



# Society of St. Andrew

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

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## She Could've Been My Grandmother *By Barbara Sayles, Florida Regional Director*

In June, Society of St. Andrew was invited to host a multiple-day Produce Drop at the National AARP Convention in Miami. One morning, we unloaded 40,000 pounds of sweet corn. By noon, 300 convention volunteers had bagged it, and it was on its way to the Feeding South Florida Food Bank. The next day, 40,000 pounds of red and green sweet peppers arrived, as did the volunteers who eagerly helped bag them for distribution.

At this event, I met a lot of nice folks and heard lots of stories, but Maggie's

is one that will forever resonate in my mind. Maggie looked like anyone's sweet grandmother.

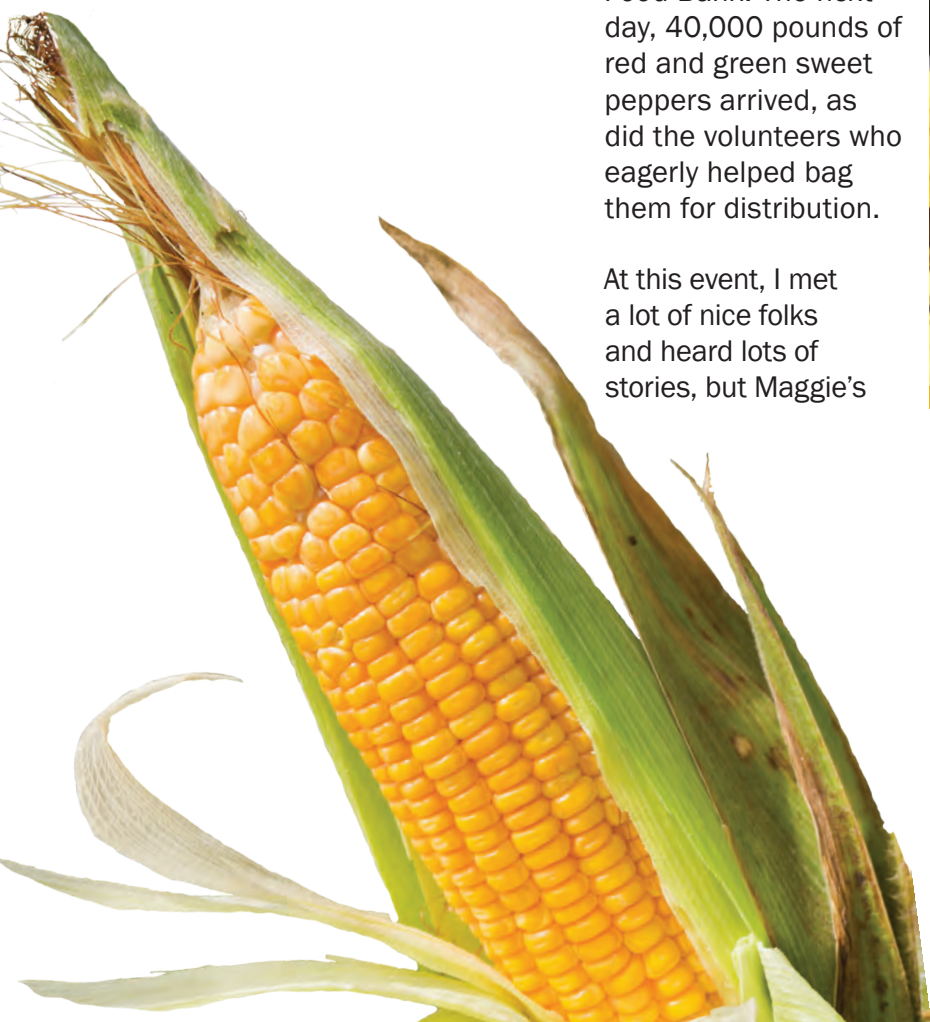
She joined our group of pepper baggers, and I soon noticed



she handled each one with care, occasionally lifting one to her nose to enjoy its sweet aroma. She finally asked, "How does one go about getting produce such as this?"

Maggie explained she is 82-years-old and receives \$1,000 per month from Social Security. After paying bills, and rent for her one-bedroom apartment, she has exactly \$100 left for food each month.

Continued — see She Could've Been My Grandmother on page 5





**2014 Year-end Statistics**  
**Fresh food saved and**  
**donated to feed the hungry:**

Gleaned Produce.....	6,933,838 lbs
Potato & Produce Project.....	4,538,470 lbs
Events .....	1,610
Volunteers.....	10,045

<b>Total Pounds</b>	<b>11,472,308</b>
<b>Total Servings</b>	<b>34,416,924</b>

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

Beazley Foundation, Inc. . . . .	Portsmouth, VA
Piedmont Club Foundation . . . . .	Charlotte, NC
Walmart Foundation . . . . .	Bentonville, AR
Enterprise Holdings Found. . . . .	St. Louis, MO
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John K. Bastien Foundation, Inc. . . . .	Coral Gables, FL
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## Executive Director's Report

By Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

### Do You Know Our Seed Potato Project?

Most folks who know SoSA know about the Gleaning Network, the Potato & Produce Project, and perhaps even our Harvest of Hope retreats. These are our three core programs that prevent food waste, feed the hungry, and increase awareness about hunger and poverty in our world.



Yet there is another program we run, as part of our Potato & Produce Project, that provides seed potatoes to allow people to grown their own crops. An article also in this newsletter tells of many places where this program is at work right now.

Very early in our ministry, we learned there are many people in need of food who could plant, grow, and harvest their own crop if they had just a little help. The multi-state Appalachian region in the U.S. is home to some of our nation's poorest

citizens. Yet most who live there either own, or have access to, land that can be used for crop production. They have the ability and willingness to feed themselves, and simply lack the seeds to plant a crop.

To give these folks a "hand-up," SoSA created the Seed Potato Project. SoSA purchases certified seed potatoes, at market value, and then works with organizations within Appalachian communities to distribute the seed in 50 lb. bags to local families. People cut out the eyes

Continued — see *Do You Know Our Seed Potato Project?* on page 5



# Long and Scott Farms Help SoSA Feed the Hungry

It wouldn't be possible to feed the hungry with fresh fruits and vegetables without farmers like Hank Scott. Long & Scott Farms, of Mt. Dora, Florida, have been working with Society of St. Andrew since 1999. One day, 16 years ago, Hank Scott and his family invited SoSA to send volunteers out and pick some surplus corn. Their Zellwood Sweet Corn is beautiful food, and SoSA was glad to pick it and distribute the bounty to Florida food pantries.

Since that day, more than 950 gleaning events have been held at Long & Scott Farms. More than 25,000 SoSA volunteers have picked 17 million pounds of corn, strawberries, cabbage, turnips, onions, cucumbers, watermelons, and other produce at Scott's farms. These events have provided more than 50 million servings of food for the homeless and hungry in Florida.

Scott says he visited the Second Harvest Food Bank one day with Barbara Sayles, our Regional Director in Florida. He was impressed with the way his crops are distributed by SoSA, through the food bank system. Scott says supermarkets want food to look perfect, but he knows perfect food comes in lots of shapes and sizes, and Mother Nature doesn't make them all look the same. Scott doesn't want that wonderful food thrown away, and that's why he continues, all season long, to invite SoSA volunteers to glean his fields.

Hank Scott is a great partner in the system that makes SoSA such a success. Generous farmers, faithful volunteers, and an efficient system of food banks and food pantries are the way we feed millions of hungry people every year. 🍌



Hank Scott poses with his father, Frank, who started the farm more than 50 years ago.



SoSA volunteers glean and bag corn and cabbage at Long and Scott Farms.

## Mobilize Your Congregation During Hunger Action Month in September

September is Hunger Action Month - a great time for your members help prevent hunger in the U.S. SoSA provides resources to help you raise the issue and to put your faith into action.

- Go to [EndHunger.org/ham](http://EndHunger.org/ham) for resources. Download the calendar and other materials for your own use, and for your congregation.



# SEED POTATOES:

## Small Potatoes Lead to Big Crops

When a family receives a ten-pound bag of potatoes, they may be able to eat them for a week or two. But when a family receives a bag of seed potatoes, they can raise their own crop, and then have food to eat for months.

Each spring, SoSA delivers several truck-loads of certified White Superior U.S. Seed Potatoes, mostly to impoverished regions of the Appalachian Mountains. These hearty seed potatoes were grown in Maine and are suitable for planting in a variety of locations and growing seasons.

The shipments are usually received by churches or church agencies with a distribution system already in place. They divide the potatoes among Appalachian families that have some land to plant on, but who are without the resources to purchase seeds. The families then plant, tend, and harvest the new potato crop. Recipients grow their own nutritious food to supplement their diets, and often provide food to friends and neighbors. At times, several families share a community garden, planting and caring for the crop together.

SoSA's North Carolina Regional Director, Michael Binger, reports on the distribution of a recent load of seed potatoes in Western North Carolina. About 12-thousand pounds of potatoes arrived at the Haywood County Schools

organization, which will later harvest the crop to bring to food pantries across the region. About 800 pounds of seed potatoes were planted by Madison County jail inmates, who will harvest them for people

health professionals, and community organizations. Receiving groups distributed the potatoes to local organizations that grow crops for the needy in their communities.

Other seed potatoes have been delivered this year to Jackson Area Ministries in Ohio, Cedar Ridge Ministries in Kentucky, and to agencies in Knoxville, Tenn. and agencies near Bland, Bristol, and Richlands, Va.

**350,000 pounds of  
seed potatoes delivered  
to needy regions**

At times, some of the seed potatoes arrive in Native American towns or reservations to be used by individual families, or to be coordinated by the tribal government. Among the recipients are the Lumbee Tribe in Lumberton, N.C. and the Cherokee Tribe in Cherokee, N.C.

In all, SoSA will deliver about 350,000 pounds of seed potatoes to needy regions in 2015. Once harvested, this will yield nearly three-million pounds of fresh, nutritious potatoes that families can store and use as needed throughout the fall and winter. ♡



Nutrition Office, which then distributed them.

Some recipients had a few pounds to plant and to share the crop with family and neighbors. Some potatoes were planted in larger fields by the Haywood Gleaners

in need in Haywood and Madison counties.

Some potatoes went to the "Come to the Table" conference in Sylva, N.C. where the faith community meets with farmers, gardeners, farm workers, educators,



Maggie has learned how to stretch one whole chicken to last an entire month, and found some great recipes for casseroles that can be divided and apportioned out for each meal. She has learned to eat just two meals a day. And she found a food pantry in her neighborhood which has helped, but she

So when Maggie left, she not only took peppers with her, she also had the name and address of the food pantry so she could have good food as long as she needs it.

As Maggie finished her shift and walked away, I glanced around the room that had become

I often tell folks that we don't know who is hungry; it could be the person standing behind us in line, the child sitting next to your child in school,

or the grandmother volunteering to bag food for the hungry ... someone just like Maggie. ☛

## Choking back tears, I asked Maggie if she would like to take some peppers with her when she left

has diabetes and they give her mostly processed food. She has gained 15 pounds and her doctor wants her to lose weight and to eat healthier.

silent. Eyes glistened with moisture as others like me tried to hold back tears. She could very easily have been my grandmother, and she was hungry.

"If I had peppers like this every day," she excitedly explained, "I could do so much!"

Choking back tears, I asked Maggie if she would like to take some peppers with her when she left. After all, (thinking to myself) it is for people like Maggie that SoSA exists.

Sitting with us at the table, as Maggie shared her story, was another volunteer whose church has a food pantry near Maggie's neighborhood. This food pantry gets fresh produce from a food bank that receives it from SoSA.

*Do You Know Our Seed Potato Project?*  
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of the seed potatoes and plant them to grow more potatoes. It's as simple as that - plus weeding and all the cultivation that goes along with growing any crop.

Because we provide certified seed potato stock, we ensure that eight pounds of potatoes are harvested for every one pound of seed planted under normal growing conditions. The potatoes that are harvested are often enough to feed

a whole family through the winter months, and sometimes enough to share with other families and neighbors.

It is expensive to purchase and transport the seed potatoes. But when you consider the harvest ratio, it still provides nutritious food at just about 3¢ per pound, and it helps enable entire communities to feed themselves! ☛

## Recent Donations

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L.D. Mitchell  
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### In Memory Of

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Bud Curtis  
Rod Herndon  
Evine King  
Clyde Laushey, Jr.  
Dorothy Lockhart  
Daniel Mills  
Chuck Overton  
J.D. Quinlan  
David Thomas



### Mark your calendar

Download SoSA's Simple Supper resources for use on Food Day (Oct. 24) or World Food Day (Oct. 16), and start planning a Simple Supper for your family, neighborhood, or congregation!  
[EndHunger.org/simple-supper](http://EndHunger.org/simple-supper)

## Plan for Advent with SoSA

Pre-order your Advent materials now, or any time at [EndHunger.org/advent](http://EndHunger.org/advent)

**Materials ordered will be shipped in September.**



Society of St. Andrew  
3383 Sweet Hollow Road  
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800-333-4597



# Quarterly REPORT

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for your congregation, group, or individual use.  
All materials are free and there is no obligation.

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**3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD., BIG ISLAND, VA 24526**

(NL 08/15)

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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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