



Photo courtesy of United Way

Blair Beasley and Maya Cotton with the Department of Juvenile Justice held a kick-off for the "Love Thy Neighbor" food fundraising campaign for local food pantries.

## Love Thy Neighbor campaign underway

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By [Special to Effingham Now](#)

The Department of Juvenile Justice — Effingham Court Services Office — is helping to kick off the second annual "Love Thy Neighbor" campaign food fundraiser to help re-stock local food pantries.

Get2it Inc. and the Food Outreach Cooperative of Effingham (FORCE) have teamed up for the Love Thy Neighbor campaign to help re-stock local food pantries' shelves with nonperishable food items, personal hygiene items and cleaning products.

"The continued increase in demand for food assistance for Effingham families has exhausted a great portion of inventory from our local food pantries' shelves," said Bonnie Dixon, area director of Effingham's United Way.

"In 2011, the five local food pantries served on average 962 families a month in Effingham County. This is an increase of more than 40 percent over the previous two-year time period", said Archie Jenkins, coordinator of the FORCE program.

FORCE is a collaborative made up of representatives from local churches, the school system, businesses, nonprofit organizations, civic clubs and various health and human service agencies across the county.

The Love Thy Neighbor campaign will run through the end of February and will benefit GLOW Ministries, God's Mission House, Manna House, the food pantries at Abundant Life and Rincon First Christian churches, the Fill'n Station in Guyton and Treutlen House.

To coordinate a food pick up, contact David with Get2iT, Inc., Transportation, Errand and Courier Services at 912-754-6160.

### How to participate

If you would like to participate in the Love Thy Neighbor challenge, contact Melisa or David Bragg, owners of GET2iT, at 754-6160 or Archie Jenkins, FORCE coordinator, at 663-2286. GET2iT will pick up donations and carry them to respective pantry locations.