



MEDIA ALERT:

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As Food Insecurity Rises, GLIDE Partners to Expand Daily Free Meals and Essential Services to the Vulnerable Citywide During Coronavirus Crisis

San Francisco, CA – Five weeks into the statewide Shelter in Place order, [GLIDE](#) (**330 Ellis St.**) remains dedicated to serving San Francisco’s most vulnerable residents by providing three free meals daily, counseling, harm reduction kits and other essential services not only on-site at GLIDE, but also across the city during this crisis. Adapting to the rapidly-changing landscape in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, GLIDE has expanded its reach to new communities and encampments and stands ready to partner with others to support the health and safety of the city’s marginalized.

GLIDE has a new partnership with [Project Isaiah](#), an organization created to save jobs and provide food to vulnerable communities in the U.S. With the goals of saving jobs and providing food to those in-need, Project Isaiah funds **Gate Gourmet**, a leading airline food service provider, to safely produce and deliver boxed meals for those in need and generously donates over 15,000 fresh, packaged, and easy-to-serve meals on a weekly basis to GLIDE. This contribution has been exceptionally powerful given that GLIDE has recently returned to serving three meals a day (nearly 15,000 a week) despite cutting back to a skeleton crew of GLIDE staff and no volunteers in the interest of community safety. This donation has further enhanced **GLIDE’s On-the-Go** program, which has expanded its reach to deliver an additional 8,000 free meals each week to those in need through community partners, and homeless encampments in the Tenderloin, Bayview, Mission, China Basin, Embarcadero and Chinatown neighborhoods. Additionally, this new partnership has enabled the delivery of meals three times a week (1,200 total per week) plus diapers, hygiene supplies, and toys to

over 100 families in **GLIDE's Family Youth and Childcare Program**, which closed several weeks ago in conjunction with the School District's closure.

Other valuable contributions have come from [Pathwater](#), a refillable bottled water company that provided GLIDE with six pallets (7,200 bottles) of their 100% responsibly and locally-sourced water in aluminum reusable bottles. The Pathwater team connected with GLIDE and other local food banks and shelters to replenish bottled water supplies. Additionally, [Edelson PC](#), a nationally recognized leader in plaintiffs' class and mass action litigation, has generously committed to supporting the **Daily Free Meals** program by donating \$1,200 per week to GLIDE for the duration of the Shelter In Place order.

With the deeply troubling news of the recent Coronavirus outbreak at San Francisco's largest homeless shelter, GLIDE understands the urgency to care for and look out for San Francisco's most vulnerable citizens in the face of this pandemic. GLIDE continues to serve the community through a variety of other programs. **GLIDE's Harm Reduction** team has been active in supporting the homeless community through important outreach on the streets and in encampments, while also expanding Syringe Access Service (SAS) hours onsite to prevent overdoses and the spread of HepC/HIV/STIs during the Shelter in Place. In addition to clean supplies and life-saving Narcan, **GLIDE's Harm Reduction** team also provides information on COVID-19 and hygiene items (including sterile wipes) out of GLIDE's lobby. **GLIDE's OPT-IN** van continues to travel around the city to provide information on COVID-19, screen for symptoms, provide other health information, food (2,000 meals a week) and tents to the unhoused. All Harm Reduction staff participates with outreach efforts and continues to collaborate with San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) and community partners. GLIDE's Community Navigators have been essential with assembling supply kits and sweeping for syringes at nearby parks and streets.

Since the city suspended temporary emergency shelter reservations, **GLIDE's Walk-In Center**, now a triage desk in the lobby, has been sourcing and distributing items like blankets, hygiene kits, donated shoes and clothing and rain ponchos that will help unsheltered clients survive the outdoors until hotel rooms or other safe accommodations are made available.

GLIDE Church's Celebration Online continues Sundays at 9:00 & 11:00 am via [Facebook live](#) through April 30.

As GLIDE's volunteer program is paused until further notice, the most impactful way that the public can help is by making a donation to help support GLIDE's efforts on behalf of the community. The **Horowitz Foundation** has pledged up to \$500,000 in matching donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. For every dollar donated to the Fund, the Horowitz Foundation will match it tenfold. To donate to the fund, please visit GLIDE.org/EmergencyResponse.

About GLIDE

GLIDE is a leading social service provider, social justice movement and spiritual community dedicated to strengthening communities and transforming lives. Located in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood, GLIDE addresses the needs of, and advocates for, the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and families among us. Building on the nearly 60-year legacy of Co-Founders Rev. Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani, GLIDE challenges inequities and stands with the poor, people of color, LGBTQ persons, and others facing oppression, isolation and stigma, while offering a holistic, integrated model of programs and services to address the complex needs of the community. Today, under the leadership of President and CEO Karen Hanrahan, GLIDE continues to deepen its impact and extend its reach to thousands of people in need. Through comprehensive services, fearless advocacy and spiritual connection, GLIDE remains a beacon of hope and a powerful agent for a healthier, more just and inclusive city.

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