Friends,

I love the special dates in our lives, including birthdays and anniversaries, that give us moments to reflect and celebrate. On May 1, God’s Love We Deliver celebrated its 39th birthday. While so much has changed over the decades, one thing remains the same: our commitment to serve everyone who is sick and hungry and needs our help. You may have heard the story of our founder, Ganga Stone, delivering a meal on her bicycle to a man living with AIDS. I know she would be proud to see us now cooking and delivering 4.3 million meals annually for people living with more than 200 different diagnoses. Our growth has been remarkable. A 50% increase in meals, in just the past two years!

While our numbers increase, we continue to innovate. I hope you saw the announcement about our new program for people living with sickle cell disease. This is an important enhancement to our services. Along with new programs for pregnant people with gestational diabetes and our CONNECTED program for U.S. Military Veterans living with PTSD and other diagnoses, we are not sitting still.

On a less happy note, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of our great friend Joan Rivers. Joan was an amazing ambassador for God’s Love. To this day we have new supporters who come to God’s Love because of Joan. We still feel her presence in the kitchen, and I think she would be happy to know that we’re going to honor her memory while using laughter and good humor to raise funds for our mission. We are working on an exciting event with her daughter, Melissa Rivers, that will take place in New York City in November. More to come on that soon.

You’ll also soon be hearing about a new initiative called Arts for Love, a series of art-related events including a twice-annual sale of limited-edition prints donated by significant artists. We’re thrilled that Dawoud Bey and Ross Bleckner are the first two artists to participate. We’ll announce the sale later this summer.

In another bittersweet moment, Paul Wilmot will be stepping away after more than 32 years on our Board of Directors and Trustees. His support and steady leadership have been instrumental to the success of the organization, especially as we were getting started in the early, dark days of the AIDS crisis. On behalf of all of us at God’s Love, thank you, Paul, for your service!

For anyone who has visited God’s Love recently, you know that our exponential growth has led to cramped conditions. Our staff and volunteers are getting very creative with limited space as we nourish more of our neighbors. We’re looking at every aspect of our operation and making changes where needed. Thank you for standing with us during this exciting and admittedly challenging time.

Your questions and comments are always welcome. Reach out to me at david_ludwigson@glwd.org and please follow us on Instagram at @godslovenyc. Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

P.S. If you are thinking about making a gift to God’s Love, check us out on Charity Navigator. We received a 99 out of 100 score, earning a four-star rating for 10 years in a row. Less than 5% of the thousands of charities rated nationwide have achieved this honor. You can give with confidence. Thank you!
CORPORATE PARTNERS:

Corporate and Foundation Partners Help God’s Love Grow

Over the past five years at God's Love We Deliver, demand for our medically tailored meals and nutrition therapy has increased exponentially. We have increased our annual meal production by 115% (from 2 million meals in 2019 to 4.3 million meals today) and our annual client base by 81% (from 8,300 clients in 2019 to 15,000 today). Our programs continue to grow, and none of this would be possible without our loyal and robust community of corporate and foundation donors who help us meet this moment of expansion! Here are a few examples.

The New York Community Trust supports our work with clients living with cancer, including their caregivers and dependent children. We served 44% more clients with cancer in 2023 than in 2022, and the Trust has more than doubled its support to serve this growing client base. We are deeply grateful for their incredible partnership.

Our CONNECTED program for U.S. Military Veterans and former Service Members—founded with the support of Craig Newmark Philanthropies—has also continued to expand. From a small pilot launched in 2022, we now are on track to serve 1,000 Veterans in the coming year. Along with foundational support from Craig Newmark Philanthropies, we have received generous donations from the Bob Woodruff Foundation, the New York Health Foundation, the ADP Foundation, TD Bank, and the Disabled Veterans National Foundation to deepen our engagement with Veterans and their families.

Identifying clients and communities that may not be familiar with God’s Love has been a crucial part of our strategy for growth. Through a new targeted outreach campaign, we are taking steps to reach diverse communities with high rates of illness. We are deeply grateful to have received support from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, which has enabled us to reach hundreds of new and prospective clients with meals and enrollment information.

PROGRAM:

Every Season We’re Delivering Love

You’ve seen our music video “No Tank Tops in the Kitchen.” You saw our Thanksgiving parody of “One Day More” from Les Misérables. Now, we hope you’ll join us once again in song with our new agency music video, “Delivering Love,” a parody of “Seasons of Love” from the beloved musical RENT.

In May, we launched “Delivering Love,” thanks to the help of our Broadway friends Tony winner Bonnie Milligan and Broadway stars Bradley Gibson, Arielle Jacobs, and Zachary Noah Piser. We are grateful to our collaborators for lifting their voices (and their hearts!) in song to raise awareness for God’s Love and all of the phenomenal work that our volunteers and supporters help us accomplish on behalf of our clients and their families.

Visit our YouTube channel to watch and share the video: youtube.com/godslovetedeliver.

Use the QR code below to watch and share on Instagram.

If you are interested in contributing to God's Love We Deliver via a corporate or foundation partnership, please contact Kailin Husayko at khusayko@glwd.org.
CLIENT STORY:

Carlos and José: Love in Action

For Carlos and José, the love and commitment they have for each other serve as a daily reminder of their gratitude for family, good neighbors, and loved ones.

José is a client of God’s Love, but he’s walked many paths. He’s an Air Force Veteran and a former NYC police officer who worked through 9/11. José and his husband, Carlos, recently celebrated their 30-year anniversary. A true New York City love story, the pair met on the subway in 1993 and have been together ever since.

José lives with HIV and Parkinson’s disease, and our medically tailored meals have helped him feel better and stronger. When José first became ill, Carlos became his full-time caregiver. With limited incomes and frequent medical appointments, they both struggle to maintain their best health. But Carlos says their outlook improved significantly after the first meal delivery from God’s Love.

“When you brought food, I was like, oh my God, there’s good people out there!”

As a caregiver, Carlos receives our meals, too. The weekly deliveries of nourishing, medically tailored meals from God’s Love help to brighten their days and give them hope. This past Valentine’s Day, Carlos and José sat together and enjoyed delicious meals straight from our kitchen in SoHo, delivered with love.

Medically tailored meals from God’s Love have made a huge difference in the couple’s health and well-being. José’s nurses have noticed the change. Carlos offers his thanks and gratitude to the volunteers, staff, delivery drivers, and community at God’s Love. He says, “Y’all are an angel in the sky!”

PROGRAM:

Announcing Expanded Services for People with Sickle Cell Disease

God’s Love We Deliver has now expanded its reach for people with sickle cell disease, which is a group of disorders including sickle cell anemia. These genetic conditions cause blood cells to be misshapen and are most prevalent among Black and Latino populations.

With sickle cell disease now among the more than 200 conditions that make clients eligible for our medically tailored meals and nutrition support, God’s Love is poised to serve the needs of our Black and Latino neighbors and clients in a more targeted way. Advancing health equity for underserved communities across New York City is at the core of what we do. We are proud to bring new interventions and public awareness to this chronic disease.

We aim to support people with sickle cell disease to improve quality of life and access to well-balanced, antioxidant-rich meals that include a wide variety of nutrients like protein, calcium, and zinc. Meals from God’s Love can reduce oxidative stress and ease the nutritional deficiencies faced by people with sickle cell disease. Our meals also provide calories to promote weight gain and growth in children with the condition. We also provide meals to caregivers and dependents to help ease the burden of this chronic condition on the family.

For more information, please visit glwd.org/getmeals.

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!
Leadership Retreat at God’s Love
We Deliver: A Shared Vision

On May 10 and 11, we were delighted to host our annual volunteer leadership retreat. On Friday, members of the Board of Directors, Trustees, Culinary Council and genLOVE enjoyed cocktails and snacks at the Michael Kors Building in SoHo. On Saturday, the Board and Trustees met for an all-day working session.

The main focus of the retreat was growth. Our kitchen’s meal output has more than doubled in the past five years, and grown more than 50% in just the past two years. With new opportunities to serve even more New Yorkers coming through the 1115 Waiver (more to come on that!), our leadership teams are working hard to ensure that God’s Love is able to fulfill its mission well into the future. We look forward to sharing exciting plans with our community very soon.

Thank you so much to all our wonderful leadership team members for all that you do!

NEW LEADERSHIP:

Board of Trustees members Maurice Brown, Jaclyn Dooner & Gordon Stone

As we prepare to cook and home-deliver more than 4 million medically tailored meals this year, we are pleased to announce our newly elected Board of Trustee members.

Maurice Brown has spent the past 10 years of his retail career at Ralph Lauren, most recently leading a team responsible for managing the company’s largest and most profitable stores across the U.S. region. During his time in the Asia Pacific region, he played a pivotal role in the company’s growth, helping the region to cross the $1 billion revenue mark for the first time in its history. Maurice is deeply committed to using his talents to empower underrepresented youth and to using his influence to drive diversity at all levels of the corporate world.

Jaclyn Dooner is a Brooklyn-based artist and the founding director and curator at Miriam Gallery. The gallery centers around collaborative engagement and inclusion. Throughout her career, Jaclyn has combined her creative skills with her passion for nonprofit and community service across numerous disciplines. Her paintings have been exhibited extensively in the U.S. and across Europe. She also initiated Art Expressions, a series of arts workshops for current and former patients, their families, and caregivers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Gordon Stone concentrates his law practice in the area of wealth transfer and income tax planning for high-net-worth individuals, including owners of closely held businesses, real estate developers, investors in private equity and hedge funds, entertainers, and artists. Gordon is admitted to practice in New York and Connecticut and frequently lectures on topics of interest related to his practice. He received his JD from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1993 and his LL.M. from New York University School of Law in 1999. Gordon graduated from the University of Virginia in 1987.
NUTRITION:

Eating Locally for Health and Sustainability

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

At God’s Love We Deliver, we are committed to selecting ingredients that support good health and sustainability. These considerations are vital to our clients’ well-being, our local economy, and our environment.

For our meal program, we work closely with local providers to procure ingredients including fresh produce, dried beans, grains and flours, grass-fed beef, fresh herbs, and dairy products. Sourcing regionally reduces our carbon footprint by lessening the distance between us and our providers. It also supports local and regional economies. And, during the growing season in NYC, we take this commitment hyperlocal with the planting of our rooftop herb garden!

Some delicious examples of menu items containing local ingredients include ginger braised beef, salmon with herb pesto, cannellini bean & barley soup, and bulgur wheat & lentil salad.

For the home chef, there are many good reasons to buy locally grown food whenever possible. For example, local food reduces the distance (“food miles”) that your food travels between the farm and you. Locally grown food is fresher, and often tastes better. Purchasing local food encourages eating seasonally. Connecting to seasonality can increase your familiarity with and consumption of a larger variety of fruits and vegetables. During the summer months, there is an abundance of fantastic locally grown produce in the NYC area. Enjoy and try new things!

Here are several tools available online to help find what’s in season:

Seasonal Food Guide is a free app that can be used to find what’s in season throughout the United States. It also provides information about produce and links to recipes.

Grow NYC provides access to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets harvest calendar. This tool is also available in Bengali, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Spanish.

USDA SNAP-Ed Seasonal Produce Guide allows you to browse by season. (Note that this is more general and doesn’t consider regional differences.)

Get all of our nutrition resources at glwd.org/nutrition.

FEATURED RECIPE:

From the God’s Love Kitchen

When I first saw the fresh herbs offered by our friend and Culinary Council member Marika Bender at Heermance Farm, I knew it was time to bake some fresh, delicious herb biscuits. These light, fluffy biscuits are great with a little butter or cheese. I love them for breakfast, and they also go perfectly with any summertime dinner entrée. They are quite easy to bake. Give them a try!

Ingredients

- 8 oz (2 sticks) margarine or butter, melted, and slightly cooled
- 4 cups All Purpose flour
- 2 Tbs. baking powder
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 6 Tbs. fresh parsley, minced
- 6 Tbs. fresh chives, minced
- 1.5 cups water

Method

1. Preheat oven to 425°F.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, sugar, salt, and minced herbs. Set it aside.
3. In a medium bowl, combine cold water and the melted margarine or butter, slightly cooled. Stir with a rubber spatula until combined. It's okay if the mixture is lumpy.
4. Add the wet mixture to the dry ingredients and stir with spatula until just combined and the biscuit batter pulls away from sides of bowl.
5. Using a greased quarter-cup measuring cup, drop the batter onto an ungreased baking sheet. The biscuit shape isn’t meant to be perfect. Rustic is lovely! Space the biscuits about 1.5 inches apart.
6. Place the baking sheet in the oven, on the middle rack, and bake until the biscuit tops are golden, about 12-14 minutes.
7. Transfer biscuits to a wire rack and let cool for 5 minutes. Serve warm with butter or your favorite cheese.

ISA WEBBE, BAKER
HEALTHCARE:

Putting The Comfort in Comfort Food
By Allyson Schiff, Business Development Manager

As legendary French Chef Georges Auguste Escoffier once said, “Good food is the foundation of genuine happiness.” When I think about food, I can feel myself getting happy, excited, and even a little anticipatory. Those emotions are building blocks for every meal created at God’s Love We Deliver and are home-delivered with our most important emotion – love – behind it. But what about other emotions? Fear, sadness, anger – these are also emotions that many of our clients experience living with a chronic illness. This is why it is important to consider emotional health. How an individual feels is an integral part of our work to help our clients live their best lives.

Our mission at God’s Love has always been to improve the health and well-being of people living with severe or chronic illnesses by alleviating hunger and malnutrition. Food has the power to nourish, fortify, and bolster not only one’s physical well-being, but also their emotional state. Conversely, food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food, which can put one’s emotional health at risk. Through our research and evaluation efforts, we’ve been able to demonstrate a measurable impact on food insecurity, as well as reductions in hospital visits and admissions, alongside improved bloodwork and adherence to medication management. Though measuring emotional wellness is a continuously evolving process at God’s Love, it’s a process we are committed to.

Our team of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) works with our Culinary team to create our menu of medically tailored meals which are rooted in evidence-based guidelines for dietary therapy, ensuring the highest possible standards are always being met. Along with the ongoing nutritional counseling sessions being provided by our RDNs, our Behavioral Health Program Administrator studies what wellness looks like for our clients.

Our team is busy creating new educational modules exploring topics like “Chronic Disease and Nutrition” and “Food and Mood,” specifically for U.S. Veterans in our CONNECTED Program. God’s Love is working to let all our clients know that we hear them and we’re here FOR them, physically and emotionally.

For more information, please visit glwd.org/nutrition.

RECAP:

Birthdays Matter, We Make the Batter!

Did you know that since 1985, God’s Love We Deliver has been baking a cake for our clients living with serious illness on their birthday? It’s a longstanding tradition at God’s Love, made possible by our amazing volunteers who work in the Joan Rivers Bakery alongside Chef Dorothy.

This April, we celebrated our Birthday Bake Sale, where people could sponsor a birthday cake for $10 per cake. So many generous people stepped up to help us bring joy to our clients on their special day.

At God’s Love, we believe that birthdays matter more than ever to our clients living with life-altering illnesses. That’s why we’ll be making over 9,000 personalized birthday cakes from scratch this year for clients, their caregivers, and their children, with each client’s name on their cake.

Board members, volunteer leadership members, and celebrities joined us for a month of activities and celebrations. Board Member Nicky Hilton and friends came in for a cake-decorating party. Emma Roberts, Tamron Hall, Mavis-Jay Sanders, Liz Alpern, David Burtka and Neil Patrick Harris received “cake kits” at home so that they could decorate cakes with family and friends and spread the word on social media. Chef Amanda Freitag and Lauren Radel decorated and delivered cakes, a new annual tradition for the pair.

Our cakes are a special touch that our clients love, and for some, it’s the first time someone has remembered their birthday in many years. Often, our delivery drivers present the cake to the client while singing “Happy Birthday.”

If you’d like to help make our clients’ birthdays a little sweeter, you can check out our volunteer options online, or sponsor a client’s birthday cake at glwd.org/bakesale. Thank you!
Outsider Art Fair
The Outsider Art Fair, the only art fair dedicated to self-taught art, art brut, and outsider art, celebrated its 31st anniversary this winter at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City. God’s Love was honored to be the beneficiary of the event once again. There was a silent auction to benefit the organization with art generously donated by artists and galleries nationwide. We had lots of visitors at our booth who were both bidding on artwork as well as curious about our mission. We are always happy to spread the word!

South Florida Swing!
The God’s Love team had a very successful swing through South Florida in mid-February. We were joined by our Board and Trustee members and hosted by many dear friends such as Sam & Dena Lombardo in Vero Beach, Tom Ford in Palm Beach, and Dr. Bruce Halpryn & Chas Rebe in Miami. We are filled with excitement as we continue to raise awareness of our mission and connect with individuals who believe that food is love and food is medicine! The Florida tour culminated with a visit to The Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival, presented by Capital One, in Miami. Special thanks to all our hosts for their warm reception!

Giving Back is a Home Run! “Mr. and Mrs. Met” Volunteer in the Kitchen
God’s Love joined together with beloved longtime New York Mets mascots Mr. & Mrs. Met to celebrate Mets 2024 Opening Day. Their visit included a stop in our kitchen to pack up food for some of our 15,000+ clients across the metropolitan area, as well as a walking delivery to our client, Cozette. Fox 5 News covered the story, featuring our very own President & CEO, David Ludwigson.

genLOVE Disco Party
Members of genLOVE and their friends came out for a night of Disco and cocktails on April 11, at Primo’s on Chambers Street. genLOVE is the next generation of doers and givers at God’s Love We Deliver. They are young professionals who want to make a difference in the lives of our clients and the greater community by raising awareness, promoting giving, and being passionate advocates for the organization. Jonathan Lau, Chair of genLOVE, spoke to the guests at Primo’s, thanking them for their tireless support of God’s Love and encouraging them to introduce even more of their friends to the organization. If you are interested in joining genLOVE, please reach out to Julia at jcordry@glwd.org.

Los Angeles Magic
On April 18, our community came together for a magical evening in support of two incredible organizations, God’s Love We Deliver and Project Angel Food. Hosted by former God’s Love Board member Jonah Disend, the event was held at his stunning Hollywood Hills home, adding an extra touch of elegance to the evening. Attendees learned about capital campaign activities and other exciting projects in progress at both organizations. The evening was filled with laughter, gratitude, and a shared commitment to supporting those living with life-altering illness.
On March 7, our eighth annual Love Rocks NYC benefit concert for God’s Love We Deliver brought the house down at the historic Beacon Theatre with another spectacular night of live music!

The four-hour plus concert was hosted by Conan O’Brien, Tracy Morgan, and Jim Gaffigan, who all visited God’s Love earlier that week to meet our staff and volunteers and see our mission in action. The evening also included special appearances by Bill Murray and Martin Short.

The night, helmed by Music Director and Bandleader Will Lee, showcased stellar performances from rock and soul icons and contemporary stars alike, including The Black Keys, Dave Grohl, Hozier, Nile Rodgers, Tom Morello, Don Felder, Bettye LaVette, Joss Stone, Allison Russell, Emily King, Marcus King, Lucius, Larkin Poe, Trombone Shorty, Luke Spiller, Quinn Sullivan, and Bernie Williams.

The show raised $3.8 million, which will allow God’s Love to deliver 380,000 meals.

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

We are so grateful to our Executive Producers Greg Williamson, John Varvatos, and Nicole Rechter for all that they do every day of the year to make Love Rocks NYC possible. We thank our presenting sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies, title sponsors RJKB Family Charitable Foundation and the Secunda Family Foundation, and all of our sponsors for helping New York come together to rock out in support of our work!
It’s been a whirlwind these past few months for the Business Development and Community Partnerships team at God’s Love We Deliver. As more healthcare providers understand how medically tailored meals benefit their patients, our client referrals from healthcare providers have skyrocketed.

In the past year, more than a third of all new clients enrolled in our programs have come through partnerships with healthcare providers. This represents a significant shift as these new partners fuel our organization’s growth. In response, our team has concentrated on building strong relationships with new and established partners including NYU Langone, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Fidelis Care, MetroPlusHealth, UnitedHealthcare, Healthfirst, VillageCareMAX, Molina Healthcare, and others.

Working with healthcare providers offers a unique window into our clients’ experience and the effect of our medically tailored meal program on their well-being. Our clients are demonstrating improved health outcomes, a greater adherence to taking their medications as prescribed, fewer emergency room visits, and a significant decrease in the number of in-patient hospitalizations.

We discussed these findings with our healthcare partners at a recent panel presentation to members of the national Food Is Medicine Coalition. The panel included Diane Nisbet, Whole Health & Equity Director, and Marianne Grady, Director II of Health Care Management, NY Medicaid, both from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Also joining the group was Mackenzie Murphy, Manager of Value Based Payment Initiatives at Fidelis Care, and Dr. Andrea Zaldivar, Director of Complex Care Management/Social Determinants of Health at MetroPlus Health. Together, we discussed the importance of incorporating medically tailored meals as part of a “plan of care” for members dealing with severe illness, including those being discharged from the hospital.

As we share these findings with a wider audience, it is worth noting that our advocacy efforts to date have yielded strong results. We have worked hard to educate policy leaders on the benefit of medically tailored home-delivered meals and medical nutrition therapy for individuals living with illness. Medically tailored meals were highlighted as one of the nutrition interventions included in the New York State Department of Health’s Medicaid 1115 Waiver demonstration project.

The Medicaid 1115 Waiver was approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to improve access to primary and behavioral healthcare and to advance health equity across New York State. The focus is to address health-related social needs such as food insecurity, housing instability, family and social support needs, and other needs. The Department of Health and Human Services defines health-related social needs as social and economic factors that affect a person’s ability to maintain their health and well-being.

We are excited that New York State has recognized that medically tailored meals and nutrition counseling and education are essential interventions for individuals living with a chronic or severe illness. The Medicaid 1115 Waiver will provide us with the opportunity to collaborate with longtime partners via the State’s creation of Social Care Networks whose focus will be to ensure that individuals receive all of the services that support any health-related social needs that they may have.

We will continue to advocate for all those that need our services. Many diverse individuals and families face multiple challenges while managing serious illness. Healthcare partnerships and innovations like the Medicaid 1115 Waiver will support our efforts to reach all those who need our help. We look forward to sharing more updates on our progress in the months to come!
EVENTS:

Young Hearts: A Scoop of Love and a Scoop of Fun!

On Tuesday, February 6, God’s Love We Deliver and Board Member Nicky Hilton Rothschild hosted a Valentine’s Party ice cream social at the Museum of Ice Cream. The event celebrates volunteerism and encourages children and families to get involved in and give back to their communities. This second annual Young Hearts Friends Fest: Valentine’s Party included face painting, a DJ, cupcake decorating, cotton candy art, a sprinkle pool, refreshments, and, of course, ice cream!

Our Young Hearts program at God’s Love offers children and families a fun way to explore volunteerism, community-building, and the importance of giving back. The event brought together New York City’s philanthropic families for a night of fun activities.

Guests enjoyed spray-painted hats & shirts from Michael Kors, mocktails and cocktails from Natalie’s Juice Company, cupcake decorating with Little Cupcake Bakeshop, face painting from M•A•C Cosmetics, custom patching apparel from Big Feelings, and cotton candy art. They danced to the beats from DJ Misshapes, enjoyed special polaroid photos by Sophie Elgort, and won raffles with prizes from Nanit, Make It Cute, and Lalo.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsors: Museum of Ice Cream and Michael Kors, Inc. Thank you to our supporting sponsors: Big Feelings, Fridababy LLC, Lalo, Little Cupcake Bakeshop, Little Spoon, M•A•C Cosmetics, Make it Cute, Natalie’s Juice Company, Nanit, PATH Water, Supergoop, and Swoon.
**Meet Leslie Jones, a former client of God’s Love We Deliver, now volunteering in our kitchen!**

Twenty years ago, Leslie, an avid cyclist and creative designer, was diagnosed with AIDS. His health had declined rapidly, and he was too sick to shop or cook for himself, let alone maintain his beloved exercise regimen. His doctor suggested that meals from God’s Love would help improve his health and provide him with community care at a time when he felt quite alone.

“It was such a healing experience, nutritionally and emotionally,” Leslie says. He still remembers what it felt like to open his door to a God’s Love delivery driver, there with a smile and a bag of meals.

Leslie had stopped working and looked forward to the regular weekly contact with his team from God’s Love.

Almost immediately, Leslie began to feel stronger – both physically and emotionally – thanks to the meals he received from God’s Love.

He made a promise to himself that, when his health improved, he would do two things. He would get back on his bike, and he would give back to God’s Love by volunteering.

Now, Leslie has joined our kitchen crew, having come in recently for a volunteer shift with his colleagues at Clinique, where he now works. He loves volunteering in support of the service that cared for him all those years ago. Thank you, Leslie, for sharing your story, and for your volunteerism!

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**Volunteers Celebrating 1,000+ Hours of Service**

Thank you to the many volunteers who have achieved the milestone of volunteering 1,000 or more hours while at God’s Love.

You make such a difference with every hour that you give. Thank you, and we look forward to many more!

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Aimee Ross
David Rubeo
Allison Saunders
Randy Savitt
Evan Schwartz
Robin Schweitzer
Brian Scribner
Andy Shaffer
Marsha Shaw
Jane Shea
Joan Simon
Darnley Simon
Raj Singh
Suzy Solob
Melissa Solob
Angelo Sperrazza
Bonnie Stanke
David Stern
Neil Stevenson
David Stone
Lawrence Swehla
Merritt Tam
Ilda Teran
Andrew Villasana
Sylvia Vogelman
Bob White
Lavern Whyte
Annies Wong
Stacy Young

List as of April 10
**Volunteer:**

Our Volunteers Are Out of This World!
Celebrating National Volunteer Week 2024

Spirits were high throughout the last week of April as God’s Love celebrated National Volunteer Week. This year’s theme was “Our Volunteers Are Out of This World!” It really is true: God’s Love could not continue its mission without the support of 23,000 generous individuals who share their time and energy, helping deliver over 4.3 million meals (and 9,000 birthday cakes) to their fellow New Yorkers this year.

“We are so grateful for our incredible volunteers this year,” said Yolanda Deceus, Director of Volunteer Services. “God’s Love continues to grow at an exponential pace, and our volunteers continue to show up with smiles, making sure every meal is delivered with love. THANK YOU, one and all!”

As an expression of our gratitude, all volunteers received a gift bag containing an apron from The Sak made from recycled materials, God’s Love boxed fork and knife sets, and chocolates donated by Tony’s Chocolonely. All were also treated to muffins from WildFlour Distributing and cookies from the Joan Rivers Bakery.

Volunteers also had an opportunity to spin the prize wheel to win slippers from Bombas, gift cards from Melba’s Restaurant, socks from Centric Brands, Love Rocks NYC T-shirts, gift cards from Warby Parker, gift cards from Wegmans Food Markets, an apron from the New York City Wine & Food Festival (NYCWFF), a cookbook by Culinary Council member Samah Dada, the latest design book from Board of Trustees member Vicente Wolf, and a gift bag of chocolate goodies from Trader Joe’s.

To top off the celebration, returning volunteers entered a raffle to win a 2-night stay in the NYC Mandarin Oriental Hotel, a travel voucher from Delta Air Lines, a ticket to the NYCWFF Grand Tasting, or 2 tickets to a Mets Game. Thank you again to all our amazing volunteers for all that you do!

**Events:**

NYCWFF Expands to Brooklyn!

The Food Network New York City Wine & Food Festival (NYCWFF), NYC’s premier wine and food festival, is back for its 17th annual celebration, October 17-20, 2024. The four-day Festival, with over 80 events, showcases the talents of renowned wine and spirits producers, chefs, and culinary personalities, all in support of God’s Love We Deliver.

The Festival is thrilled to announce their expansion from Manhattan to the dynamic borough of Brooklyn, with their signature Pier Parties and Grand Tastings taking place at the Brooklyn Army Terminal in Sunset Park. This shift promises a fresh gastronomic experience at one central, 450,000 square-foot culinary campus with increased tenting so we can celebrate rain or shine.

The Festival’s 2024 lineup will be announced on July 8, pre-sale starts July 10, and tickets will be on sale starting July 15. Follow @NYCWFF for Festival updates and subscribe to our online newsletter for exclusive Festival news at NYCWFF.ORG. Join us this October to Eat, Drink, and Feed NYC in support of God’s Love We Deliver!
Volunteer and Legacy Society Member
Tim Gibson Reduces Seniors’ Isolation with Letters and Love

Tim Gibson, at 81 years old, is a longtime volunteer with God’s Love and a member of our Legacy Society. Tim has worked every type of volunteer shift during his more than 20-year tenure at God’s Love, with his most recent contribution connecting us – and our clients – to the organization Letters Against Isolation. Formed by two high school sisters during COVID, with the goal to send letters globally to isolated seniors, Letters Against Isolation are letters and cards written by volunteers from all over the country which we can deliver to our clients.

Tim’s goal is to decrease the loneliness we know many of our clients feel. So many are alone and housebound, and sometimes the only person they see each week is one of our delivery drivers. This year, Tim helped send over 5,000 thoughtful letters to our clients! One of our clients called, almost in tears, and said he hadn’t received a letter in twenty years. We know that these letters make a difference in their lives.

“Letters Against Isolation is a natural fit with God’s Love,” Tim said. “Most God’s Love volunteers will never meet our clients, and the letter-writers will never meet the person reading something that came in their meal bag. It is all just such a good thing.”

Tim is connecting our clients to the outside world, and he has always been about connection.

Growing up in the UK, Tim liked geography in school. Eager to get to the places he saw so often on the map and to meet the people who lived there, Tim started his career in the airline business in operations. He decided to come to the United States in 1970 for work. After a busy career in airline operations, Tim finished his years in the working world with a luxury travel company, seeking out the farthest corners of the planet for worldly adventures. By retirement, Tim had visited 157 countries with hundreds of people! He loves classical music and goes often to the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera. He also works as an usher at BAM and lives in Brooklyn with his cat, Oscar.

Tim says he was always a “volunteer-type.” He tells us:

“I’m an old man with time on my hands! I look at the world and sometimes I see problems – most of the time I can’t do anything about them. But I do find things where I can make a difference. So I do something.”

When asked why he joined the Legacy Society by including God’s Love in his estate plan, Tim tells us, “To keep the good going, long after I’m gone.”

We are grateful to Tim for his many gifts of time and connection. It is because of people like him that we are able to continue our life-saving work of feeding our sick and vulnerable neighbors while reminding them that they are not alone.

If you’d like to learn more about Letters Against Isolation, please visit lettersagainstisolation.com.

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

Every day, vulnerable New Yorkers reach out to God’s Love We Deliver for help. We provide them with life-sustaining meals and nutrition counseling, free to all clients and their families and always full of love.

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 us 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 on joining the Legacy Society, please contact Nigel Finley at nfinley@glwd.org or 212.294.8186.
RESEARCH:
American Heart Association Funds Mailman School of Public Health and God’s Love We Deliver MTM Study
By Kelly Naranjo, Manager of Research & Evaluation and Kate Janeski, Chief Program Officer

We are very pleased to announce that God’s Love will be collaborating on a pragmatic randomized controlled clinical trial funded by the American Heart Association’s Health Care by Food™ initiative, which is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, among other generous partners.

This study is led by principal investigator Nour Makarem, PhD, FAHA, from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, and in partnership with co-investigator Kelly Naranjo, MS, from God’s Love We Deliver, and research collaborators Kamilah Ali, PhD, at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Pricila Mullachery, PhD, at Temple University.

This randomized clinical trial will investigate whether culturally relevant, interactive cardiovascular health and nutrition education, facilitated through the God’s Love We Deliver Medically Tailored Meal intervention, will positively impact short-term health outcomes and program participation.

This is a major step in our organization’s work to promote medically tailored meals as a common, effective, and necessary social care intervention, and we are excited to be part of this amazing, multi-institution partnership bringing in expertise in epidemiology, implementation science, community engaged methods, and more.

This important research will inform future approaches and advocacy efforts to address persistent cardiovascular health inequities among individuals living with food insecurity and multiple cardiometabolic morbidities in New York City and nationally. We look forward to sharing more information with our community as the research proceeds.

NUTRITION:
Nutrition Resources for our Clients... and Everyone!

As part of our medically tailored meal and nutrition program, our team of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) provides individual nutrition counseling to our clients throughout their time enrolled in our program. As a complement to this work, the team also develops a variety of education materials in multiple languages, including Spanish and Chinese. Check out what we offer for all below!

Nutrition Booklets:
These offerings include nutrition booklets such as Nutrition and Dialysis, Nutrition Tips for Caregivers, and Eating Tips for People Living with HIV. The booklets are widely distributed to clients on our website, as well as to other organizations and agencies throughout the U.S.

Fact Sheets:
For clients with nutrition concerns, we create and distribute materials on topics such as hypertension, physical activity, and food and drug interactions. After a nutrition counseling session, clients receive materials specifically selected for them by their RDN to reinforce what was discussed during the session.

Client Nutrition Education Portal:
We offer a series of on-demand webinars available in English and Spanish on a variety of topics like diabetes, cancer, congestive heart failure, depression, and chronic kidney disease, as well as modules focusing on gestational diabetes as part of our Healthy Starts Program for people with gestational diabetes.

You can find all of these nutrition materials and more at glwd.org/nutrition.
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.