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A Vacation Bible School mission project

In this Internet age our children often speak a different language than we do. Website addresses. Text messaging abbreviations, etc: ?4U - LOL - <3 - 4EAE - 9 - AYTMTB - AFC - CYE - MTF - B4N - PZ - SSIF - :). And this is just the tip of the iceberg. So, what, you might ask, does GAF/FAH in this story's headline mean? Read on to see how it relates to a free Vacation Bible School mission project offered by the Society of St. Andrew, a national hunger-relief ministry.

endhunger.org is the website address of the Society of St. Andrew. This nonprofit ministry is serious about feeding hungry people and in doing so it works hard to educate and relate to children, youth, and adults about how they can make a difference. To do this the Society has developed a Vacation Bible School mission project that can be incorporated into any VBS themed curriculum.

This year's mission project is entitled "endhunger.org - GAF/FAH". OK, we'll spell it out for you: GAF/FAH stands for Gleaning America's Fields – Feeding America's Hungry, which is what the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) does nationwide. VBS kids, teachers and parents can go to the Society of St. Andrew's website for more information about SoSA's ministry and GAF/FAH.

SoSA's VBS mission project will engage VBS students in mission as they go surfing (for the uninitiated, that's another "online" term) through the Bible to learn about hunger. The program is a fun and energizing way to involve VBS students in mission by feeding their hungry neighbors, just as Jesus commanded.

"endhunger.org - GAF/FAH" is designed to supplement your VBS program and help your students learn about hunger in America and how Jesus wants us to help. Daily student activity sheets contain short scripturally based stories, facts about hunger and SoSA's ministry, potato trivia, and pencil activities. And, for the first time, they include optional online activities kids can do at home with their parents at the Society of St. Andrew's website.

Besides the fun and educational aspects of this VBS mission project, the goal for each participating VBS is to raise enough through student offerings for 1,000 pounds of fresh produce that will end up on the plates of hungry people right here in America. At a nickel a pound, that's a goal of \$50.

The food will be donated to feed the hungry by the Society of St. Andrew. This hunger-relief ministry salvages excess fresh vegetables and fruits that are perfectly good and nutritious but can't be sold because of market factors. Instead of letting this food go to waste, the Society of St. Andrew ships it to agencies feeding the hungry throughout the nation, and at a cost of a little over 5¢ a pound! It's a simple and effective way to obey Jesus' commands to feed the hungry, while also being good stewards of our nation's abundance.

Last year 182 churches used the Society of St. Andrew's VBS program. The children attending VBS enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry by donating \$40,822 – enough to provide more than 2.7 million servings of food to hungry men, women and children! On average, each participating VBS raised four-and-half times the goal of \$50.

All materials for this exciting new VBS mission project are free and will be shipped starting March 15. Order a sample kit today. There is no obligation. Call Jennifer Vestal Moore at the Society of St. Andrew, 800-333-4597; email church@endhunger.org; fax your request to 434-299-5949; or order online at http://www.endhunger.org/order_material.htm. If your materials do not arrive by the end of March or within two weeks of placing your order please call the Society of St. Andrew.

More information about the Society of St. Andrew and its hunger relief ministry, including the *Potato Project*, *Gleaning Network*, *Harvest of Hope*, and *Hunger Relief Advocate* programs, is available at www.endhunger.org.

Editor's Note – Interpretation of Text Messaging Abbreviations: ?4U – I have a question for you; LOL – laugh out loud; <3 – [sideways heart] love, friendship; 4EAE – forever and ever; 9 – parent is watching; AYTMTB – and uou're telling me this because; AFC – away from computer; CYE – check your e-mail; MTF – more to follow; B4N – bye for now; PZ – peace; SSIF – so stupid it's funny; :) – smile.)

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Color graphic of VBS logo available – contact Carol Breitingner (see above).