Preventing Waste, Feeding the Hungry

Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) addresses this crucial issue in two ways. In each, SoSA gathers up food that would otherwise be wasted. This fresh and nutritious food is then provided, at no cost, to food banks, pantries, and programs that feed or provide food to those most in need:

In the fields – SoSA mobilizes 30,000 to 40,000 volunteers each year to glean fields and orchards for remaining fruits and vegetables. Volunteers from all faith groups, civic organizations, schools, and universities gather food remaining after the harvest. Last year, our Gleaning Network collected more than 23 million pounds.

At the packing houses – food that is surplus, inconvenient size, or cosmetically imperfect, is transported by SoSA to agencies that feed the hungry. Otherwise, this food would have been shipped to a landfill as waste. Our Potato & Produce Project rescued almost 10 million pounds of this food in 2013.

The Best Food to Those Who Need it Most

SoSA began in 1979 in the hills of Virginia and has grown into the largest field gleaning organization in the country. Working in a collaborative effort with thousands of farmers, tens of thousands of volunteers, and thousands of feeding programs in all 48 contiguous states, SoSA provides healthy food to those who have little or no access to it.

This nutritious, but excess, bounty is sent directly from the point of surplus (field or packing facility) to where it will be used, and is not stored in a warehouse. These remarkable and efficient programs have proven extremely successful at providing nutritious food to those who need it most.