The holiday season was exceptionally busy at God’s Love, and I want to thank everyone who helped prepare and home-deliver more than 7,600 delicious holiday meals for our clients. You make the holidays special for so many clients and their families. Many of you volunteered in person, while others helped us “Celebrate with a Plate” by sponsoring one or more meals. Your generous efforts had our clients calling and sending notes full of gratitude. I hope you know just how much your spirit and efforts were appreciated.

This holiday season brought celebrations and remembrances. We remembered Joan Rivers and felt profoundly both her loss and her presence during Thanksgiving and Winter Feast. We recognized World AIDS Day on December 1. Staff at God’s Love shared a moment of silence, remembering those we lost while affirming our roots as an organization founded at the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis. These remembrances served to strengthen our commitment to the work we do for all those affected by serious illness.

The work on our SoHo home is continuing at a great pace, and we look forward to returning to our newly-renovated building this spring. I am grateful that so many of our volunteers have continued with us while we are in Brooklyn, and I welcome all of our new volunteers as well. If you put volunteering on hold while we are in Brooklyn, I hope we see you again when we return to SoHo. Our clients often recognize the efforts of our volunteers by commenting on the love that is in every bite of their meals and on the big smiles that come with each delivery. Thank you for your gifts of time.

With more than 20,000 meals delivered every week, throughout the five boroughs and parts of New Jersey, God’s Love depends on many people and organizations. There are a number of wonderful partners that deserve recognition for their special gestures in support of our work.

We thank the American Express Foundation for their recently renewed support for our Volunteer Department. As the lead supporter of our volunteer team, American Express helps us recruit, retain, and celebrate the amazing work of more than 8,000 volunteers annually.

Other partners pitching in this winter include the Alcoa Foundation, Avon Foundation for Women, Bloomberg L.P., and M·A·C AIDS Fund. You shared your energy, insights and resources, and we are grateful for all you do to support our work.

As God’s Love continues to expand, there are some things that never change. As has been true for 29 years, we continue to be committed to our core principles: we will deliver each client’s first meal on the next delivery day; we will never charge our clients for their meals; and most importantly, we will never have a waiting list. Our commitment to these principles is made possible because of the generosity and unwavering commitment of all our volunteers and supporters.

We thank each of you for making the growth in our services and the expansion of our building possible. Every day, you help to nourish and bring comfort to so many vulnerable New Yorkers who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves.
Joe Hooper has been a volunteer at God’s Love since 1994 and we are thrilled to celebrate his more than twenty years of volunteering! Every week, Joe steps out onto the streets of New York City to make walking deliveries to our clients. Our Delivery dispatcher, Pat Costello, has worked with him since day one and has this to say about her friend: “Joe is an amazing guy with tremendous energy and dedication. Joe investigates some of the challenges our clients face, such as not having a working intercom, or not having heat or other services they may need. He reports back on any health changes in our clients or medical challenges they may be having, so that we can respond appropriately and alert their social workers. Joe made God’s Love deliveries a part of his life. Our clients are much the better for it.”

We had the opportunity to speak to Joe about his connection to God’s Love:

**How has God’s Love become a part of your life?**

In the mid-90s, the AIDS epidemic was raging. I felt like I was doing one small thing to push back against this evil force. These days, many of my clients are older (of course, so am I!), coping with the usual “diseases of aging.” It gives me more of a Sunday afternoon-after-church feeling, making social calls on the elderly relatives, a slice of small-town Americana that otherwise isn’t a feature of my life as a Manhattan journalist.

**What do you consider to be the most important part of your volunteer experience?**

I think it’s the attachment I form with some of my regular clients who I’ve been delivering to for years. Sometimes it’s with the caretakers of those clients. We don’t have long conversations but they look forward to seeing me and I look forward to seeing them.

**How do you make God’s Love a part of your life, while working?**

I write regularly for a handful of magazines (currently, *Men’s Journal*, *Elle*, and *Popular Science*) and I’ve co-written two books, both on health themes. The new one, *The Swift Diet: 4 Weeks to Mend the Belly, Lose the Weight, and Get Rid of the Bloat*, is really in tune with the God’s Love message of nutritious food as the cornerstone of good health. When I discovered that the co-author of my book, prominent nutritionist Kathie Madonna Swift, is highly regarded by the God’s Love nutrition department, I really felt like my professional and volunteer lives had merged!

**As a volunteer and an ambassador for our organization, what do you tell others about God’s Love?**

Well, if I think they’re in need, I tell them to call God’s Love and consider getting home delivered meals. If they’ve got some extra time and energy, I tell them to consider volunteering. It’s a chance to work with some incredibly competent and compassionate people.

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Make Your Mark with Tiles for Love

Our 1,000 Tiles for Love program continues to grow, and you still have a chance to claim your tile in our new lobby in The Michael Kors Building! Individuals, corporations, volunteer teams and friends have all donated to purchase their own honor and memorial tiles. We’d like to thank those who have purchased their Tile for Love. Please visit www.glwd.org/tilesforlove to purchase yours!
With Irv Lerner

Irv Lerner holds many dedicated positions at God’s Love. As a volunteer and Legacy Society member, Irv’s commitment to our mission seems to know no bounds! We are grateful for all that he has done for God’s Love, all that he is currently doing, and, as a Legacy Society member, all that he is doing to grow our future.

Born in the Bronx, Irv is a lifelong New Yorker. He began donating to God’s Love in our early years, at the height of the AIDS pandemic, when so many in the community were affected by HIV/AIDS.

Then, in the late 1990s, a friend of his who was living with AIDS had just been discharged from the hospital, and needed food. His friend called God’s Love, and began receiving food right away. Irv was impressed with the fact that God’s Love responded so quickly to his friend’s urgent need. After that, Irv began volunteering in our kitchen.

Irv loves his weekly commitment as a volunteer to God’s Love. Although he didn’t start volunteering to make friends, he has become close with his fellow volunteers. When Irv had an accident, after his stay in the hospital he was at home for a period of time, not able to do much. His volunteer friends went to visit him every day, going shopping for him and bringing him food.

Irv continues to donate to God’s Love because, as he says, “I’m happy to see that anyone who is in need of food can have it delivered right to them.” He’s been inspired by the food that he and his team help cook in the kitchen, and he is so glad to be a part of the process.

Recently, Irv joined our Legacy Society, and has made God’s Love the beneficiary of his IRA, which he found to be very easy; as he simply changed the name of his beneficiary on his IRA account. Securing the future of God’s Love is as important to him as being a part of our work today. Irv tells us, “This is the right thing to do. No one needs my money more than the people who are being fed by God’s Love.”

We are grateful for all that Irv has brought to God’s Love over the years, as a donor, a volunteer, and now as a Legacy Society member.

Irv says, “I’ve made God’s Love a part of my life because the God’s Love family has made me a part of theirs.”

Thank you, Irv, for being a part of our God’s Love family! ❤

If you would like more information on the Legacy Society, please contact Stephen Covello, Manager of Key Donors and Corporate Partnerships, at 212.294.8144.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Our Elected Officials Lend a Hand

Througout the holidays, we were extremely fortunate to have many elected officials and their staff join us in our kitchen to help deliver meals and holiday gifts for our clients and their families. At Thanksgiving, Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna and her family delivered meals in Brooklyn. Representatives from the offices of Council Member Ruben Wills, Council Member Rafael Espinal, and Council Member Darlene Mealy also delivered Thanksgiving meals throughout Brooklyn and Queens. Other Thanksgiving helpers included former NYC Comptroller and mayoral candidate Bill Thompson, along with former staff members Jeff Simons and Gayle Horwitz.

During Winter Feast in December, we were grateful that Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna joined us with her sons and nieces. We were honored to host Council Members Ruben Wills and Annabel Palma along with their staff members, rolling up their sleeves to dish up Cornish hens stuffed with wild rice and porcini mushroom sauce. Council Members James Vacca and Margaret Chin delivered holiday meals and cheer to their constituents in the Bronx and Manhattan.

Thanks to all of our public officials for making this a record-breaking and love-filled holiday season here at God’s Love! We are so pleased that we had the chance to share our life-saving services with our representatives on these special days, and that they saw firsthand the impact of our work on the lives of so many.❤
William used to enjoy activities such as going to concerts, reading, painting, and being part of a choir. When William was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, he was determined to not let the diagnosis ruin his life. Unfortunately, reality set in.

“My vision worsened, my blood pressure skyrocketed, and I was also diagnosed with diabetes,” William says. “One time, I was enjoying a play and all of sudden, I couldn’t see anything.”

William’s physical and mental health worsened. He developed thrush, and suffered a stroke. He started having panic attacks, and became extremely worried about how he would survive on his own.

William reached out to God’s Love and immediately began receiving meals. Since he has been on our program, William has been able to maintain a healthy diet. He regularly speaks with our Registered Dietitian Nutritionists who have helped him develop a unique nutrition plan to manage his illness, and the side effects of his medication. William’s health has greatly improved.

“God’s Love, for me, has been a support system,” William says. “I’m not overwhelmed anymore. I’m not scared. When you speak with anyone at God’s Love, you know you are speaking with people who work unceasingly for your health.”

On October 18, 2014 members of Team Elliman from Douglas Elliman set off on a 100-mile bike ride from New York City to Atlantic City. Their goal? To complete all 100 miles and to raise funds and awareness for God’s Love.

Max Dobens of Douglas Elliman began this Ride to ReInvent last year when he decided to bike a 100-mile route as a fundraiser for God’s Love. His ride was so successful that he encouraged his colleagues to join him and fundraise along with him this year. He took to encouraging them like a team of athletes, always putting our mission first. Max told us, “When I talked to people I said, ‘Look, when you’re out there riding and it hurts, just think of the people who can’t leave the house to eat, and that’s who you’re riding for.’”

Team Elliman surpassed their goal and raised an astonishing $50,000 for God’s Love! Dottie Herman, President & CEO of Douglas Elliman, and Howard Lorber, Chairman of Douglas Elliman, generously offered to match the funds raised by the team. In total, Team Elliman raised $100,000 to fund 10,000 meals for the clients of God’s Love. We greatly appreciate their generous support!

We’re grateful for this growing partnership with Douglas Elliman and their commitment to supporting their neighbors. “God’s Love is a New York institution,” Max says. “I think that’s one of the reasons why the real estate community, in particular, responded well to the mission. Chances are people have known people who have needed meals from God’s Love. We’re a New York company and God’s Love is a New York charity and I think that’s why God’s Love is a great fit.”
The 2014 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in New York

The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, a 39-mile fundraising project of the Avon Foundation for Women, took place the weekend of October 18-19, and God’s Love was proud to participate. It is a very emotional and exciting event for thousands of walkers and their families.

On Saturday, we welcomed the walkers at the Cheering Station who signed every inch of the Avon banner and enjoyed Chuck’s brownies. On Sunday, for the seventh year in a row, we provided lunch for all of the walkers and crew. We joined the Avon Team at the closing ceremony to celebrate cancer survivors and the success of the event.

A special thanks to all of our volunteers involved in making the weekend happen! Thank you for representing God’s Love and for cheering on such a phenomenal group of walkers and volunteers. Avon is a strong supporter of our breast cancer program and we are grateful for their partnership.

Racing to the Finish at the TCS NYC Marathon

On Sunday, November 2, five amazing God’s Love teammates took to the streets to run the TCS NYC Marathon. Congratulations to Gene Colon, Erin Shea, Steven Paul Wachel, Kevin Sayet, and Tim Caldwell who ran on our God’s Love team! Not only did they train to run 26.2 miles, but they went “the extra mile” by fundraising for God’s Love! In total, our team raised over $15,000 for God’s Love, which funds over 1,500 nutritious meals for our clients, their senior caregivers and their children.

To our runners: thank you for going the distance for God’s Love and congrats on finishing this amazing Race!
According to the 2010 census, 1 million New Yorkers were 65 years or older and it is estimated that by 2030 this number will increase to 1.3 million and to over 1.4 million by 2040. Our most recent client data reveals that 60% of God’s Love clients are now 60 years or older, and face nutritional issues related to both illness and the aging process.

Certain medical and psychosocial stressors associated with aging may impact nutritional status. Nutrient requirements typically increase with age due to reduced food intake; reduced appetite and taste perception; reduced digestive, absorptive and metabolic functioning; difficulties shopping and preparing meals; and the occurrence of other social issues as age advances. These issues, combined with those associated with illness, leave this population especially vulnerable and at high risk for hospitalization and institutionalization. Our goal is to prevent this whenever possible by providing appropriate food and nutritional support and by helping clients stay in their homes, thereby improving quality of life.

We continuously evaluate and evolve our programs so they remain relevant and meet our clients’ needs. For example, after finding that many of our clients were being looked after by family caregivers – many of whom were struggling to meet their own dietary needs – God’s Love began meal services for clients’ senior caregivers. This extended support has alleviated caregiver anxiety and improved the eating habits of entire families.

We are grateful to Lenox Corporation for their support this past holiday season! Lenox Corporation, one of the world’s leading names in gifts for the home, included God’s Love in their “Give Lenox & Give Back” holiday campaign. A portion of the proceeds of a select group of five holiday gifts sold between November 24 and December 24 went to God’s Love. Our Board member Chef Mike Anthony took part in the campaign, posting a picture of black bass, honeynut squash, Brussels sprouts and pumpkin seeds plated on Lenox china.

God’s Love We Deliver would like to thank former Board member Lester Gribetz, Tom Gladwell, and Lenox for making this promotion possible.

**NUTRITION**

**Nutritional Needs and Aging**

By Lisa Zullig, MS, RDN, CSG, CDN

This weeknight-friendly soup is made easy by using quick-cooking bulgur. Note that the bulgur will continue to absorb the liquid if kept overnight so you may need to stir in additional broth when reheating to return to desired consistency.

**TOMATO BULGUR SOUP WITH WARM SPICES**

(SERVES 4)

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 4 cups low-sodium vegetable broth, divided
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup uncooked bulgur wheat
- (14-ounce) can no-salt-added diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 1 tablespoon feta cheese crumbles (optional)

**METHOD:**
In a medium pot over medium-high heat, bring 1/2 cup broth to a simmer. Add onion and garlic and cook about 5 minutes or until onion is translucent and tender. Stir in coriander and cinnamon and cook 1 minute. Add bulgur and cook for 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Add remaining 3 1/2 cups broth and tomatoes with their juices and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 10 to 12 minutes or until bulgur is tender. Stir in lemon juice. Garnish with parsley and feta.

**NUTRITIONAL INFO:**

Per Serving: 180 calories (10 from fat), 1g total fat, 0g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 210mg sodium, 37g carbohydrate (9g dietary fiber, 5g sugar), 6g protein

Recipe courtesy of Whole Foods Market. Visit wholefoodsmarket.com for more great recipes!

**THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS**

**Give Lenox and Give Back**

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**@ashramchic**
Filming at Gods Love We Deliver - chopping broccoli to help w tmrw's 4K meals!! Thank you @beardedyogi for opportunity to serve #karmayoga @manseekinglight #tistheseason

**@MC3410**
@godslovenyc
#HappyThanksgiving
#godslovewedeliver
#GiveThanks #giveback #grateful
In September, wedding bells rang for our volunteer McKenzie Mahoney and her fiancé David Roman. McKenzie is a longtime supporter of God’s Love, and wears many hats. In her tenure as a supporter of God’s Love, McKenzie has been a weekly kitchen volunteer, a Volunteer Expansion Campaign Steering Committee member, and a generation LOVE member. Most recently, she was the Team Captain for the generation LOVE team for the Race to Deliver. Over the years, she and David have supported our work and we’re very grateful.

McKenzie and David tell us, “We always knew we wanted to incorporate God’s Love We Deliver into our wedding somehow, given the important role it plays in McKenzie’s life. We are very happy to be able to share our commitment to God’s Love with our friends by donating a meal in honor of every guest in attendance. It was a wonderful way to circle back on the mission of God’s Love and honor their devotion to helping people in this city we call home.”

We are honored to have McKenzie and David in our God’s Love family and we are grateful for this generous and creative way of giving. Thank you and congratulations!
We celebrated our Eighth Annual Golden Heart Awards on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at Spring Studios in New York City. Leslie Moonves, President and CEO of CBS Corporation, received the Golden Heart Award for Lifetime Achievement, presented by Academy Award-winning actress and United Nations World Food Programme Honorary Partner Halle Berry. Anna Wintour, Condé Nast Artistic Director and Vogue Editor-in-Chief, received the Michael Kors Award for Outstanding Community Service, presented by God’s Love Board Member and award-winning fashion designer Michael Kors. Richard E. Feldman, Partner, Sonnenschein, Sherman & Deutsch LLP, former Board President, and current member of our Board of Trustees, received the Golden Heart Award for Outstanding Volunteerism, presented by Michael Kors.

The fabulous dinner and awards ceremony was co-chaired by Blaine Trump, Halle Berry, Michael Kors, and John Idol. U.S. Senator from New York Kirsten Gillibrand served as honorary dinner chair. Thanks to everyone who helped make this Golden Heart Awards so special. 💕
EVENTS
Golden Heart Awards
On Sunday, November 23, we held our 21st Annual Race to Deliver in Central Park. The Park was bursting with over 5,300 runners. And, 200 children joined in the Kids’ Races.

Many wonderful individuals and organizations supported this year’s Race to Deliver. Noah Neiman led invigorating warm-ups for the participants. He is a Nike-sponsored trainer, Master Trainer for Barry’s Boot Camp, and well-known fitness personality. Fox 5 News anchor Ben Simmoneau welcomed Race participants and congratulated the winners at the awards ceremony. God’s Love would also like to thank New York Road Runners (NYRR) and event sponsors M·A·C AIDS FUND, Global Brands Group, FOX 5 / MyFoxNY.com, Gramercy Tavern and Simon & Schuster.

At the Kids’ Races, runners ages 2 to 12 dashed in their own races according to their age group. At the end of each race, the children involved in the Kids’ Races received their own awards. God’s Love Leadership Council members Katy and Greg Williamson and God’s Love Board members Scott Bruckner and Sylvia Vogelman cheered and congratulated the runners at both the regular and Kids’ Races. ♥
ON THE CALENDAR

❤️ Big Love Weekend
February 28 & March 1

❤️ Return to God’s Love SoHo Headquarters
Spring 2015
glwd.org/expansioncampaign

❤️ Authors In Kind Literary Luncheon
April 14, 2015
glwd.org/authorsinkind

❤️ Midsummer Night Drinks
June
Location TBD
glwd.org/midsummernightdrinks

❤️ Heritage of Pride March
June 28, 2015
New York City

For tickets, sponsorship or more information for any of these events, please contact events@glwd.org or call 212.294.8162.

GOD’S LOVE WE DELIVER

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TO MAKE A DONATION 212.294.8142  TO VOLUNTEER 212.294.8158  TO BECOME A CLIENT 800.747.2023  SPECIAL EVENTS 212.294.8162

OUR MISSION: The mission of God’s Love We Deliver is to improve the health and well-being of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other serious illnesses by alleviating hunger and malnutrition. We prepare and deliver nutritious, high quality meals to people who, because of their illness, are unable to provide or prepare meals for themselves. We also provide illness-specific nutrition education and counseling to our clients, families, care providers and other service organizations. All of our services are provided free of charge without regard to income.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
RECOMMENDED RATING

Generation Love (genLOVE) is a group of motivated young professionals who are committed to embodying the mission of social service on which God’s Love was founded. genLOVE members will: raise the awareness of God’s Love by serving as social media ambassadors and cultivating new relationships with their peers; promote giving to God’s Love by individual contributions and through events; and be a champion and passionate advocate of our work. Our genLOVE members all donate at least $10 a month through our Kitchen Cabinet program and will support God’s Love in various ways throughout the year. To find out more about genLOVE, please visit glwd.org/genLOVE. To join our Kitchen Cabinet, please visit glwd.org/kitchencabinet.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF GIVING

❤️ Kitchen Cabinet
The Kitchen Cabinet program is our monthly giving program. Each month, your gift is paid automatically through your bank or credit card.

To find out more about this opportunity for monthly giving, please call us at 212.294.8144 or visit glwd.org/kitchencabinet

❤️ The Legacy Society
Help secure the long-term future of God’s Love We Deliver by joining The Legacy Society. For more information, please call 212.294.8144 or visit glwd.org/legacy

❤️ Join us at our “Table for Six”
Table for Six offers a unique experience in our famous kitchen where you and your friends can chop vegetables, peel potatoes, and make a difference in the lives of those in need. At the same time, you’ll enjoy a fun and casual orientation to our organization.

For more information please contact Stephen Covello at 212.294.8144 or scovello@glwd.org.

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