Dear friends,

In my first year at God’s Love, we cooked and delivered 670,000 meals annually. Now, 16 years later, we look to hit the 3.5 million meal mark. And while we’re extremely proud of this achievement, and thankful for all the donors and volunteers who make it possible, this phenomenal growth is putting a great strain on our beloved headquarters, the Michael Kors Building.

We have essentially run out of space – space for cold and dry storage, meal packaging, desks and even volunteer lockers. As we grow, we remain committed to our core principles of never having a waiting list and never charging our clients or their families for their meals. To do this, we’re getting creative as we also pursue a long-term, more permanent solution. For instance, thanks to our wonderful friends at City Harvest, we have relocated our shipping program and some of our Brooklyn routes to their new home, the Cohen Community Food Rescue Center. Additionally, we are partnering with Citymeals on Wheels to pack our shelf-stable emergency summer meals. With warm weather on the way, these meal kits ensure our clients have food in the event of a heat wave or power outage.

We are thrilled to announce new additions to our volunteer leadership team. Please join us in welcoming Alexander Bussenger, William Li, and Gabrielle McGee to our Board of Directors, and Cindy Secunda to our Board of Trustees!

If you enjoy our events, I hope you’ll join us at the beautiful home of Neil Patrick Harris and David Burtka for the 2023 Midsummer Night Drinks. Also, stay tuned for more announcements about our new summer headliner the God’s Love Open: A Golf, Tennis, and Pickleball event, to take place on August 14 at the Westchester Country Club. I’ll see you on the 19th hole.

However you enjoy your summer, I hope you stay safe and healthy. Thank you for your support!

David Ludwigson
President & CEO
VOLUNTEERS

Celebrating Our 14,000 Volunteers!

During National Volunteer Week, we celebrated our community of volunteers. God’s Love We Deliver is fueled by the hands and hearts of more than 14,000 volunteers and 440 corporate, student, and community groups who power our mission every day.

The festivities ensued all week long, as volunteers spun a wheel for various prizes, and God’s Love Pastry Chef Dorothy Auer baked special treats. Thank you to Tony’s Chocolonely, Bombas, Centric Brands, L’Oréal, Delta Air Lines, Melba’s Restaurant, and the New York Mets for donating appreciation gifts and vouchers.

The kitchen was also visited by celebrity volunteers Ari Shapiro and Miss Universe R’bonney Gabriel. The bakery welcomed Richard Kind, Alex Michaels/Alexis Michelle, Victoria Brito, Candace Bushnell, L Morgan Lee, Stellene Volandes, Claudia Oshry, Sam Leicht, Jared Reinfeldt, and Zack Calderon for a cake decorating party as Chef Dorothy baked our 70,000th birthday cake!

Thank you to Yolanda, Roberto, Shaine, Annalee, Rich, and Jesse from the Volunteer Department for managing our volunteers not only just during National Volunteer Week, but all year long as well.

Thank you to our outstanding volunteers for helping us continue to always serve our neighbors. We say it all the time, but we simply couldn’t do this work without you.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit glwd.org/volunteer.

EVENTS

Young Hearts Helping God’s Love Bloom

Young Hearts, a collection of community-minded youth who are engaged in volunteerism and philanthropy events, have been busy bees this spring giving back to God’s Love and ensuring our birthday card supply is always well-stocked.

The kitchen hosted a plethora of high schoolers fulfilling service learning requirements. Hats off to Stephen Gaynor School for partnering with God’s Love for their Week of Service, to Trinity School and Riverdale Lower School for volunteering with us for their service days, and to the third-grade class from P.S. 107 for visiting us on their Field Trip Friday. Earlier this spring, students from LREI also helped clean up our tulip beds to make room for the herb garden.

A highlight of the season was our event, Plant & Play. Attendees painted flower pots, learned about the different herbs we grow on our rooftop, and created vegetable pasta bowls. We are thrilled that the next generation is learning the importance of giving back!

If you know someone under the age of 18 who would like to get involved, visit glwd.org/younghearts.
POLICY:

A Special Visit in Support of Veterans

In April, God’s Love We Deliver welcomed the Honorable Denis McDonough, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), as part of our partnership with the federal government to support medically tailored meals for individuals living with illness, and our CONNECTED program serving former U.S. military service members.

God’s Love We Deliver has served veterans since its founding in 1985, but recognizing the distinctive needs of the population, with seed money from craigslist founder Craig Newmark, we launched our CONNECTED program in 2021 to meet the unique needs of the veteran community who are so often impacted by food and nutrition insecurity, severe illness, and behavioral issues such as PTSD, bipolar disorder, severe depression, and others.

The Secretary and Senator were accompanied by Glenn Johnson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, OCLA; Dr. Christine Going, National Food Security Program Coordinator, Food Security Office; and Caitlin Celardo, National Social Work Program Manager, Food Security Office. They were also joined by Viviana DeCohen, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Veteran Services and Lt. Col. James Hendon, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Veterans Services. God’s Love was also joined by supporters Craig Newmark and Jim Halpin.

This year, God’s Love We Deliver will cook and home-deliver 140,000 medically tailored meals to 600 veterans and their families. Following the briefing, the Secretary and guests volunteered in the kitchen, preparing meals for clients across the city who live with 200+ diagnoses. We thank Secretary McDonough, Senator Gillibrand, Craig Newmark, Jim Halpin, and our veteran services programs for their partnership and support.

CLIENT STORY:

Meet Nils & Efraim

Nils grew up in West Los Angeles as the oldest of four brothers in a family of attorneys. After losing his father in 1979 when Nils was a teenager, he ventured to the East Coast and has lived in New York City ever since. Here, he met his partner, Efraim, an immigrant from Israel.

Nils’s career spanned industries: over the years he designed home furnishing fabrics and furniture and rented and sold properties as a real estate broker. In his free time, he enjoyed taking in the arts. Meanwhile, Efraim led a successful taxi driving service. All of this changed when Nils lost his ability to work due to illness.

About five years ago, Nils, who has heart disease and diabetes, lost his eyesight due to a stroke. After this incident, so many of his passions such as visiting museums and art shows were no longer feasible. Nils is mobile via a wheelchair and walker and relies on Efraim as his primary caregiver. After struggling with daily tasks such as preparing meals, Nils’ social worker introduced them to the services of God’s Love We Deliver.

Last year, Nils and his partner both had strokes on the same day, Efraim’s birthday, one after another. Upon returning home after his stroke, Efraim also became a God’s Love client after having received meals as a caregiver.

“I used to love to cook but can’t see to do so now, and would probably burn down the whole building if I tried,” Nils quipped.

They both appreciate how their meals and the program in general accommodate their specific needs. “I get our deliveries before Shabbat, which is nice,” Efraim said. “Our RDN was able to get us meals with no pork. The food is wholesome and good and nutritious.”

Efraim usually accepts the couple’s deliveries, and said the delivery drivers and volunteers who bring their meals for the week could not be nicer.

“They take their jobs seriously, and are always so nice when delivering. What you do for people is unbelievable. I tell all of the people I used to work with about you and they can’t believe it either!” – Efraim

Thank you for all of the support you provide to care for our clients and their family members. Thanks to you, we’ll always deliver.
This year’s sold-out, seventh annual Love Rocks NYC benefit concert for God’s Love We Deliver brought the house down at the historic Beacon Theatre with an electrifying night of live music. Since launching in 2017, the annual Love Rocks NYC concerts have brought together unique lineups of talent, raising more than $25 million to date and helping to fund more than 2.5 million meals for our clients and their families.


Other special guests included appearances by Stephen Colbert, Chevy Chase, Bill Murray, Phoebe Robinson, Gina Gershon, and David Burtka and Neil Patrick Harris.

The Legacy Society is comprised of individuals who have chosen to support our work by including God’s Love in their estate plans. For more information, visit glwd.org/legacysociety.
Ways to Give

GOD’S LOVE WE DELIVER

The VANguard Program

VANguard: By sponsoring a van for God’s Love We Deliver and joining our VANguard program, you will be with us each mile, providing meals that heal, and we will include your name and logo on the van.

VANguard PLUS: A van sponsorship along with underwriting one year of costs. We would not be able to home deliver more than 3.5 million medically tailored meals each year for our clients without our state-of-the-art refrigerated vans.

To learn more about the VANguard Program and VANguard PLUS, visit glwd.org/vanguard.

Legacy Society

The Legacy Society is comprised of individuals who have chosen to support our work by including God’s Love in their estate plans. Planned gifts, including bequests, create an opportunity to provide the much-needed resources that enable God’s Love to continue to serve New York City. Legacy Society members receive special recognition, as well as invitations to donor events and programs.

To learn more about the Legacy Society, visit glwd.org/legacysociety.

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Featured Recipe:

Tandoori Cauliflower

By Samah Dada, God’s Love Culinary Council

You’ve likely seen Tandoori Chicken on menus at Indian restaurants, but Culinary Council member Samah Dada (@dadaeats) decided to give it a plant-based twist with her signature Tandoori Cauliflower! Cauliflower is high in vitamins C and K, and is also a good source of folate, which supports cell growth. Samah serves this up with a green chutney for extra brightness.

Enjoy!

Ingredients

Serves 6-8

- 1 cup yogurt (or plant-based yogurt)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large head cauliflower, cut into florets
- Tandoori Spice Mix
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Cilantro, for garnish
- Sliced red onions, for garnish
- Green chutney

Tandoori Spice Mix

- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/2-3/4 teaspoon cayenne (depending on how spicy you want it)
- 1/2 teaspoon garam masala
- 1/2 teaspoon fenugreek powder

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, add the yogurt then spices. Mix to combine.
3. Toss the cauliflower florets with olive oil. Then transfer them to the bowl with the tandoori marinade until completely coated.
4. Add the cauliflower onto the tray, and spread out so every floret has personal space! Using a pastry brush, brush on any leftover marinade in the bowl.
5. Bake for about 35 to 40 minutes, tossing halfway through, until the florets are golden and crisp on the edges.
6. Garnish with cilantro and enjoy - serve with green chutney!
THE MISSION OF GOD’S LOVE WE DELIVER is to improve the health and well-being of people 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 to clients without regard to income.

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