

THE NEXT CHAPTER 2024 UPDATE

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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PROJECT UPDATES

The CARE Center of New Jersey is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a remarkable grant of \$1,025,000 by the State of New Jersey to scale our Food for HOPE program. This generous support will enable us to expand our care for the community by decreasing the problem of food insecurity in the Garden State.

Our Food for HOPE program supports the words of Jesus when He said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" (Matthew 25:35). With this new funding, we'll be able to expand and improve our services while maintaining a high standard of responsibility and care.

One of the first steps will be hiring a dynamic Program Manager who will bring their expertise and dedication to oversee our expanded operations. We are also thrilled to welcome two full-time Volunteer Coordinators and a Truck/Van Driver to our team, ensuring that our efforts run seamlessly and efficiently.

Thanks to the grant, we are upgrading our storage facilities, and we will invest in a refrigerated transport van and a grocery-style truck, enabling us to deliver fresh, nutritious food to more people than ever before.

Our commitment to community engagement and comprehensive support services is stronger than ever. In addition to providing food, The CARE Center offers wrap-around services, including financial literacy training, mental health services, and much more to help the under-resourced.

This grant is a powerful endorsement of our work and vision. Thank you for being a part of our journey and for your continued support and prayers in helping us bring The CARE Center to life.

CENTER FOR RACIAL & CULTURAL RECONCILIATION

The Next Chapter *Movement* is an exciting initiative with four key goals:

- 01 Creating The CARE Center
- 02 Establishing a Center for Racial & Cultural Reconciliation
- 03 Launching two new campuses along with five mini-campuses
- 04 Developing a Training Center

The Care Center is our largest and most ambitious objective. And this past February, we proudly kicked off our Training Center with the launch of “The Executive’s Playbook Master Class.”

Thanks to your faithful support of The Next Chapter *Movement*, we’re also thrilled to announce the launch of the Center for Racial & Cultural Reconciliation, now known as **Belong Group**. This independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit is dedicated to improving race relations in America by building bridges across differences. We intentionally chose to be a nonprofit consulting firm to emphasize our commitment to social impact and community benefits. Importantly, any profits we generate will go directly to our Corporate Social Responsibility fund, supporting The CARE Center of New Jersey.

At Belong Group, we empower c-suite executives, teams, and organizations to connect and collaborate with diverse individuals, creating an inclusive culture that drives superior business performance. To learn more about Belong Group and its full complement of services, visit **BelongGroup.org**.



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IMPACT STORIES

Deaconess Sandy Bugg's journey with Food for HOPE is deeply personal. Growing up in Pittsburgh, PA, as one of eight siblings, Sandy (shown above) knew the sting of going without. Yet, in the midst of their own struggles, her mother's kindness shone through, sending Sandy into the neighborhood with bags of food for those in need. Today, Sandy carries that same spirit of compassion to the front lines of the fight against food insecurity, tirelessly serving through her ministry at The CARE Center and as the Director of Church Life at Christ Church. Her life is a testament to the power of giving, shaped by the love and generosity she experienced as a child.

When Sandy met Mr. Stewart, an elderly man who had become homebound and semi-mobile, it proved to be a seminal moment. Twice a week, Sandy's mother sent her to deliver food to him. Each time, Sandy found Mr. Stewart sitting in his doorway, staring out into the streets, waiting. His deep gratitude for the meals touched Sandy's heart in a way that still motivates her today. His simple thankfulness sparked a lifelong commitment in Sandy to show kindness to the poor. As Scripture beautifully reminds us, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done" (Proverbs 19:17, NIV).

Food insecurity is often just the beginning for many individuals and families. Sandy shares, "Our ministry team sees firsthand that addressing food alone isn't enough. The struggles run deeper, and to truly uplift the marginalized, we need the transformative power of God." The CARE Center is devoted to being a vessel for this change through a comprehensive approach that goes beyond providing meals by demonstrating care for the whole person. Our mission is to bring compassion and Christ's love to those who need it most.



PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

The CARE Center of New Jersey's impact will soar through a new partnership with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. By leveraging the FoodBank's experience, wealth of knowledge, and support services, The CARE Center will enhance its ability to provide nutritious meals and essential support to underserved populations. Already, a number of our volunteers have completed a Food Handler's Certification course, significantly improving our ability to serve the community.

PROJECT TIMELINE

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



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Generosity in action!

The Next Chapter Financial Summary *As of August 9, 2024*

Our Two-Year Goal (Years 2023 & 2024)	\$ 5,000,000
Our Two-Year TOTAL COMMITMENTS	\$ 4,120,681
Total Collected December 2022 at Launch	
	\$ 206,969
Total Collected 2023	\$ 1,372,201
Total Collected 2024	\$ 846,949
TOTAL GIVING to The Next Chapter	\$ 2,426,119*
*BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL GIVING	
Giving from Donors with Commitments	\$ 2,015,640
Giving from Donors without Commitments	\$ 410,479

We are grateful 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!

