

CHAPTER TWO

2026 UPDATE

APRIL ISSUE

   @CareCenterNJ



Growing in CARE Competence

In a society that sometimes overlooks human needs, CCNJ is committed to exemplifying **care competence**—turning compassion into meaningful action that strengthens lives and communities. This commitment is captured in the **CARE equation**:



Each dimension helps us grow in care competence:

- **Care About** – awareness of the needs around us.
- **Care For** – taking tangible action to help meet those needs.
- **Care Giving** – developing the skills, systems, and partnerships needed to scale compassionate impact.
- **Care Receiving** – listening to those we serve to ensure our care strengthens dignity and truly meets their needs.

From food assistance and financial literacy programs to volunteer service and partnerships, CCNJ seeks to live out the CARE equation every day. Keep growing with us as we care more deeply, serve more intentionally, and expand this movement of care in our communities.

BED BUILD EVENT



Bringing the Community Together for Local Children

CARE 4 Kids, a program of CCNJ, hosted a successful Bed Build Event on March 7 at our

CARE 4 Kids Volunteers in Action

Rockaway location, uniting more than 100 volunteers from at least eight organizations in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). Together, participants built 38 new beds for children across Northern New Jersey who currently lack a safe place to sleep.

Through our partnership with a national care-sharing network, CARE 4 Kids is able to help meet the need of families requesting beds, cribs, and mattresses—resources which directly affect a child’s stability and well-being.

The event had a warm, inclusive atmosphere as families, teens, retirees, and community groups worked side by side sanding, drilling, and assembling components. Project Linus (Northern NJ) contributed handmade blankets, adding comfort and dignity to each completed bed.

“People truly saw what CARE 4 Kids is all about,” said Regional Manager Karen Bowser. “New relationships were formed, everyone contributed, and the impact will ripple out as these beds reach the children who need them.”

CARE KIDS UPLIFTS



Bringing Care to Life

affect her health, energy, and ability to care for her family.

Through CARE 4 Kids, families in need are connected with neighbors who can help. So when Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center submitted a request for a twin bed and mattress, CARE 4 Kids quickly connected them with Community Church, who was ready to respond.

Jessica from Lighthouse shared, “Once the request was submitted, everything moved really quickly. Within minutes, a response came through, and I was able to immediately connect with the church and begin coordinating the meetup for the family in need.”

Within days, the church purchased and delivered a twin bed frame, mattress, and bedding. The mother was both grateful and surprised by how quickly support arrived—a powerful example of neighbors helping neighbors through CARE 4 Kids.

She later shared that the experience reassured her and reminded her that God had not forgotten her. That night, after the bed was delivered and set up, she slept in her own bed for the first time in months.

What may have seemed like a simple act of generosity became a profound moment of relief and dignity—a reminder that she and her children were seen, valued, and cared for by their community.

Restoring Stability for a Local Family

In late January, a single mother of five was sleeping alongside her children because she didn't have a bed of her own. The lack of rest was beginning to



A Gift of Rest

MEETING REAL NEEDS



Louis & Concetta

Nourishing Love That Endures

Louis, 93, and Concetta, 90, have shared an extraordinary journey—70 years of marriage. Louis still carries their wedding photo in his wallet, a reminder of the life they’ve built together raising four children, and enjoying nine grandchildren and two

great-grandchildren.

Today, they visit our Food for HOPE pantry each month. Living on a fixed income, the pantry helps them stretch their budget while accessing fresh produce, protein, and everyday staples.

“We always talk things out,” they say when asked the secret to their long marriage. With the support of the pantry—and each other—their hope for the future is simple: to be happy and to be together.



Serving Guests with Care

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

Every Tuesday and Thursday, before The CARE Center of New Jersey’s Food for HOPE pantry opens, volunteers stock shelves and get ready to welcome hundreds of families facing food insecurity. Steve

Satz first came after hearing from a neighbor that help was needed. What he found surprised him: a choice-based food pantry serving hundreds of families each month. Seeing the need, he decided to return every week.

Now Steve guides our guests, including parents and seniors as they select fresh, nutritious food for their households. Steve is Jewish and not a member of Christ Church, yet he says he immediately felt at home.

“It didn’t matter where I came from,” he shared. “We were all here for the same reason—to feed the hungry.” Through volunteers like Steve, Food for HOPE continues to make something beautiful possible—neighbors coming together so families across our community can leave with nourishment, dignity, and hope.



Marriott Volunteers at Food Pantry

PARTNERSHIPS



Marriott Team



Our partnership with Marriott continues to grow in meaningful ways.

Starting with a volunteer event at our Rockaway choice-based food pantry last December, our collaboration with Marriott has expanded significantly. Marriott has provided recurring financial support, hosted multiple food drives, and mobilized employees for ongoing volunteer service at our pantry. Each month, Marriott team members assist with pantry operations. Recently, Marriott volunteers joined our CARE 4 Kids Bed Build event, helping ensure children in our community have a safe place to sleep.

We are grateful for Marriott's continued partnership and generosity in supporting families across our community.



PARTNER with us!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Generosity in action!

The Next Chapter Financial Summary *As of March 13, 2026*

Our Four-Year Goal (Years 2023 - 2026)	\$ 10,000,000
Our Four-Year TOTAL COMMITMENTS	\$ 7,343,700
Total Collected - Next Chapter	\$ 3,483,096
Total Collected - Chapter 2	\$ 1,854,552
TOTAL GIVING	\$ 5,337,648
GIVING BREAKDOWN	
Giving from Donors with Commitments	\$ 4,070,920
Giving from Donors without Commitments	\$ 1,266,728
TOTAL GIVING	\$ 5,337,648

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!

