How to Feed Hungry People Every Day  A story worth repeating.

It seems so simple. About forty people scatter across a field that’s covered by rows of leafy plants. They talk with each other, and laugh sometimes, as they pick kale. This bucolic scene is a common one for volunteers with the Society of St. Andrew. It happens thousands of times a year, in fields and orchards from the Gulf states of Florida and Mississippi, to the upper plains of Michigan and the hills of New York State.

That’s part of the draw for tens of thousands of SoSA volunteers each year. They spend a morning outside, working with old friends and meeting new ones. They get some fresh air, and they exert themselves to collect the very freshest fruits and vegetables to help feed the poor, the elderly, and the hungry children of their communities.

This group’s pleasant morning in the field it is only one chapter in a story that is begun and completed almost every day of the year. On this day in July, the story will end with homeless men and women from the streets of Nashville receiving the comfort of caring people, and food prepared just for them.

This story actually began weeks earlier, when the Green Door Gourmet farm,
Marian Kelly to Retire After 39 Years with SoSA

To be honored with a Day of Giving on September 28

Nearly forty years ago, a community of faith was formed in rural Bedford County, Virginia. Two families covenanted together, to live simply and prayerfully, holding all things in common, following the model of the early church in Acts 2.

In all the time since—as the Society of St. Andrew grew from two families on a small farm to a hunger relief ministry with national impact—members of those same families have been involved in SoSA’s work on a daily basis. That continuity is a tie that has bound together decades of prayer, hope, and hard work. At the same time, it has led this ministry steadily forward, keeping SoSA focused on the essentials, and striving year-after-year to do more, to be more effective, and ever more faithful in its work.

The pioneering vision of Marian Kelly, of Ken and Jean Horne, and of Ray Buchanan has sparked a movement that now spans the globe! Fresh produce rescue and recovery, and gleaning to feed hungry neighbors are now topics of conversation—and subjects of action—worldwide.

Marian Kelly, the last of SoSA’s founders to remain active in the day-to-day work, will retire on September 28, 2018. Marian has long served as the director of SoSA’s Potato & Produce Project. This is SoSA’s large-load recovery and distribution work, connecting produce suppliers, trucking companies, congregations, and food banks across 48 states, getting millions of pounds of healthy food to hungry people each year.

Marian may not have set out to change the world, and she’s probably too modest to admit she has. Now, SoSA will honor Marian in a manner consistent with her unceasing service—a day of giving. Board members and staff have donated money to serve as a matching gift, and September 28 is designated as a special day for donations to SoSA’s feeding ministry in Marian’s name. Look for additional details in this newsletter. We hope you’ll join us in appreciation for Marian Kelly and her service to Society of St. Andrew since 1979.
A Legacy of Caring: Ethel Halsey’s Quiet Generosity

Ethel Halsey, a schoolteacher and outdoor educator from Rhode Island, was active in hiking and nature groups throughout her adult life. She supported charities that preserved the environment and promoted wise use of Earth’s resources.

Ethel knew she wanted to leave a legacy that would carry on her commitments long beyond her lifetime. Never married and childless, the decisions about how to structure that legacy were entirely her own—and Ethel was a planner. She selected a dozen charities as her beneficiaries. A few were health related, but most were charities that preserve and steward the Earth.

As a schoolteacher, Ethel’s income and charitable giving during her lifetime were modest. She began to support the Society of St. Andrew in 1990, and for the next 27 years she sent one check each year to SoSA, giving about $100 a year. Ethel knew her gifts were feeding hungry people and she loved that her gifts to the Society of St. Andrew were ensuring that healthy food, once grown, would be eaten and not left behind in the field to rot.

When Ethel passed away in March of 2018 at the age of 90, her careful planning and lifetime of stewarding her own resources—and her desire to carry on her commitments—came to light immediately. Ethel had named the Society of St. Andrew as one of the 12 charities to carry on her legacy, making SoSA a 5% beneficiary of her estate. In the last few months, that 5% share of Ethel’s nine life insurance policies and annuities have provided more than $40,000 to support SoSA’s ministry well into the future. And Ethel’s legacy will grow over the next year as the bulk of her estate is gifted to her charitable beneficiaries as well.

She knew she was ensuring that healthy food, once grown, would be eaten and not left behind in the field to rot.

“It’s inspiring to see how someone of modest means can turn decades of small charitable gifts into a lasting legacy—a legacy that honors their commitments and continues to make the world a better place, well beyond their lifetime,” says SoSA Executive Director Lynette Johnson. “Ethel Halsey, through her legacy giving, ensured that healthy food will be shared with hungry people for years to come through the Society of St. Andrew.”

Ethel Halsey left her estate to twelve favorite charities. She continues to help others through the feeding ministries of the Society of St. Andrew.

Plan for Advent with SoSA

ADVENT MATERIALS ARE SHIPPING NOW

Order yours at EndHunger.org/advent

Special Day of Giving

in support of the Potato & Produce Project

MARIAN KELLY, the last Society of St. Andrew founding member to remain active in this ministry, will retire on September 28, 2018. SoSA will celebrate her 39 years of dedication by holding a Special Day of Giving in her honor, including a generous gift match.

Learn more and donate today EndHunger.org/Marian
an urban farm in Nashville, Tennessee, planted a field of organic kale that would mature into a crop available for their own restaurant and for other restaurants in the city. Now with more kale than they need, they contact SoSA to donate the surplus.

The families of New Creation Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee answer since 1954. It opened its unit for homeless women and children in 1968. The mission houses people at night, provides education during the day, and serves more than 1,600 meals every day at its three kitchens.

In the final chapter of this story – at the end of the day - hundreds of homeless people are fed. Each day’s story is a little different … varying by farm, volunteer groups, receiving agencies, and clients. Yet, each day’s stories are dedicated to the final chapter … feeding hungry people in cities and towns wherever there are farms, volunteers, feeding agencies, and hungry people. It’s a story always worth telling! 😄

Above: Two homeless men receive a free meal at Nashville Rescue Mission, which provides 1,600 meals every day.