

## **Judge Frank DeLuca: Feeding a Passion to Serve**

“I receive the greatest satisfaction from seeing the joy and happiness on the faces of the children being served by the programs as the meals are being distributed.”

For Lansing’s 54A District Judge Frank DeLuca, volunteering for organizations that help provide the most essential of needs to local families—healthy food—is its own reward.

Judge DeLuca volunteers with the Greater Lansing Food Bank, and specifically its Mobile Food Pantry, because it gives him an opportunity to get to know and bond with constituents “outside of the court atmosphere.” He also believes it is an important extension of his role as an elected official and public servant.

This is a notion that didn’t fall far from the tree—the family tree, that is. Judge DeLuca remembers, as a child, observing his father’s own involvement in the community through service clubs and positions in public office.

“His focus in serving the community was to improve the quality of life for everyone,” shared Judge DeLuca, and that is a goal he continues to pursue through his own efforts.

The Mobile Food Pantry distributes free, fresh, and nonperishable food items to local populations in need. Judge DeLuca says he quickly realized the amount of manpower needed to make the program work and has witnessed, firsthand, how important the benefits are to the people they serve.

In addition to the Food Pantry, Judge DeLuca also volunteers with Advent House Ministries (AHM), a faith-based group that focuses on helping those who struggle with poverty and homelessness. Judge DeLuca and his wife, Madeline, regularly prepare and serve breakfast to local families in need.

AHM, which began its outreach efforts in Lansing over 30 years ago, initially offered only a Saturday lunch meal. Today, it operates every weekend and serves more than 34,000 hot meals to more than 2,200 people in need. It also offers a day shelter and meals, children’s programs, literacy and employment resources, and housing assistance.

Despite completing his 18<sup>th</sup> and final year of serving on the bench, Judge DeLuca has no plans to slow down his volunteer efforts—in fact, he sees himself continuing his involvement well into retirement because as he puts it, “As a volunteer worker, I truly and directly serve the public.”