

SOUTH OF THE JAMES NOTEBOOK

Nonprofit celebrates future site

ISLE OF WIGHT — The former Isle of Wight Health Department building is empty, vacant since the agency moved to new digs last year.

But Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program — a nonprofit that helps some of the county's neediest people — hopes to move in by December. A planned \$600,000 overhaul of the building, at 402 Grace St. in Smithfield, will allow the organization to move from rented storage units that lack heat, water and bathrooms, said president Charlie Seitz.



Allison T. Williams

Oftentimes, Christian Outreach's hand at work is invisible to the public, Seitz said. But it makes a huge difference to the senior citizen who depends on a volunteer for a ride to the doctor or the family that needs a cash infusion to keep the heat on.

Services provided by Christian Out-

reach include a food pantry; financial assistance for medical and dental care, prescriptions and emergencies; and making home repairs and handicap ramp construction.

Isle of Wight residents will have a chance to help Christian Outreach celebrate its future home this weekend. Residents can see the organization's plans for the building and celebrate at the groundbreaking from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Free food, games and entertainment will be provided.