

## NEWS PRESS RELEASE

SERVANT'S HEART MINISTRY

39 McBride Ave Ext.

Paterson, NJ 07501

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Bolger Foundation awards \$250,000 grant to Servant's Heart Ministry for The Great Falls Center.**

PATERSON, NJ. July 10, 2024 --- John Oostdyk, Executive Director of Servant's Heart Ministry, announced today that they will be receiving a \$250,000 grant from The Bolger Foundation of Midland Park, NJ, for the continued build out of The Great Falls Center in Paterson, NJ. To qualify for the grant, SHM was challenged to raise \$2,250,000. Thanks to the generous support of their donors, they met that goal on May 1<sup>st</sup>. With this challenge grant from Bolger Foundation, the Capital Campaign for The Great Falls Center is fully funded for Phase 2. Phase 3 of their fundraising will begin this fall.

"We are so pleased and gratified to receive this generous challenge grant," commented Oostdyk. "It was truly a key catalyst in encouraging other generous financial partners to make gifts to the project."

Following a tour of the progress at The Great Falls Center, J.T. Bolger, President of the Bolger Foundation commented, **"The Bolger Foundation is proud to be challenging Servant's Heart in their journey to transform the building and the area around The Great Falls Center. Their mission and educational opportunities will be a catalyst for generations."**

Earlier this year the Paterson Planning Board unanimously approved the plans for The Great Falls Center. The organization hopes to begin construction later this year.

The Great Falls Center, a collaborative initiative by Servant's Heart Ministry and Dawn Treader Christian School, showcases a commitment to holistic community development, bridging the gap between education and practical skills. Plans for the building at 39 McBride include state-of-the-art workshops, classrooms, community spaces, and a public food hall and rooftop dining experience. The Center seeks to empower individuals with valuable trade skills and promote educational excellence, community engagement, and economic growth in Paterson.

Servant's Heart Ministry already uses the building that will become The Great Falls Center. There they house the Workmanship Training and Mentorship Program that equips young men and women with the skills necessary to excel in various trades, thereby addressing the growing demand for skilled labor in the region. Since 2019 they have graduated 182 students from their growing list of courses. The program already offers training in CPM, Fine Woodworking, Welding, and Tile. A pilot program for Auto Mechanics launches this fall. The completion of The Great Falls Center will allow SHM to offer culinary courses as well.

Learn more about Servant's Heart and the Workmanship Program at [www.ServantsHeartNJ.org](http://www.ServantsHeartNJ.org).

Explore plans for The Great Falls Center at [www.TheGreatFallsCenter.com](http://www.TheGreatFallsCenter.com).

#### **About Servant's Heart Ministry and The Great Falls Center:**

Servant's Heart Ministry is dedicated to improving the quality of life in under-resourced communities through renovation projects, vocational training, and cultivating community leadership.

#### **About The Bolger Foundation:**

The Bolger Foundation, known throughout northern New Jersey for its impactful philanthropic endeavors, honors the legacy of David F. Bolger's commitment to enhancing quality of life through strategic infrastructure support. This \$250,000 challenge grant provides a significant milestone for The Great Falls Center, bringing the project closer to fruition and underscoring The Foundation's dedication to transformative community projects.

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