora Belle Howard Graham  
 Evine King

Nick Lella  
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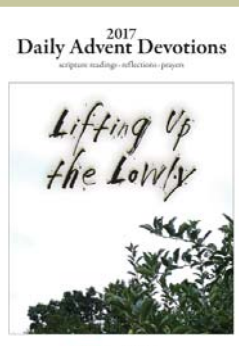
### In Honor Of

Belton FUMC Children's Ministry  
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 Sharon Cox  
 Deidre Duffy  
 Patsy Fowler  
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 Jack & Carolyn Hamby  
 John and Mary Lou Harrison  
 Katherine T. Higgins  
 Holmes Presbyterian Church  
 Liz King  
 William Morling  
 Brenda Patterson  
 Cindy Toombs  
 Rev Bill Wade  
 Bob Williams  
 Wayne Tysinger

### Plan for Advent with SoSA

Advent materials are shipping now.

Order yours at [EndHunger.org/advent](http://EndHunger.org/advent)



## Executive Director's Report

By Lynette Johnson

### Hard Work and Smiles

So far this year, more than 16,000 people have volunteered with the Society of St. Andrew. They are men and women, children of all ages, young people, and seniors; some of them have volunteered just once, and others answer the call week after week, gleaning after gleaning. These volunteers come from all walks of life—it's not unusual for a bank executive to glean alongside someone living in a shelter.



Gleaning is not easy work. Gleaners are in dusty or muddy fields, under the hot sun. They bend, stoop, pick or dig, lift, turn, and do it again—plant after plant, row after row, hour after hour. It is hard, dirty work. There are sometimes critters and snakes; and there are always bugs: flies, gnats, and mosquitos.

What is extraordinarily rare among gleaners is a frown or a complaint. When you go into a field with gleaners, the first thing you notice is that everyone is smiling. They are having a good time! The grime and labor, and even the bugs, make the experience more meaningful and more memorable. Gleaners know that every piece of fruit, every vegetable they bag, will be eaten by someone in great need. Every tomato, every handful of beans, is a tangible reminder that someone's plate will have healthy food on it tonight, simply because that gleaner chose to spend the morning in a field.

Volunteers, we thank you—your work makes all the difference!➤



## United Methodist Men Feed Hungry Pennsylvanians

**E**ach year, thousands of individuals and families in need in Central Pennsylvania receive help from the efforts of the United Methodist Men - working with the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA.) The UMMen of Grace UMC in Lemoyne are long-time supporters of SoSA. And recently, the UMMen of the Newton-Hamilton UMC pulled together several churches to feed thousands in their area through a potato drop.

In Lemoyne, Gary Wilkins has headed up the relationship with the Society of St. Andrew for more than 25 years. In appreciation, Wade Mays, SoSA's liaison with UMMen, attended the Lemoyne potato drop last November and presented a special plaque to Wilkins. Bishop Jeremiah Park also came to lend a hand. Early that morning, a truck loaded with 42,000 pounds of white potatoes arrived in the parking lot of the local fire station. Wilkins and the UMMen of the church had arranged to unload the pallets of potatoes in the fire house parking lot, and use the bays of the station for bagging all the potatoes for quick distribution to a



Photo by Wade Mays

At the potato drop in Lemoyne, Bishop Jeremiah Park (right) joined with (l-r) Merri and Pastor John Shellenberger, and Donna and Gary Wilkins. Gary Wilkins is holding the plaque of appreciation he received from the Society of St. Andrew for more than 25 years of good work and support.

dozen food pantries and other area feeding organizations. Scores of their church members arrived, along with some from Crosspoint UMC, and the Citizens Hose Fire Company. With the added incentive of delicious, hot potato soup provided by the UMMen, they quickly bagged all 42,000 pounds for distribution later in the morning to area food pantries and families in need.



The UMMen of Newton-Hamilton UMC also made use of a SoSA potato drop to feed hungry people in their area. Pastor Brian Myfelt knew the small church would need some assistance, and the connectional system kicked into gear. They worked with the other churches in the Mount Union area to prepare for a truckload of 42,000 pounds of potatoes. They coordinated with the Mount Union Fire Department to use their facilities at a former air field, with covered pavilions to work under as they bagged the potatoes. They linked up with two people with fork lifts, and they got publicity both on radio and in the newspaper. They had volunteers from other UM churches, and from other denominations. The National Honor Society and the Future Farmers of America from Mount Union Area High School also joined in.

Newton-Hamilton UMC brought in even more partners: half the truckload was dropped off at the fairground in Reedsville where the churches of the Lewistown area brought in volunteers and distributed more than 20,000 pounds of potatoes to the agencies in the Lewistown area. Pastor Myfelt says, "It is amazing how people talk about this project and how worthwhile it is. It connects people with the churches involved, including those



Inside the firehouse in Lemoyne, volunteers bag potatoes for pickup later that morning, by area food pantries and feeding agencies.

Photo by Frank Baker

The Society of St. Andrew was created in 1979 with the support of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Since that time, it has coordinated the rescue of more than 800 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, all provided, at no cost, to agencies that feed the hungry. With a main office in Virginia, regional offices in six other states, and gleaning units in many states, including Pennsylvania, it rescues and delivers food by gleaning fields, accepting donated truckloads of food from farms and packing houses, and providing mission retreats. Learn more at [EndHunger.org](http://EndHunger.org).