

# GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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## Church hosts effort to provide food for needy

by Quinton Sheppard



Deanna Cobb, head of the Bread for Life Food Pantry, and Jim Cowles, pastor of St. Therese Roman Catholic Church, Gloucester, are shown inside the new community food pantry adjacent to the church. *STAFF PHOTO BY QUINTON SHEPPARD*

An ecumenical effort has begun in Gloucester to reach those in need of food, toiletries and other items. Hosted by the St. Therese Roman Catholic Church, the Bread for Life Food Pantry will open its doors March 19, with a blessing and dedication ceremony at noon.

The pantry is housed in a renovated garage just behind the old rectory of St. Therese. According to Hudgins resident Deanna Cobb, who is in charge of the pantry, it took volunteers only seven full days to get the building ready for the food to be stocked inside. She said that local businesses were crucial in providing the necessary items to get things started.

The building will be in memory of Michele Krohn who died of cancer in 2008. "Michele's whole heart and self was interested in helping the less fortunate," said Jim Cowles, pastor of St. Therese. He explained that though Deanna knew she had cancer and would be undergoing a bone

marrow transplant, she still worked effortlessly to deliver food to the needy.

Cobb said that all churches in the area have been contacted and invited to refer the names of families who may need assistance.

There is a need for volunteers to stock the shelves and distribute food from the pantry. "We want to remind people this is a community food pantry—not the food pantry of the Church of St. Therese," Cobb said.

Monetary donations for the pantry will be accepted either by mailing to Bread for Life Food Pantry, 6262 Main Street, Gloucester, Va. 23061. Also, monetary or food donations can be dropped at the office of St. Therese Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 694-9366.