



Pastor Smith tells us that it all began when God gave him the vision to “Establish food pantries for churches and ministries and to network with organizations around the world.” This vision began coming to fruition in 2004, when the hurricanes hit and they started feeding 2000+ members of the community in the church parking lot. During this time, they started partnering with Operation Blessing International (OBI), Somebody Cares Tampa Bay, Seed Sowers, Feed the Children, and Operation Compassion. Because of the help from these organizations around the world, they were able to get their food ministry started, and organizations such as OBI have continually supported them over the years with grants for food, equipment, and disaster relief.

In 2005, they purchased their original property with no money in their budget, but because of God’s grace and through several miracles, they were able to obtain the property. Then in 2017, they broke ground on their current property, Joseph’s Storehouse, which is their secured, air-conditioned facility where they are able to store their fresh produce until time to deliver it to those in need. This building was obtained through grants from Mosaic, Publix, and many private donors as well.

Then in 2014, they found themselves in need of a refrigerated box truck to help them transport food for hungry families from all over Central Florida. This need was met through a generous grant from Mosaic and their new truck is still transporting food to this day. Their vision is to one day have a facility with coolers and docks to help them house large supplies of produce to help feed hungry families as they are currently using a local dock to unload the truck and then transport the supplies to their own facility.

Even though there are difficult days, Pastor Smith tells us “I love seeing the faces of the families in need and hearing the stories of their lives.” His favorite part of serving his community is that he serves where he was raised. Hardee County is listed as one of the poorest counties in the state of Florida. Pastor Smith shares, “I love to sit and talk with families, especially the seniors, they get about 600-800 a month, and they either have to buy medicine or food, so to be able to help them with the food part is always a blessing.” ►