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Team members glean sweet potatoes in a Vass field.

Brownson Presbyterian Strives To Make a Difference Here

BY ANGELA ZUMWALT

Special to The Pilot

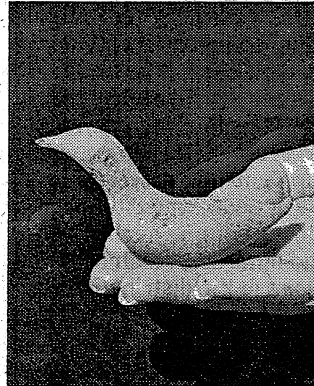
Saturday, Oct. 23, marked the 20th anniversary of the "National Make A Difference Day," recognized as the largest national day of community service.

A team of 30, ranging in age from under 10 to over 70, made their way from Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines to a sweet potato field in nearby Vass, owned by Chester Pilson.

"It was a perfect day," says a spokesman.

After a three-hour effort, "gleaning," a practice mentioned often in the Bible as a means to provide for the poor and hungry, produced some sweet present-day results. The team filled sacks with 3,134 pounds of sweet potatoes.

The team began picking around 9 a.m. The Sandhills Food Bank sent its truck and driver and had the harvest back to their warehouse by 12:30 p.m. Through the Food Bank, the Coalition and other agencies will be able to provide their clients with this freshly picked seasonal vegetable. Fresh vegetables are always a welcome



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A contender in the contest

change for those families who rely on local agencies.

Two large baskets, containing 50 pounds of the smaller sweet potatoes, were taken back to Brownson, earmarked to be cooked as part of a Thanksgiving dinner for the MANNA! program, which serves meals to those in need in the Sandhills area.

A "Weirdest Sweet Potato Contest" was one of the highlights of the trip. Potato contestants were displayed at Brownson the next day and drew quite a crowd.

The gleaning trip was organized by Brownson in collaboration with the

Society of St. Andrew, Va., and attracted small groups from other local churches and organizations.

The Society of St. Andrew website, endhunger.org, states, "Hunger is a complex and many-faceted tragedy that holds a large part of the world's family in bondage. Because of the scope of hunger, many of us feel there is nothing that one person can do. We think the tragedy is too massive for one person's action to be effective. Such is not the case. Each of us can make an impact on behalf of our hungry brothers and sisters."

Brownson has established a permanent gleaning ministry designed to respond quickly to gleaning opportunities in the area and to help alleviate hunger. Information on past and future trips can be found on the church website at brownsonchurch.org under "ministries."