

“We are Making a Difference.”

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Pastor Doyle St. Louis, All Nation Church of God

According to the most recent data,* food insecurity affects 1 in 10 people in our service region. Unconscionably, this rate rises to 1 in 4 for children and for Black and Hispanic populations.

The Food Bank partners with over 160 local member food pantries, meal sites, and shelters to

ensure we meet the needs of our diverse communities, especially those disproportionately affected. These sites are operated by individuals who live in the communities where they are located, making them uniquely suited to people facing hunger in their area. Just over 80% of the food distributed by The Food Bank goes to our members.

* source: Feeding America, 2022

“We have a 23-year relationship with the Food Bank,” said Doyle St. Louis, one of the pastors at All Nation Church of God in Springfield.

Doyle started out hosting periodic food drives at his church before learning about The Food Bank in 1999. Over the next 18 years, the church served 50 families, providing food once a month and in between, giving out whatever food they had on hand. Seeing the impact on those families, he eventually found a larger building measuring over 20,000 square feet to be able to serve more people. Today, the church serves 283 families and individuals per month.

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“Sixty-five percent are families with children,” said Pastor St. Louis. “Folks are hurting and don’t always talk about it. Sometimes, men will pull me aside and in tears, tell me how much the pantry means to them and their families. We are making a difference.”

People he has helped are now volunteering at his food pantry. All of this has inspired Pastor St. Louis to assist others to create food pantries in the area, including in Holyoke. If a pantry doesn’t have transportation to get to the Food Bank, he will pick up food on their behalf.

Pastor Doyle St. Louis

