

Christian Outreach launches first capital campaign

By Diana McFarland
News editor

Isle of Wight Christian Outreach is launching its first capital campaign in hopes of raising enough money to fix up its new building on Grace Street in Smithfield.

The non-profit consortium of churches is aiming to raise \$600,000 to make needed repairs and improvements to the former health department building that it now rents for a \$1 a year from Isle of Wight County.

So far, COP has a \$90,000 grant from the Obici Foundation, \$100,000 from the Hampton Roads Foundation and has asked for \$25,000 from the town of

Smithfield, said spokesman John Graham.

It also has about \$60,000 in donations from the community and COP board members, he said.

The money will go to adding a new hip roof, fix the heating and air conditioning system, add walk-in freezers and refrigerators for the food pantry program and other building modifications, Graham said.

If all goes to plan, Christian Outreach expects to open the new building in early 2014.

"That's our target," Graham said.

Christian Outreach is currently located in an unheated, unairconditioned

building in the county's industrial park off Route 10. The new location at 402 Grace St. is expected to boost volunteer participation and make it easier for those in need, organizers said.

Christian Outreach began in 1991 when a group of churches got together to raise money for those needing help with winter fuel costs. The first fundraiser was Souper Saturday, which continues today and raises more than \$10,000 towards fuel assistance each year.

COP also manages nine other programs, including the Angel Tree, dental assistance, donated cars, prescription assistance, stu-

dent assistance, emergency assistance, the food pantry, medical transportation, home repair handicap ramps and helps with the Isle of Wight County Appointed Special Advocate Program which assists abused and neglected children in the court system.

Those wanting to donate or learn more about Christian Outreach can visit the website at www.iowcop.org. Donations can be made online or by mail to Christian Outreach Program, PO Box 253, Smithfield, VA 23431.

All donations are tax deductible and those that donate will receive a receipt. For more information call 238-9506.



An architectural drawing of the building improvements.

Correction

In the May 8 story titled, "Christian Outreach launches first capital campaign," it should have read the Obici Healthcare Foundation gave \$100,000 and the Hampton Roads Community Foundation gave \$90,000.