As a sports fan, I think it is fun to debate all-time records. Which ones will never be broken? Joe DiMaggio’s 56-game hitting streak? The Boston Celtics 8 World Championships in a row? Byron Nelson’s 18 PGA tour victories in a single year? It all makes for good conversation at your favorite watering hole (mine is the Kettle of Fish btw!)

At God’s Love we talk about all-time records too. In the first half of the current fiscal year ending December 31, we cooked and delivered 2,077,752 meals, an all-time record, and 22% higher than the prior year. Why is this important? Because we know that our medically tailored meals work!

Consider these statistics. People on a medically tailored meal program have 70% fewer emergency room visits; if they do go to the emergency room, they are 50% less likely to be admitted to the hospital; and if they are admitted, they are 72% more likely to be released to their home instead of a long-term care facility.

The numbers are remarkable, and this is why we are so dedicated to making sure that anyone who can benefit from our services receives them. Nobody gets a ring or a trophy when we achieve these results, but we do get the satisfaction of knowing we are helping our fellow New Yorkers in need. What could be better than that?

To do it all takes a tremendous team effort. Our wonderful volunteers, 23,000 strong, and staff of 185. Our amazing partners like Michael Kors, Bloomberg and Bank of America, to name just a few. And our talented leadership, including our new Board Chair Patricia Suh, who is taking the reins from Terrence Meck after many years of dedicated service.

2024 will be a challenging year at God’s Love, as we figure out ways to deliver more than 4 million meals from a facility designed to produce far fewer. We are working on some exciting things in this area. I’ll be sharing much more about that in our next newsletter.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. If you have ideas for us or would like to partner, please do reach out to me at david_ludwigson@glwd.org. Let’s keep breaking records together!

I hope to see you soon,

David

PS. If you love golf or tennis, please join us at the 2nd Annual GLO: The God’s Love Open, on August 12 at the Westchester Country Club. We are looking for sponsors and players. Please reach out to Senior Director, Events and Experience, Steven Marion, if you’re interested. smarion@glwd.org.
Corporate Partners Get Cooking

Corporate partnerships have always helped drive our efforts to care for New York City. They truly help our clients (and programs) thrive! Volunteer teams, corporate grants, panel discussions with colleagues, and other opportunities are all made possible by our corporate partners. Below are just a few recent examples.

BNY Mellon

On November 27, God’s Love welcomed 70 employees from BNY Mellon for a day of service and camaraderie to kick off Giving Tuesday and BNY Mellon’s Community Week. Groups worked in the kitchen and in meal packaging. Afterwards they participated in a “Fireside Chat” moderated by Senthil Kumar, BNY Mellon’s Chief Risk Officer. Panelists included Blondel Pinnock, President & CEO of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, and God’s Love’s own Chief Philanthropy Officer, Stephen Covello. Together, they discussed the deep sense of community and shared meaning that inspires both organizations every day.

BNY Mellon has been supporting God’s Love through grants, volunteerism, and event sponsorship for more than 10 years, and we are proud to have taken our partnership to the next level through this spirited event. Thank you BNY Mellon!

New York Post

Throughout 2023, you may have opened the New York Post to find a two-page spread with a story and ad for God’s Love. We are grateful to The New York Post for choosing to feature God’s Love with such amazing visibility across their print and digital spaces. As partners, we were able to expand the reach of our client stories and fundraising opportunities with these quarterly features. Please look for our next feature in a couple of months. Thank you to everyone at the New York Post for this opportunity!

Rudin Management

In September we were joined by Rudin Management’s Co-Chairman and CEO Bill Rudin, Executive Vice President Michael Rudin, and more than 100 team members for their annual Volunteer Day. Rudin volunteers filled our kitchen and meal-packaging departments with wonderful energy, hard work, and a whole lot of love. They ladled 400 gallons of soup, packed 3,000 meals, and assembled meal deliveries for 21 van routes delivering to clients throughout NYC. Since 1987, they have provided much-needed support to help us meet the growing demand for medically tailored meals. Thank you to everyone at Rudin Management for their loving care of New Yorkers living with severe and chronic illness!
CLIENT STORY:

A Neighbor, a Client, and the Power of a Shared Meal

Tyler, 62, has been a client of God’s Love We Deliver since August 2016, after a stroke forced him to retire. He had enjoyed a long career in the film and television industry, working on big budget movies with celebrities, and small films as well. As Property Master he acquired and arranged props for the film “My Blueberry Nights” starring Jude Law, and episodes of “Law & Order,” helping create worlds for actors.

He also remembers designing, sourcing, and supplying food for important scenes. “Sometimes the food looked good but didn’t taste good,” Tyler says with a grin.

Tyler’s stroke affected his balance and mobility. It also resulted in complete numbness on his right side. Unable to distinguish between hot and cold temperatures, he struggled to prepare healthy meals. “Cooking became dangerous,” he says.

Tyler first learned about our meal program over a Thanksgiving companion meal shared by his neighbor who was already a client on our services. “Once I tasted that fresh food, I knew I needed God’s Love, too,” he says. “It was the best meal I had eaten in months.”

He says he wouldn’t have survived the pandemic without God’s Love. “I don’t know how I would’ve been able to eat because everything around me was closed,” he says. He remembers how difficult the pandemic was, especially for people with illnesses. “A lot of people don’t realize how hard it was to get food.”

Tyler’s delivery driver, Shaun, brings nourishing meals once a week.

“I’m happy I’m able to have God’s Love as a resource and knowing I’ll always be fed. I’m grateful to now receive the opportunity to always eat nice meals.”

“The food from God’s Love isn’t like a movie set prop,” Tyler says. “It looks good, but it actually tastes good too!”

If you or a loved one has received our meals or volunteered with God’s Love, we want to hear your story! Visit godslovenyc.org/story to share!
A Golden Night: The Golden Heart Awards Dinner Honors Scarlett Johansson, Ben Platt

What a night! On Monday, October 16, God’s Love We Deliver was thrilled to host the 17th Annual Golden Heart Awards dinner in partnership with Michael Kors, Inc. at The Glasshouse.

The night kicked off with a cocktail hour featuring cocktails and mocktails from the timeless classic Indochine. Guests delighted in delicious French-Vietnamese fusion bites while enjoying music from DJ Lina Bradford and performances choreographed by Nick Laughlin.

For the dinner and awards presentation, Michael Kors welcomed guests. Michael was followed by a special performance by Tony Award-winning actor J. Harrison Ghee who brought the house down with musical numbers *There’s New York City* and *Freeway of Love*.

In one of many surprises of the evening, multi-hyphenate Cynthia Erivo took the stage to introduce and congratulate honoree Ben Platt, who received the Golden Heart Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Ben spoke about using his platform to raise awareness for marginalized voices. “As an artist, I’ve been given a megaphone of which I often feel undeserving. I consider it not only my duty, but also my greatest passion and most fulfilling joy to authentically inhabit queer characters, to write songs about grappling with my own queer identity and in celebration of queer love, and to create spaces, films and stories void of oppression and filled with unabashed queer joy.”

God’s Love President & CEO David Ludwigson spoke about how medically tailored meals from God’s Love can help lower healthcare costs, improve client satisfaction, and keep people in their homes, where they are healthiest and happiest.

During the auction led by Harry Santa-Olalla, guests bid on items to support the organization’s CONNECTED program, providing medically tailored meals and nutrition education and counseling to former U.S. military members living with a chronic illness, mental health condition, and/or substance use challenge.

In another surprise of the evening, actors Rupert Friend and Matt Damon jumped onstage to introduce Scarlett Johansson and congratulate her on receiving the Golden Heart Award for Philanthropy & Activism.

Scarlett spoke about her personal experience with food insecurity as a child, and how that experience has always connected her to God’s Love, with the real understanding of what it means to need help. “The struggle to put food on the table can lead to immense hardship and despair and a loss of hope. But organizations like God’s Love We Deliver offer a lifeline to those in need. They go beyond providing meals by connecting individuals with resources, creating community support networks, and advocating for long-term solutions to address systemic issues of poverty.”

Before the night ended, iconic music producer David Foster took the stage to announce the final surprise of the evening, a performance of *Real Love* by Mary J. Blige, which brought everyone to their feet.

Guests departed with gift bags of our famous brownies, goods from Opul Beauty, and a special edition chocolate bar from Tony’s Chocolonely.

This year’s Golden Heart Awards raised more than $3.5 million, funding more than 350,000 medically tailored meals for our neighbors living with and affected by severe and chronic illness.

Thank you to our Honorary Chairwoman Anna Wintour, Michael Kors, CW Stockwell, Blaine Trump and all of our co-chairs, our honorees and performers, sponsors, guests, and everyone involved for making it a huge success!
The holiday season would not have been complete without our annual holiday gathering of Board members, Trustees, genLOVE Executive Committee members, and Culinary Council members.

At this year’s party, we bid a fond farewell to Terrence Meck, who is moving to the board of trustees after many years of extraordinary board service. Terrence, thank you for all your amazing leadership.

In this moment of transition, we welcomed current Board member and former co-chair Patricia Suh as our new Board Chair. Patricia’s dedication and vision is already inspiring new initiatives in 2024.

With gratitude for Terrence’s legacy and excitement for Patricia’s leadership, we embark on a new year filled with anticipation and renewed commitment to our mission.

As we begin 2024, we also welcome Alexandra Idol to our Board of Directors and James Palazza to our Board of Trustees.

Executive News:
Welcoming New Leaders: Alexandra Idol and James Palazza

We’re thrilled to welcome Alexandra Idol to our Board of Directors and James Palazza to our Board of Trustees and we’re eager to see how their commitment to our mission and clients will help us continue to grow our program to nourish all those who need us.

Alexandra Idol
Alexandra is a leader in the financial and philanthropic sectors, overseeing a significant private office investment portfolio and having invested over $15 million in the last 10 years to help alleviate poverty and foster a more equitable future for all.

Alexandra began her career in Morgan Stanley’s private equity and investment banking division and is currently a board member on the Next Gen Advisory Council at Rockefeller Capital Management. Alexandra has also held leadership roles in both the retail and beauty sectors at Michael Kors and Charlotte Tilbury Beauty.

Alexandra is President of the Idol Family Foundation, Co-Chair of Maverick Collective, a member of Nexus Global, and served as Vice Chair of genLOVE at God’s Love We Deliver. Alexandra received an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with a double major in Operations and Entrepreneurial Management and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) from Villanova University with majors in Marketing and Finance.

James Palazza
James is one of New York City’s leading stylists and fashion consultants. With over 25 years of experience in the luxury retail market, James has built a successful portfolio by focusing on his clients and their needs, making the shopping experience effortless and fun.

James is relentless about keeping up with new merchandise as well as current and future trends. He has a diverse range of clients and he helps them find appropriate clothing and accessories that accurately reflect their lifestyles and personalities. James has a keen eye for color and a comprehensive knowledge of designers, trends, and garment fabrication. He helps clients expand their thinking and teaches them to be more exciting and creative in their choice of clothing and accessories.

James enjoys music, sports (Rangers, Yankees & Mets and the Pittsburgh Steelers), and his Catholic faith. He is a life-long resident of New York City, currently residing on the Upper West Side.
**Ingredients**

Serves 6-8

- 2 tbsp. good-quality vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp. Burlap & Barrel/God’s Love We Deliver Smoke & Garlic Blend
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh ginger
- 1½ pounds butternut or other winter squash, peeled and chopped (4 to 5 cups)
- 1 cup coconut milk, stock, or water
- Salt and pepper
- Chopped fresh cilantro for garnish

**Method**

Serves 6 to 8

30 minutes active time
2 to 3 hours inactive time

1. Put the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Add spice blend and ginger, lower the heat a little, and stir until the onion just starts to brown and the spices are fragrant, about 2 minutes more.

2. Add squash and coconut milk, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, cover, and adjust the heat so it bubbles steadily. Cook, stirring once or twice, until the squash is tender, about 20 minutes. Check the pot periodically and add a little more liquid to prevent the squash from sticking. If the squash is done and the mixture is still soupy, remove the lid and increase the heat so the liquid bubbles furiously; cook until it’s thicker than stew. Taste and adjust the seasoning.

3. Garnish with cilantro and serve hot or warm.

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**Staying Healthy During the Winter Months**

By Lisa Zullig, MS, RDN, CSG, CDN, Director of Nutrition Services

For many of us, wintertime means holiday celebrations and fun outdoor activities. Unfortunately, colder weather can also bring coughs, colds, and the flu. While a nutritious diet alone cannot prevent illness, it can help protect you by keeping your immune system strong.

The best way to boost immunity with your diet? Eat your fruits and vegetables, every day. Winter months offer some great, seasonal produce, including fresh parsnips, cauliflower, sweet potatoes, apples, pears, and Brussels sprouts.

You can use a mix of fresh, frozen, and canned options in meal planning to ensure some variety and convenience along with those important nutrients. Canned vegetables are a good, shelf-stable item to keep on hand in the pantry. Just be sure to rinse canned vegetables to remove excess sodium prior to use. For canned fruit, look for fruit in juice or water, rather than in syrup. This will help cut down on added sugar.

A healthy diet is one effective (and delicious) way to prevent illness this winter. Here are a few other steps that you can take, as well:

- Wash your hands! Handwashing with soap is one of the most effective ways to prevent illness. Avoid touching your face and eyes until your hands are washed.

- Stay hydrated. Even when it’s cold outside, be sure to drink plenty of fluids.

- Get some rest. Sleep is another way to boost immunity. Adults typically need 7-8 hours per night, and kids need 10-14 hours.

- Don’t forget to exercise. Either indoors or out, being physically active helps to strengthen the immune system.

Get all of our nutrition resources at glwd.org/nutrition.
**HEALTHCARE:**

**Partners in Care with NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn**

A frequent comment overheard in the Business Development & Community Partnerships Department at God’s Love is “The worst thing would be that someone who has need of our services doesn’t know we exist.” And it’s the truth. The last thing anyone should have to worry about when they’re sick is their ability to feed themselves properly. So how do we ensure that God’s Love is a seamless part of a patient’s plan of care? Partnerships, of course!

An ongoing goal for God’s Love is to engage in partnership with hospitals, health systems, and any healthcare-adjacent practice to ensure that anyone who needs services from God’s Love can get referred in a streamlined fashion, with minimal disruption to daily activities. One such partnership is with NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn, the only five-star hospital in the borough, as ranked by CMS. Over the years, God’s Love had been receiving referrals from the hospital’s various departments, but as staff turned over and time moved on, it became paramount that God’s Love and NYU develop a deeper relationship to continue to provide critical services to their patient population.

Over the past year we worked together in partnership to create a unique referral pathway for the Social Workers and Care Coordinators at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn. This allowed their incredible team to identify and quickly refer patients to God’s Love, minimizing the time between discharge and God’s Love service implementation.

Through our new partnership, we have served 125 patients over 20,000 meals, across a variety of diagnoses like cancer, congestive heart failure, kidney disease, and diabetes with complications — but that’s just the tip of the data iceberg. Through our collaborative evaluation efforts, we found that only 5% of the patients served had a readmission within 30 days of starting God’s Love services, a critical statistic to monitor, as rehospitalization within 30 days of an admission is associated with higher mortality rates and higher utilization of medications. Additionally, 85% of patients referred had no Emergency Department visits throughout the duration of their God’s Love services.

With these achievements as a backdrop, we are proud to announce a full system-wide relationship with NYU Langone Health System. The work of God’s Love and NYU Langone has only just begun, and we are so excited to watch it grow. Watch for further exciting announcements regarding our partnership in our next newsletter.

**EVENTS:**

**Race to Deliver in Central Park**

On November 19, more than 7,000 participants showed up in Central Park to run, walk, roll, and cheer at the 30th Anniversary Race to Deliver. A symbol of our own daily race to ensure no one has to face the unthinkable combination of illness and hunger, we were thrilled to have so many join us at our 30th annual event!

With your support, the Race to Deliver raised awareness and much-needed funds to help feed and nourish our neighbors living with cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV, Alzheimer’s disease, and other severe illnesses. Congratulations to all of the participants! You warm our hearts with your dedication to our life-affirming mission.

The Race is the embodiment of what we do every day to bring meals to those who need us. Being sick and hungry is a crisis that demands an urgent response, and thanks to our generous community, we have never had and never will have a waiting list. We are grateful for your dedication to some of the most marginalized and vulnerable New Yorkers.

We would like to give a special thanks to New York Road Runners, ADP, Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation, Team Love, Team Wright, Team genLOVE, and M·A·C VIVA GLAM Fund, as well as all of our teams and participants for helping us cross the finish line.
On World AIDS Day, December 1, we gathered as staff to recognize this important day, remember those we have lost, and honor those who are living with and affected by HIV. We lit candles in remembrance and honor of loved ones and communities affected by the illness.

We were joined by genLOVE Executive Committee member, Vice Chair for Community, Dimitri Moïse, who is a lifelong activist and social entrepreneur dedicated to the liberation of all people through storytelling and transformative justice. Dimitri shared his story as a young professional today living with HIV, the advocacy efforts happening currently on the local, state, and national levels, and the continued impact of HIV. We thank Dimitri for reminding us that this crisis still very much affects the lives of so many.

What our founder, Ganga Stone, started 38 years ago lives on today as we continue to serve more than 600,000 meals annually to nearly 1,500 clients living with AIDS and HIV. Our shared grief, our love, and our collective action are the ingredients that helped create God's Love. Our work continues.

We were thrilled to sweeten the holiday season with our annual Young Hearts Cookie Party in December. Our youngest new friends decorated cookies and learned a bit about the important work of God's Love—delivering healthy meals and lots of love to our neighbors who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves.

A big thanks to all our volunteers, staff, supporters, and friends who help make this work possible. An extra big thanks to Culinary Council member Chef Amanda Freitag for engaging with our Young Hearts and our Pastry Chef Dorothy Auer for all the tasty gingerbread cookies.

Learn more about our Young Hearts programming and events by emailing younghearts@glwd.org and visiting us at glwd.org/younghearts.

Miles for Meals: 11th Annual Douglas Elliman Ride for Love Funds 15,000 Meals

On October 1, the 11th Annual Douglas Elliman Ride for Love in support of God's Love We Deliver set off with 63 riders cycling 25-100 miles in the sun in partnership with the Tour of the Hamptons presented by the Massapequa Park Bike Club.

After a day of perfect weather and hard-won miles, the event ended with a celebration thanking the dozens of riders for raising $150,000, funding 15,000 medically tailored meals for our clients and their families.

Douglas Elliman's generosity and dedication to our cause are truly remarkable, and we are honored to consider them part of God's Love We Deliver. Special thanks to Ride Director Bridget Harvey for leading the team. In total, the Ride for Love has now raised a grand total of $1,721,431, funding 172,143 meals for New Yorkers who are too sick to shop and cook for themselves.

Bringing Light in the Darkness on World AIDS Day

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YOUNG HEARTS COOKIE PARTY

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Learn more about our Young Hearts programming and events by emailing younghearts@glwd.org and visiting us at glwd.org/younghearts.
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 extraordinary opportunity to provide the much-needed resources that will enable God’s Love to help the seriously ill today and well into the future.

Joining the Legacy Society is easy — you can make God’s Love a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan, life insurance, trusts, or other estate planning vehicles. Legacy Society members receive special recognition, as well as invitations to donor events and programs. If you are already a member, thank you. If not, please consider joining today.

For more information, contact Ruth Schlossberg at rschlossberg@glwd.org or 212.294.8160.

Current Members

David Abramson  
Gillis M. Addison  
Carol G. Alexander  
Carol M. Anderson  
Elaine A. Anderson  
Victoria Arzano  
Nicholas Athanaiil and Tony Testa  
Jens Audenaert and Amol Shah  
Paul J. Backstrom  
and David S. Hutchison  
Lawrence Balter  
and Karen M. Adams  
Jordan M. Barbakoff  
Paul Beirne  
Tracy Bentley  
Dayle Berke  
Mark B. Black and Glen B. Leiner  
Dorothea E. Blom  
Eric Blomquist and Peter Webb  
Christina J. Blythe  
Rebecca Bond  
Jonathan H. Bond  
Richard A. Bradspies  
and Dore Everett  
David Brandes  
Mark S. Brashhear and Jim Shreve  
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Maria Caso  
Brendan Cavanaugh  
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Nando de Carvalho and Luis Pereira  
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Analee and Emanuel Sternberg  
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Glenn A. Stress and Michael Ginex  
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Barbara Joan Wax Kassal  
Lester C. Weinburgh  
and Ned Allie  
Virginia Weiss  
Elliott Wengersky  
Tom Whiburn  
Rod Winterrowd  
Eva Wirth  
Vicente Wolf and Matthew Yee  
Annie Wong  
Monika Zuckermam
HOLIDAYS:

30,000 Holiday Feasts – A Truly Amazing Feat!

The 2023 holiday season at God’s Love We Deliver was a resounding success! Thank you to all our volunteers, staff, donors, partners, and others who contributed to this effort.

Our holiday meal deliveries require months of planning, weeks of prepping and cooking, the hard work of our staff and volunteers, and support of so many people like you. Thanks to our extraordinary community, we cooked, packaged, and home-delivered 15,000 Thanksgiving feasts in November and 15,000 Winter feasts in December.

Our menus were, dare we say, “a chef’s kiss”. This year’s delicious Thanksgiving meal included: Smoky Braised Winter Squash Soup by Culinary Council member Mark Bittman, Roasted Turkey Breast with Gravy, Cornbread Stuffing, Sweet Potato Mash, Parsnips, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Pearl Onions, Apple Cranberry Sauce, and Crustless Pumpkin Pie with Graham Cracker Crumble.

For Winter Feast, clients on our regular meal program enjoyed Braised Beef with Roasted Vegetables with recipes from Board member Melba Wilson. Clients on our pescatarian menu enjoyed Roasted Salmon with Mango Salsa and Gloria Estefan’s Black beans, and clients on our vegetarian menu enjoyed Portobello Mushroom. All clients warmed up with Parsnip & Pear Soup and Chef Dorothy’s new Hot Cocoa Cookie. Clients on our minced and pureed menus ended their meal with Culinary Council member Natasha Pickowicz’s Spiced Chocolate Mousse.

We kept the love growing close to home, with each meal containing sustainable, organic ingredients. A special thank you to Heermance Farm for donating more than 1,000 pounds of Brussels sprouts for Thanksgiving and 4,000 pounds of parsnips for Winter Feast.

We thank our neighborhood distribution centers, like Industry City in Brooklyn and the Blessed Sacrament Church in Manhattan, for so generously providing us with distribution hubs for relaying meals to our many delivery volunteers.

The holidays are such a special time to volunteer in the kitchen at God’s Love. We are glad that many of our elected officials join us to help prepare meals for their constituents. This year we welcomed Councilmembers Crystal Hudson, Carlina Rivera, and Keith Powers; State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal; Assemblymember Tony Simone; Congressman Dan Goldman, and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine.

Our Leadership team members volunteered on multiple projects, too! Thank you to Culinary Council members Amanda Freitag, Lauren Radel, Mavis-Jay Sanders, and David Burtka; God’s Love Board members Erich Anderer, Jens Audenaert, Alfredo Paredes, David Terveen, Trupti Patel; Trustees Karen Naber, James Palazza, Jonathan Raiola, Sylvia Vogelman; and genLOVE Executive Committee Chair Jonathan Lau.

Our 2023 Thanksgiving Celebration was generously sponsored by: Bruce Halpryn and Chas Riebe; Cris and Bruce Jaffe; Javier Morgado; Annie Chan, in loving memory of Ying Chan; Price Jepsen and Dean Lewallen; Carol Alexander; Luis Guerra and Florence Peyrelongue; The Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation; The Krumholz Foundation; the Binn Family Foundation in loving memory of Penny Binstock; L’Oréal USA and OUT@L’Oréal; Stewart Lantner, DDS & Joseph Goldberg, DDS; Bombas.

We are thrilled to have delivered such delicious meals to our clients, their families, and their guests. Our clients also received Thanksgiving gift totes with snacks, a dental care kit, and a personal care bag and holiday gifts for everyone in the household. At Winter Feast, our clients received a special set of reusable silverware as well as gifts for their children.

The holidays are a very special time at God’s Love. Thank you for sharing the spirit of the season in support of our clients and community!
VOLUNTEER:

Love is Grand: A Grandmother and Granddaughter Duo Volunteer to Serve our Mission

Age is just a number to volunteers Barbara and Lily, a grandmother/granddaughter duo who have been volunteering together every Sunday since October.

Barbara grew up on a farm near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, with a stream, a vegetable garden, trees to climb, and lots of animals. She calls herself a “country mouse” transplanted to Brooklyn by marriage in 1968. Her granddaughter, Lily, is a city kid who lives and goes to school in Brooklyn.

A few years ago, Barbara read the God’s Love newsletter and was inspired by how important our meal deliveries were to our clients. As soon as the pandemic subsided, she joined the regular volunteer team, helping to prepare and package nutritious meals for people living with serious illnesses.

Last summer, Barbara was sharing stories at a family gathering about her volunteer experience. Her granddaughter, Lily, was listening, and said she would like to try volunteering herself. So, together, they made a plan!

Since last October, Barbara and Lily, grandmother and granddaughter, have shared the Sunday afternoon volunteer shift. They love this special time together. They also love the work, the friends they have made, the team spirit, and—most importantly—the pleasure of giving back to their fellow New Yorkers.

Barbara and Lily both agree that they find the God’s Love Kitchen to be a welcoming and happy place. “The staff seems so energetic and upbeat,” Barbara says. “They are always smiling, and they really get to know the volunteers.”

Most Sundays their volunteer group will pack about 1,600 meals in their three-hour shift, but recently one Sunday they completed 2,200 meals. Barbara and Lily told us that they were a bit tired, but the entire team was so proud of what they had accomplished that day for their neighbors living with illness.

Thank you, Barbara and Lily, for your volunteerism and your warm hearts!

PHILANTHROPY:

A Lifetime of Memories

Allan had been a professional dancer, but multiple health issues—including the strain of dancing for years—had damaged his legs and affected his mobility. Allan loved dance and movement, but over time he struggled just to get out of a chair.

Jerry worried about his friend. Allan had reached a point where he could no longer grocery shop or cook for himself. By the time a neighbor referred Allan to God’s Love We Deliver, Allan was living on a fixed income, so receiving free, nutritious meals was a huge relief.

Jerry says, “When I visited, I was immediately aware that there was more healthy food in the house. His freezer was stocked up with meals that the driver brought that week! It just made me feel good that there was nutritious food around.”

Allan was on our program for three years as his illnesses progressed. After Allen died, Jerry contacted God’s Love to say how our medically tailored meal program had helped improve Allen’s well-being in his final years.

Jerry told us, “Every week, Allan had food in his fridge that he was excited about. It changed his life. Your services help keep a person’s dignity intact.”

After his friend’s passing, Jerry decided he would honor Allan’s memory by joining our Legacy Society and including God’s Love in his estate plans.

Jerry says, “Your services were so thoughtful, and always kind. Thank you for treating my friend with such dignity and care. I’ll be grateful to you always.”

Thank you, Jerry, for your kind words, for your friendship with our client Allan, and for honoring his memory through our Legacy Society at God’s Love.
On October 12 – 15, 47,000 passionate fans, 200 sponsors and 500 chefs and restaurants came out to EAT. DRINK. FEED NYC. and celebrate the 16th annual Food Network New York City Wine & Food Festival presented by Capital One (NYCWFF), and hosted by God’s Love We Deliver. The Festival featured more than 80 events throughout New York City including walk-around tastings, late-night soirées, a celebration of Hip Hop’s 50th anniversary and an all-star line-up of intimate dinner and master class experiences featuring world-renowned chefs.

“God’s Love We Deliver is so proud to be the exclusive charity partner of NYCWFF,” says David Ludwigson, President & CEO of God’s Love We Deliver. “Every day, more and more people reach out to God’s Love We Deliver for the medically tailored meals and nutrition education and counseling only we provide in New York City. Events like NYCWFF and the amplification from its sponsors, partners and guests, help get the word out about our life-affirming work so that we can reach all who would benefit from our food and nutrition services.”

The Festival’s unique platform and strategic collaborations have not only showcased God’s Love We Deliver through a 7 billion impression media campaign but have also attracted a diverse range of new partners, including renowned chefs, leading food and beverage brands, and influential celebrities and media outlets. These partnerships, marked by exclusive events, activations, volunteer shifts and generous monetary and products donations from major brands such as Stella Cheese, El Tequileno, Voila Life, Tony’s Chocoloney extend beyond the festival grounds, amplifying support for God’s Love We Deliver. Save the date for the 17th annual NYCWFF, October 17 – 20, 2024. Follow along all year at @NYCWFF on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok.
In October, we were so excited to launch our first television public service announcement (PSA) in over two decades, voiced by iconic New Yorkers Rosie Perez and Zoe Saldaña.

The goal of our new PSA is to re-introduce God’s Love to New York City. Founded in 1985 as a response to the AIDS pandemic, many New Yorkers still do not know that our program has expanded its mission. We now serve people with other diagnoses such as cancer, heart disease, COPD, and gestational diabetes.

It was our hope that the PSA would help us grow our network of clients, volunteers, and donors. The results are in, and it worked! Following the launch of the PSA, hundreds of new volunteers signed up for shifts. And, most importantly, many new clients and their families informed us that they learned about Gods Love through the new PSA.

Good friends helped make this new PSA a success. It would not have been possible without the fabulous Rosie Perez and Zoe Saldaña, who voiced our PSA in English (thank you Rosie!) and in Spanish (thank you Zoe!).

We are so grateful for Rosie, Zoe, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, 6W Entertainment, and Erich Bergen for giving their time and talent to this PSA, helping us grow our presence in our beloved New York City so we can be there for all those who need us.

You can visit our YouTube page at youtube.com/godslovewedeliver to watch the PSAs.
PROGRAM:

Diabetes: God’s Love Responds

If you or someone you love has diabetes, you’re not alone. In 2019, 11% of the United States population was living with diabetes, and many other cases go undiagnosed. Diabetes is a leading cause of death in the U.S., and the disease disproportionately affects historically marginalized and low-income populations.

As the most expensive chronic condition in the U.S., diabetes-related medical expenses reached an astonishing $307 billion in 2022. An additional $106.3 billion can be attributed to lost productivity at work, unemployment from chronic disability, and premature mortality. But what’s most concerning for researchers is that 38% of the adult US population are prediabetic, indicating a flood of new diagnoses to come.

With so many vulnerable New Yorkers living with diabetes and prediabetes, our medically tailored meal program is more needed than ever. Our nutrition team understands that our clients face food insecurity as well as other social and environmental factors that contribute to poor health outcomes.

Last year, God’s Love We Deliver served 2,899 unique clients with Type 1, Type 2, or gestational diabetes. Because diabetes is such a common diagnosis among our clients, the nutrition team designs menus to support people with diabetes and reduce future diagnoses for those at risk. Our meals are heart-healthy, low in sugar, and align with current research. Meals contain a variety of lean proteins and non-starchy vegetables. They are also low in saturated fat, full of fiber, and have well-portioned carbohydrates.

While many new studies document the benefit of medically tailored meals for people with diabetes, the best feedback comes from clients themselves. They tell us that meals from God’s Love help them manage their blood sugar levels and improve their overall health. One client with diabetes even wrote us a note, saying “God’s Love We Deliver has changed my life. Thank you so much!”

With our clients’ health and well-being in mind, our Registered Dietitian Nutritionists will continue to update our menus using the most current diabetes research, and we will share new developments with you in the future.

PROGRAM:

Connected: Nourishing Veterans on the Road to Recovery

We all know that the use of drugs and alcohol is a serious risk to good health. But did you know that substance use disorder (“SUD”) can have a disastrous impact on health simply by changing the quantity and quality of food that people eat?

When the staff at God’s Love We Deliver learned how substance use was affecting military Veterans, we all understood that some programmatic changes were necessary. Just two years ago, we had launched our new “Connected Program” for military Veterans experiencing high rates of mental health conditions, substance use challenges, and food insecurity. Now, we have expanded the program to include Veterans regardless of whether their health conditions are mental or physical or are attributed to substance use.

Why the emphasis on Veterans with substance use issues? According to a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, one in ten Veterans have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder (SUD), which is often triggered by traumatic events. The combined effect of multiple health issues—including mental health, substance use, and other diagnoses—compounds the issue of Veterans’ health. Medical nutrition therapy and medically tailored meals can play an important role in transforming Veterans’ health trajectories.

For far too long, traditional approaches to healthcare have been fragmented and compartmentalized. Our Connected Program for Veterans is one step, but meals alone are not enough. In addition to meals and clinical nutrition support, this program offers Veterans holistic support services including connections to other resources.

We are so proud to be one part of our brave Veterans’ many paths to wellness. We have created this program with compassion, understanding and (of course) love. Serving those who have served is our honor and privilege.

If you know a former military member who is struggling with SUD, please contact us at connected@glwd.org.
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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