

# THE NEXT CHAPTER 2023 UPDATE

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## PROJECT UPDATE

It's amazing how God works historic miracles using what people have at their disposal. Take Moses, for instance. When the Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?" Moses replied, "A staff" (Exodus 4:2). With that simple staff, Moses performed incredible miracles that persuaded Pharaoh to set free over a million Israelites from slavery.

Christ Church has a 123,000-square foot building on its Rockaway Campus, which will be the home of The CARE Center. While this property isn't situated in a densely populated community surrounded by underprivileged individuals, it's the tool we have at our disposal. That's why we've chosen to adopt a Hub & Spoke Model for expanding our care to the wider community.

The **Hub** represents the physical location of The CARE Center, where around 20 programs (e.g., Food Pantry, Clothing Thrift Shop, Multisensory Suite, etc.) will be housed. The **Spoke** signifies the virtual care that will be provided through online instructional courses, mental health counseling, advice from the legal clinic, Mobile Care Units and much more. These Mobile Care Units will travel and connect to underserved communities around our Clifton and Montclair campuses, spanning across the Garden State. Through this Hub & Spoke Model, we have officially named The CARE Center: **The CARE Center of New Jersey.**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Real CARE is generosity in action!*

The Next Chapter Financial Summary	
Total Commitments	\$3,602,854
Monies Collected as of May 26, 2023	
Giving from Donors with Commitments	\$500,443
Giving from Donors without Commitments	\$160,801
<b>Total Giving for The Next Chapter</b>	<b>\$661,244</b>

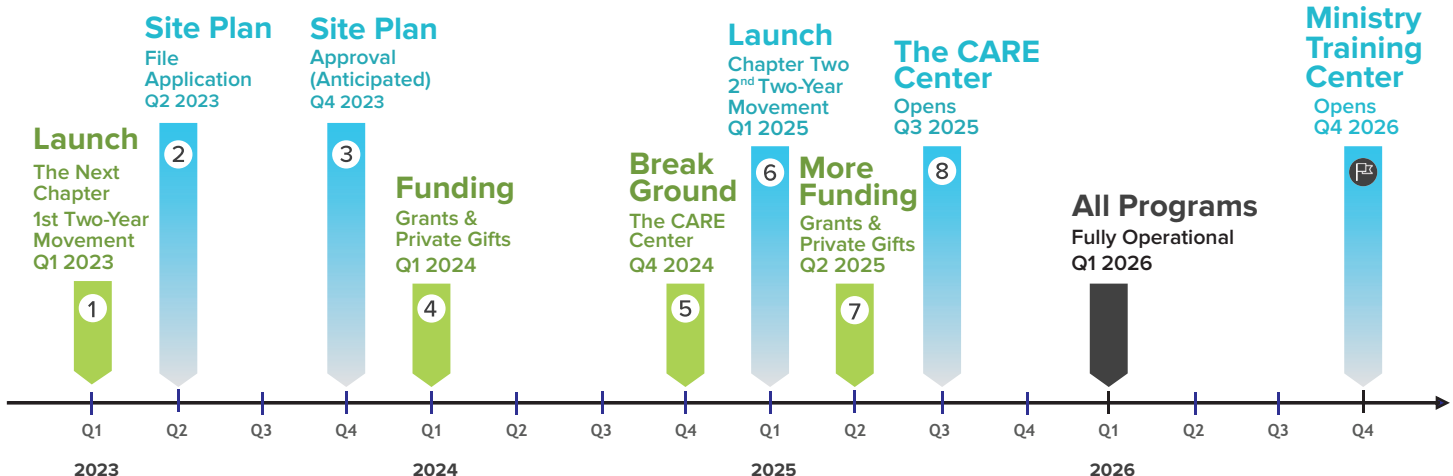
Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness as The Next Chapter brings the words of Jesus (Matthew 25:35-36) to life in our region.

There's still time to **JOIN THE MOVEMENT!**



## PROJECT TIMELINE

Please be aware that this timeline may change due to variables outside of our control.





## IMPACT STORIES

Food security is a pressing concern for individuals and families in Central and Northern New Jersey who are living below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold. This concern is worsened by a recent reduction in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Emergency Allotment benefits and rising inflation rates. Food prices have surged by over 10% in the past year, leading to a significant increase in requests for food boxes through our Food for Hope outreach.

Let me introduce you to Gwen, a remarkable grandparent who unexpectedly became the primary caregiver for her grandchildren after her daughter suddenly passed away. She relied on our Food Pantry for more than a year because the SNAP benefits she received were inadequate. She shared how our program not only met their immediate food needs, but also provided ongoing support and care. In her own words, Gwen expressed, “My experience with the Food Pantry has been great. We eagerly anticipate what we receive. There are families out there that struggle to decide between paying bills or feeding their kids. It’s not a small issue; it’s a substantial one, and the people that serve on the Food Pantry Team provide a sense of joy.”

No one should be forced to make the impossible choice between paying bills and having enough to eat. To address food insecurity and reach more families like Gwen’s, we have plans to expand our Mobile Food Pantry this summer. By extending our reach beyond the current areas of Morris, Sussex, Passaic, Essex and Union counties, we aim to serve more vulnerable members of our communities.

## ROBBING PETER AND PAUL

Have you heard of the saying “robbing Peter to pay Paul”? Its origins can be traced back to medieval times in England when churches collected tithes and offerings. Funds were shifted from one church dedicated to Saint Peter to another dedicated to Saint Paul.

When you rob Peter to pay Paul, you solve one problem but create another—it’s a never-ending cycle. Not an ideal situation, right?

Now, imagine robbing both Peter and Paul. Not so funny. Unfortunately, that’s a bit of what’s happening now at our church due to *The Next Chapter Movement*. Our goal is to build a CARE Center, extending care and justice to the marginalized in a way that breaks systemic cycles of poverty.

Here’s the thing, though: every single generous contribution you make to this two-year campaign is strictly for that project. The IRS even has a fancy name for it—*restrictive gifts*. Basically, it means we can’t reshuffle any of those funds earmarked for *The Next Chapter* (aka The CARE Center) to cover other pressing needs, no matter how important they might be.

We deeply appreciate the incredible support you’ve shown for *The Next Chapter*. In the same breath, we kindly request that you maintain your current level of tithes. By doing so, we can ensure that we continue providing the same level of care and ministry to your wonderful families. Regrettably, we’ve noticed a decline of \$150K in tithes over the past six months, which directly affects our operating budget. It’s important to remember that reducing your tithes in order to complete your financial commitment to *The Next Chapter* is similar to the idea of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

During *The Next Chapter Movement* (years 2024-2025), we humbly request lifestyle adjustments so that both Paul and Peter can feel safe at Christ Church (LOL)!

## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

As The CARE Center gets ready to launch, we’re expanding our network of partners who are passionate about advocating for the marginalized, and breaking the cycles of poverty and injustice. We’re thrilled to announce that Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, as well as the mayors of Rockaway Township, Dover and Denville, have joined us in our mission. Additionally, over 20 esteemed organizations such as the New Jersey Institute of Social Justice, Legal Services of NJ and The Father Center of New Jersey have committed to partnering with us through The CARE Center of NJ. Together, we’re making a difference!

