

GLEANER'S HANDBOOK



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS

FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

**GLEANING
NETWORK**

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Society of St. Andrew
THE GLEANING NETWORK

3383 Sweet Hollow Road

Big Island, VA 24526

(800) 333-4597 • (434) 299-5956 • FAX (434) 299-5949

sosainfo@endhunger.org • www.endhunger.org

* * * * *

The Society of St. Andrew is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit corporation. The Society of St. Andrew is independently audited annually. Financial records are disclosed upon request. The Society of St. Andrew values its relationship with each donor and volunteer

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring various fruits and leaves. At the top, there are clusters of grapes and a pear. On the left side, there are several apples and leafy branches. On the right side, there are more grapes and a pear. At the bottom, there are more grapes and leafy branches.

GLEAN UP YOUR ACT!

What's Gleaning? This traditional Biblical concept puts people of all ages into the fields and orchards for 3-4 hours to pick fruits and vegetables that remain after harvest. Gleaners share by picking and delivering this produce to those in need. Over twenty percent of all food produced for human consumption is lost annually in the United States. If it is not profitable to harvest, it is usually plowed under or left to rot. Some growers allow crews of gleaners to pick what is left.

Who are Gleaners? Gleaners are people of all ages, rich and poor, givers and receivers, individuals and families, who have a chance to give of themselves. Organizations such as churches, clubs, schools, and senior citizen groups glean. The whole community can join together to form a foundation of action groups that really make a difference!

Where does the food go? Food gets to the people who need it. We donate gleaned produce to scores of agencies which have a proven record of working with the hungry. Gleaning groups may select the organizations to receive the produce they pick. Within 24-48 hours of picking, the produce is usually being eaten by the hungry.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Select a Gleaning Group leader who will oversee the following.:

1. Pick a date(s) for gleaning based on the harvest time in your area. Complete the enclosed Registration Form and send it to the Society of St. Andrew. If you are not sure of the date, leave it blank on the form.
2. When we receive the form, a representative will call the leader and discuss specific details, such as the date, time, location of the farm, and the distribution arrangements.
3. Normally, we are able to provide containers for the gleaned produce, but there may be occasions for your group to help collect them.
4. If at all possible, find at least one member of your group who can bring a truck to the gleaning. They are often needed in order to move produce to another part of the field that is accessible to larger food bank trucks, or to deliver food to agencies.
5. We encourage groups to help distribute the produce. A truck is useful, but vans, station wagons and car trunks can also be used. Distributing the food will help your group become aware of the needs of your community and the agencies that are trying to fill these needs.
6. Present a program on gleaning and hunger. The section in this packet entitled Hunger Facts will provide some help and suggestions for this program. At this meeting, go over Gleaning Rules and Helpful Hints with gleaning group. If such a meeting is not possible for your group, a handout with Hunger Facts and Gleaning Rules would be an acceptable alternative.
7. Copy the Gleaning Form (included) for each gleaner. Have each volunteer fill one out and bring them to the gleaning event. Give them to the field supervisor at the gleaning.
8. A phone tree is helpful for notifying gleaners of a last minute change of plans, such as rain.
9. Arrange to car pool to the field. Parking space is often limited.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. It is a good idea to dress in layers. In the mornings, it is often cool and wet; long-sleeved shirts and long pants are usually most comfortable. As it gets warmer, shorts and short sleeve shirts may be better. You may want to put these on under your other clothes.
2. Wear sturdy shoes such as athletic shoes. Sandals can lead to injuries.
3. In corn fields and orchards, long sleeves and pants are needed. Leaves from the corn stalk are sharp and can cut the skin. In orchards, poison ivy and poison oak may be growing.
4. We recommend hats and gloves for all gleaners.
5. There are no bathroom facilities in most fields, so use facilities before coming to the farm.
6. Groups should make provisions for the water and cups that they will need. Be sure to have plenty of water available for gleaners, especially when it is hot.
7. Make sure that you carry a first-aid kit with you, in case of injuries.
8. Sunscreen may be needed by some gleaners.
9. A three to five gallon pail with a handle is an excellent container to carry through the field. Fill it and empty it into a larger box or bag.



EXPECTATIONS

1. **First, expect one of the most rewarding times in your life!**

2. Although gleaning can be a lot of fun for everyone, you should also know that it can involve the following:

- Fields that haven't seen rain for weeks where the dust can coat you.
- Fields that have been flooded by rain where the mud can coat you.
- Fields where there is little escape from the sun.
- Orchards where poison ivy, briars, and tall grass are present.
- Fields and orchards that seem to have sparse gleanings so that you must constantly remind yourself that every little bit helps (and you will be surprised just how much "a little" will be!).
- Fields and orchards that are so abundant in excess produce that you have to tear yourself away at the end of the gleaning when there is still food on the ground.

3. Expect that all the planning in the world will not insure that you will be able to glean on the day you had hoped. A particularly dry or rainy season might change the usual harvest time. Entire crops may be wiped out by an early or harsh frost. A gleaning might be postponed simply because it rains on the scheduled date. We are subject to weather conditions just as farmers have been since the beginning of time! Phone trees are helpful if there are any last minute changes in a scheduled gleaning (i.e. rained out or change in field location.)

4. The registration form requests you to pick date(s) your group can glean and we do our best to fulfill that request. However, there may be situations when our office will call at other times if there is an unexpected opportunity in your area. We will often get calls from farmers who have excess produce in their fields and they have to plow it under within the week in order to replant. In that situation, we will call all groups in that area to mobilize gleaners as quickly as possible. We realize that your group may not be able to respond because of other commitments, but it would be helpful to have a phone tree established so that you can inform them of the opportunity.

GLEANNING RULES

1. When gleanng, remember you are on another person's land. Treat it better than you treat your own property. We are guests; don't abuse the privilege or we may lose it.
2. Safety is of utmost importance in gleanng. If any activity is of questionable safety, do not do it. Be sure to avoid climbing trees or fences, riding on the back of trucks and working near farm machinery.
3. In the field, the field supervisor is the boss. Follow his/her instructions and directions completely.
4. Glean and park only in those areas designated by the farmer or field supervisor.
5. Every gleaner must fill out the medical/liability waiver. All gleaners under 18 must have the waiver signed by their parents.
6. Children and youth must be closely supervised by parents or other responsible adults.
7. Check the area where your group has gleaned. Make sure you are leaving nothing behind.
8. The field supervisor can cancel a gleanng at any time if he/she feels these rules are not being followed.



HUNGER FACTS



It's an age-old problem which has devastating effects on those who suffer from it. All over the world, people go hungry every day.

- Worldwide, **more than 800 million** people are chronically undernourished. (*Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN*)
- **1.2 billion** people in the world live on less than \$1 per day. (*UN Development Programmer*)
- At the beginning of 2002, there were roughly **19.8 million refugees** in the world—one out of every 300 persons on earth. (*UNHCR*)
- Virtually every country in the world has the potential of growing sufficient food on a sustainable basis. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has set the minimum requirement for caloric intake per person per day at 2,350. **Worldwide there are 2,720 calories available per person per day.** (*Bread for the World*)

Gleaning - Biblical References

In the Old Testament gleaning was already in place at the writing of the first five books of the Bible. The people most likely to be hungry in those times were widows, orphans, and people traveling through the land. Three Old Testament references are: Lev. 19:9-10. Lev. 23:22, and Deut. 24:19-22. Gleaning also played a role in the Biblical love story in the book of Ruth.

Hunger Study Resources

Church World Service Film and Video Library has an extensive list of audio-visuals available for the cost of return postage. They can help you select an appropriate video for your study. For a catalog, contact them at P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515, 800/297-1516. Website: www.churchworldservice.org.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HUNGER?

1. How many children in America experience hunger (meaning that they frequently skip meals, eat too little, and sometimes go without food for a whole day)?
 - a. 6.2 million
 - b. 7.3 million
 - c. 13 million
 - d. 9.3 million
2. In addition to those who experience hunger in America, how many others have lower quality diets or must resort to seeking emergency food assistance because they cannot always afford the food they need?
 - a. 24.7 million
 - b. 16.2 million
 - c. 12.1 million
 - d. 8.6 million
3. How much of the food available for human consumption in the United States is annually lost at the retail, consumer, and food service levels?
 - a. 83 billion pounds
 - b. 90 billion pounds
 - c. 96 billion pounds
 - d. 100 billion pounds
4. How many people in this country lived below the poverty level in 2001 according to the U.S. Census Bureau?
 - a. just over 1 million
 - b. 10.3 million
 - c. 20.7 million
 - d. 37 million

Answers

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. D (The poverty level depends on family size) U.S. Census: 2005 Annual Supplement



THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

We have a vision of a world without hunger, where the spiritual and physical needs of all are met in harmony with the natural world, which is God's gift to us.

The Society of St. Andrew began in 1979 as an intentional community of two families called to life and ministry together in Christ. We have grown into an ecumenical, non-profit organization dedicated to leading others into lives of Christian service. Striving to fulfill the mandate of the Gospel in our lives, we adhere to the words of I John 3:18: "Let us love not only in words, but in deed and in truth."

OTHER PROGRAMS...



THE POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT is a nationwide produce salvage program. At a cost of just pennies per pound, produce normally dumped due to lack of market is distributed through local agencies that work directly with our nation's poor. The *Potato & Produce Project* distributes 10-15 million pounds of produce per year.

The *Potato & Produce Project* also purchases seed potatoes and donates them to needy families through local agencies. This Seed Potato Project builds community, self-sufficiency, and self-esteem while teaching agricultural skills and providing needed food.

HARVEST OF HOPE is a mission camp opportunity with deep Biblical roots. Designed for youth, young adults, and intergenerational groups, *Harvest of Hope* emphasizes the gleaning and distribution of produce that has been left in the field after harvest. It educates participants about the realities of world hunger and involves them in worship and teamwork to renew the church and serve the poor.



HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATES—The Society of St. Andrew is establishing HRAs throughout the nation. The HRAs advocate for the poor in churches and with other Organizations, and coordinate gleanings in their area.

The Society of St. Andrew publishes a quarterly newsletter, program brochures, and various devotional and mission materials for churches.

National Office

3383 Sweet Hollow Rd. ~ Big Island, VA 24526
800-333-4597 ~ FAX: 434-299-5949
sosainfo@endhunger.org

Virginia Gleaning Network

Same as national office
vaglean@endhunger.org

Alabama

205-245-3215 ~ sosaal@endhunger.org

Florida

800-806-0756 ~ sosafi@endhunger.org

Georgia

229-386-5800 ~ gleanga@endhunger.org

Mississippi

769-233-0887 ~ sosams@endhunger.org

North & South Carolina

866-453-2662 ~ sosanc@endhunger.org
864-640-7171 ~ scglean@endhunger.org

Tennessee

615-878-6134 ~ sosatn@endhunger.org

Western Office

816-921-0856 ~ sosawest@endhunger.org
~~~~~

We have developed a Gleaning Guide for those who live in areas where there is not an established Gleaning Network. This is a step by step guide to organize your own gleaning event. The Guide is available from the Virginia office.

**SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW  
GLEANNING NETWORK**

3383 Sweet Hollow Rd.

Big Island, VA 24526

800/333-4597