



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: STEVEN M. WALDMANN • DIRECTOR EMERITUS: REV. KENNETH C. HORNE



MISSION AND VISION

The Society of St. Andrew introduces people to God's grace in Jesus Christ through meeting their hungers:

- Food for the body
- God's word for the spirit
- Community of love for the heart
- Opportunity for those who desire action

We have a vision of a world without hunger, where the physical and spiritual hungers are met through God's grace and abundance. We adhere to the words of First John 3:18: ". . . *let us love not only in words, but in deed and in truth.*"

INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

WHAT - The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) is a nationwide, faith-based, ecumenical, nonprofit ministry operating a variety of programs to fight hunger in America. Our name comes from St. Andrew's role in Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000.

WHO / WHEN - SoSA was begun in 1979 by two Methodist ministers who, with their families, stepped out in faith to serve God. Its first office was a converted sheep shed and from these humble beginnings God has blessed this ministry.

WHERE – **Serving the entire nation from 20 States:** Maintaining its national headquarters in Big Island, Virginia, SoSA has grown to include 7 regional offices in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee with additional gleaning offices/operations in these states plus: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia.

HOW - The Society of St. Andrew's grassroots approach brings together farmers, volunteer gleaners, distribution networks, food banks and relief agencies to feed hungry people.

Two of our most significant programs are the **Potato & Produce Project** and the **Gleaning Network**, nationwide produce salvage programs providing direct relief to the hungry while addressing one of hunger's major causes: food waste. SoSA salvages commercially unmarketable yet perfectly good, nutritious food that would otherwise be left to rot in fields or dumped in landfills because it's the wrong size, blemished, or misshapen.

WHY – There are more than 45 million hungry people in the United States, and there shouldn't be. We waste enough food annually – 96 billion pounds according to the USDA – to feed all of our hungry brothers and sisters. Normally wasted produce can be gleaned and delivered by SoSA to the poor for about 2¢ per serving. Maximizing the best, most effective and efficient solutions to hunger makes logical and spiritual sense to almost everyone.

605 MILLION POUNDS ~ OVER 1.8 BILLION SERVINGS

Since its 1983 inception, the **Potato & Produce Project** has saved and distributed over 417 million pounds of free potatoes and other fresh produce. This food has provided more than 1.25 billion nourishing servings to the homeless, the working poor, the elderly in need, impoverished Native Americans, children living in poverty, and more.

In recent years, the **Gleaning Network** has had more than 441,000 volunteers hand glean more than 187 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables...one piece at a time. This has provided 563.2 million servings.

All of this was done at a cost of 5-8¢ per pound. In contrast, it costs the federal government \$1.30 to provide one pound of food to those in need.

USDA RECOGNITION

In 1997, the Society of St. Andrew received the first annual "Hero of Food Recovery & Gleaning Award" from the United States Department of Agriculture in recognition of its pioneering efforts in food reclamation through its nationwide grassroots food salvage and hunger-relief programs.

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FOOD SALVAGE PROGRAMS

- **GLEANING NETWORK** - One major area of food waste is found in farmers' fields where crops are left to rot or to be plowed under because it's not profitable to complete the harvest. Through this program, farmers donate their fields for gleaning by volunteers organized by SoSA from church groups, service clubs, college organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, senior citizens, inner-city housing residents, and other interested individuals.
This gleaned food is then donated to local hunger relief agencies. In recent years, more than 441,000 volunteer gleaners have salvaged more than 184 million pounds of edible produce. The cost of gleaned produce, including administration, fundraising, program expenses, containers, and sometimes freight, is 5-8¢ per pound salvaged.
- **POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT** - Food growers donate to SoSA tractor-trailer loads of nutritious produce that cannot be sold due to market conditions or for cosmetic reasons. We arrange to bag, ship, and give this produce free to food banks, soup kitchens, Salvation Army Centers, food pantries, homeless shelters, and Native American Reservations. Our total cost is about 5-8¢ per pound. Since the 1983 start of this program, over 417 million pounds of produce have been saved and distributed to hundreds of agencies in 48 states and the District of Columbia to feed hungry people.
- **SEED POTATO PROJECT** – An element of the *Potato & Produce Project*, this self-help program offers a hand-up to people living in impoverished circumstances in Appalachia and on Native American Reservations. The Society of St. Andrew purchases the seed potatoes and pays for bagging and shipping to central locations for free distribution - through agencies, missions and churches - to people with available land for planting. The people plant, cultivate and harvest their own crops. Each 50-pound bag of seed potatoes yields about 400 pounds of potatoes, which will help feed a family of four through the winter.
- **HARVEST OF HOPE** -This program educates people about the hunger problem and challenges them to serve the poor in ongoing commitments to responsible living in a hungry world. A program of work, worship and study is conducted in mission camps scheduled around the country. Senior high youth attend weeklong mission retreats while weekend mission retreats are geared toward junior high, college and/or intergenerational groups. Participants learn about hunger, its causes and its affect. They worship together, glean local fields donated by growers, deliver the food to local agencies, and sometimes even prepare and serve the food to the needy. Over the years, more than 12,000 people have participated in *HOH* events, many of whom have been so inspired by their experience that they have gone into full time social service or religious mission work.
- **HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATE INITIATIVE** - In 1999, the Society of St. Andrew, in partnership with the General Commission on United Methodist Men, established its *Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative*. The program is designed to engage the United Methodist church, through the leadership of United Methodist Men, in advocacy and hands-on mission work with the poor and the hungry, and to develop and maintain gleaning networks to salvage food and feed the hungry. There are Hunger Relief Advocates at work in 15 United Methodist Conferences: Arkansas, Detroit, East Ohio, Illinois Great Rivers, Indiana, Kansas East, Missouri, North Georgia, Oklahoma, South Georgia, Southwest Texas, Virginia, West Ohio, West Virginia, and Wyoming Conference (NY).

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TIMELINE HISTORY & MILESTONES 1979–2010

1978

Horne and Buchanan families **pray daily for God's guidance** in beginning a shared ministry.

1979

June 8 – **Society of St. Andrew founded** in Big Island, Virginia with the blessing of the United Methodist Virginia Conference.

- Horne and Buchanan families move into the farm house on Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, and begin their ministry, that of an intentional community modeling a lifestyle of Christian responsibility, and leading “responsible living and hunger issues” workshops across the Virginia Annual Conference; they adopt the name Society of St. Andrew from the role Andrew had in Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000.

1983

March – **Potato Project** starts with the offer of a dump truck load of potatoes from Virginia Eastern Shore farmer Butch Nottingham (at Franktown UMC during a hunger workshop conducted by Ken and Ray) and \$30,000 seed money from the United Methodist Virginia Conference.

May – Moved office operations out of the farm house and into a converted **Sheep Shed** on the farm property.

June 3 – First load of salvaged sweet potatoes is donated to the *Potato Project* by George Wooten, owner of W. E. Bailey Produce of North Carolina; load is delivered to the Central Virginia Food Bank in Richmond, VA during the Virginia UM Annual Conference.

1984

April 11 – **Society of St. Andrew incorporated.**

Society of St. Andrew becomes an **Advance Special** program of the United Methodist Church, #801600.

First large grant received: \$100,000 from the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

1985

Harvest of Hope established with the first mission retreat camp held on Virginia’s Eastern Shore.

International program (1985-1997) distributes food and self-help programs to: Jamaica (Seed Potato Project), Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Armenia, Brazil, Liberia, Guatemala, Cuba, Venezuela, Mozambique, India, Zimbabwe.

1986

Saint Andrew Club started by William Schminkey at and administered by Fairlington UMC, Alexandria, VA, to raise funds for SoSA.

1987

Seed Potato Project becomes an annual spring program in Appalachia, giving seed potatoes to people in need who can plant and cultivate their own gardens.

1988

Gleaning Network gets started in Virginia with a \$70,000 seed grant from World Vision International; network continues to expand every year. As of 2009, SoSA has 44 satellite Gleaning Network operations in 20 states ~ and growing.

1989

St. Andrew Press established to produce resources for spiritual growth and to support SoSA's programs and ministries with publicity, brochures and other printed materials.

Annual Lent and Advent devotions programs

Annual Vacation Bible School mission project programs

Annual Reports

Quarterly "SoSA Report" newsletter

Song book

1989 – "Pass the Potatoes" coloring book

1990 – "Please Pass the Potatoes" cookbook of appealing recipes from SoSA staff and supporters, as a fundraising tool, providing monies to operate the Potato Project

1994 – "Silence and the Gift", a book of devotional poetry and art by Richard Beale

Ongoing - SoSA program brochures and other promotional materials

Starting 1998 this function becomes part of the Church Development and Public Relations programs.

1990

First national headquarters building constructed and occupied in Big Island. Metal building donated by Eddie Upchurch and his Bax Steel company of Georgia.

Meals for Millions fundraising program begins in partnership with the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

1991

Hunters for the Hungry pilot program begun.

1992

First Regional Office opens and is located in Durham, North Carolina.

1993

January - **SPIN-OFF - Hunters for the Hungry** spins off as independent organization under the direction of David Horne, former SoSA Corporate Director.

WAGN (Washington Area Gleaning Network) spin-off – This group, which was part of SoSA's Virginia Gleaning Network, spins off to become an independent nonprofit group for the purpose of recovering fruits and vegetables at various farms located throughout Maryland and northern Virginia to feed the hungry people within the Washington, DC area. In 2008 it undergoes a name change to Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET).

1994

Second Regional Office opens and is located in Dallas, Texas

Gleaning Network surpasses 1 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved per year.

1995

Third Regional Office opens and is located in Florida

“**Loaves & Fishes**” chapter of the Saint Andrew Club begins through SoSA’s NC regional office; transferred in 1997 to Big Island office for administration.

St. Andrew’s Retreat, under the direction of Jean Horne, evolves from the “Christian Spirituality” component of SoSA established in 1993 to re-emphasize our spiritual roots and develop spiritual life retreats, concomitant with one aspect of SoSA’s mission statement, “God’s word for the spirit”. Dissolves in 1997 when Jean Horne resigns to enroll full time in seminary.

1997

Gleaning Network surpasses 5 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved per year and distributed to the hungry across America

SoSA receives the **Hero of Food Recovery & Gleaning Award** from the United States Department of Agriculture at the first National Summit on Food Recovery & Gleaning. This is the first award of this type presented by the USDA.

1998

January 1 – **SPIN-OFF - Stop Hunger Now** begun by SoSA co-founder Ray Buchanan as an international hunger relief organization to coordinate distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world.

Society of St. Andrew establishes its focus exclusively on domestic hunger relief.

Society of St. Andrew surpasses 250 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved for the hungry through the *Potato Project* and *Gleaning Network*

Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative is established as a partnership with SoSA and the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Start-up is funded with a seed grant from United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Ken Horne and Ray Buchanan each receive the 1998 **National Caring Award** presented by the Caring Institute for their long-standing commitment to ending hunger in America through the work of the Society of St. Andrew. Past recipients include Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Jane Woodall, and Mother Teresa.

1999

SoSA **Board of Directors** transitions from an advisory board to a **governing board**.

2000

Gleaning Network surpasses 10 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved per year

SoSA’s historical total number of volunteers surpasses 100,000

Ken Horne **nominated** by the Congressional Hunger Center for the **Leadership for a Changing World Award** sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Advocacy Institute, for his effective and continuing leadership in tackling the problem of domestic hunger.

2001

Potato Project's historical total surpasses 300 million pounds of potatoes and other produce saved

SoSA's historical total of servings of nourishing food distributed to the hungry surpasses 1 Billion

2002

Society of St. Andrew initiates and co-sponsors the **first National United Methodist Hunger Summit** bringing together church leaders and hunger workers across the United Methodist connection to develop more efficient and effective ways for the UMC to lead in the fight against hunger

Central Virginia Chapter of the Saint Andrew Club started at and administered by Mountain View UMC, Forest, VA, to raise funds for SoSA

2003

Society of St. Andrew establishes its "brand" with the tagline: *Gleaning America's Fields ~ Feeding America's Hungry*

SoSA's historical total number of volunteers surpasses 200,000

Ken Horne becomes a Society of John Wesley Fellow

2004

Society of St. Andrew marks its **25th Anniversary!**

"Bridge the Hunger Gap" fundraising campaign begun to take SoSA to the next level in saving food and feeding America's hungry

Gleaning Network historical total surpasses 100 million pounds of fresh food saved and distributed

2005

Society of St. Andrew becomes a **founding member** of the **Alliance to End Hunger**.

January - **Fourth Regional Office** opens and is located in Birmingham, **Alabama**.

June 7 – **SoSA conducts Potato Drop on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC** in conjunction with National Hunger Awareness Day and SoSA's partnership with the Alliance to End Hunger sponsoring 2 days of hunger awareness events.

June 7 – **SoSA recognized during a "celebration" service at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC** during the two-day National Hunger Awareness Day activities sponsored by the Alliance to End Hunger.

October – **Harvest of Hope Saint Andrew Club** begins to encourage HOH participants to be faithful financial supporters of SoSA's hunger relief ministry.

December – **Fifth Regional Office** opens in Mathiston, **Mississippi**.

SoSA's historical total number of volunteers surpasses 300,000.

2006

January – SoSA participates in the USDA’s Nonfat Dry Milk Product Exchange program; SoSA exchanges vouchers for 1.86 million pounds of nonfat dry milk with manufacturers of shelf-stable food products (ready-to-eat milk-based soups, ready-to-eat pudding, nutrition bars, ultra-high temperature shelf-stable milk), resulting in 2.65 million pounds of shelf-stable food that SoSA distributes to critical feeding agencies across the nation

Society of St. Andrew becomes a **founding member of the National Anti-Hunger Organization (NAHO)**

SoSA’s historical total surpasses 500 million pounds of food saved through the *Potato Project* and *Gleaning Network* combined

2007

January – **Gleaning Network office** opens in south **Georgia**, under the direction of the Alabama Regional Office

September – **National Advisory Board** formed; 14 business, political and philanthropic leaders from across the nation named to the board; Senator Elizabeth Dole (R), of North Carolina, named honorary chair

2008

April – **United Methodist General Conference adopts resolution #4093** commending “Society of St. Andrew as a partner organization with the UMC in the alleviation of hunger in the U.S.”

April 30 – SoSA co-founder **Ken Horne retires** and is named Director Emeritus; Steven M. (Mike) Waldmann named Executive Director

June – **SoSA West office (sixth Regional Office)** opens and is located in Kansas City, **Missouri**, to facilitate expansion west of the Mississippi River.

December – *Potato Project* surpasses 400 million pounds of potatoes and other produce saved and distributed

2009

Society of St. Andrew marks its 30th anniversary

Total number of volunteers helping to feed the hungry with SoSA surpasses 400,000.

September – *Gleaning Network* surpasses 175 million pounds of fresh produce gleaned by hand from farm fields and orchards, one piece at a time, by volunteers. This provided more than half a billion servings of food for the hungry.

2010

Harvest of Hope mission retreat camp program celebrates 25 years of educating people about hunger issues, feeding the hungry, and changing lives.

May – Society of St. Andrew surpasses 600 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved for the hungry through the *Potato & Produce Project* and *Gleaning Network* combined.

July – **Seventh Regional Office** opens and is located in Nashville, **Tennessee**.

Statistical Milestones

1983 – June 3 – First load of salvaged sweet potatoes is donated to SoSA's new *Potato Project*.

1994 – *Gleaning Network* surpasses 1 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved per year.

1997 – *Gleaning Network* surpasses 5 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved per year and distributed to the hungry across America.

1998 – SoSA surpasses 250 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved for the hungry through the *Potato Project* and *Gleaning Network*.

2000 – *Gleaning Network* surpasses 10 Million Pounds of fresh produce saved per year.

2001 – *Potato Project's* historical total of servings of nourishing food distributed to the hungry surpasses 1 Billion.

2003 – SoSA's historical total number of volunteers surpasses 200,000.

2004 – *Gleaning Network* historical total surpasses 100 Million Pounds of fresh food saved and distributed.

2005 – SoSA's historical total number of volunteers surpasses 300,000.

2006 – SoSA's historical total surpasses 500 Million Pounds of food saved through the *Potato Project* and *Gleaning Network* combined.

2008 – SoSA's *Potato Project* surpasses 400 Million Pounds of potatoes and other produce saved and distributed.

2009 – SoSA's historical total number of volunteers surpasses 400,000.
Gleaning Network's historical total surpasses 175 Million Pounds of fresh produce rescued and distributed, providing more than Half a Billion Servings.

2010 – SoSA's historical total surpasses 600 Million Pounds of food saved through the *Potato Project* and *Gleaning Network* combined.

SPIN-OFFS

- **Hunters for the Hungry** – 1993, David Horne spins off this SoSA program as an independent ministry harvesting venison donated by Virginia deer hunters and distributing it to food banks and critical feeding agencies in Virginia.
- **Stop Hunger Now** – 1998, Ray Buchanan spins off SoSA's international program to an independent ministry focusing on hunger overseas.

SPAWNS – SoSA's hunger relief work and ministry model has spawned several organizations:

- **Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOP)** – Founded in September 1987; Teaching teens that they can make a difference now! TOP leads teens to fight poverty, hunger and homelessness in the Washington, DC Metro Area, Virginia, around the country and the world. Founded by Steve Jennings (a member of SoSA's Board of Directors) at Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church in Chantilly, Virginia **as a result of the church's participation in the Society of St. Andrew's Potato Project** and the involvement of one of their youth in a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip to Costa Rica. TOP operated as an informal network of youth groups until 2002 when it incorporated. A 501(c)(3) charitable organization since 2003
- **Washington Area Gleaning Network (WAGN)** – Started in 1993; in 2008 name changed to Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET); **as a result of involvement with the Society of St. Andrew's Gleaning Network**, this group was started to recover fruits and vegetables at various farms located throughout Maryland and Virginia to feed the hungry people within the Washington, DC area.
- **Gleaning for the World** – Inspired by the Society of St. Andrew, Rev. Ronald Davidson (a former member of SoSA's Board of Directors) founded Gleaning for the World in 1998; seeks to provide life-saving support to communities in critical need throughout the world by providing surplus medical and essential supplies to humanitarian projects.