In a Crisis, Human Connection Matters Most

In this challenging time, one thing seems clearer than ever: Breaking historic cycles of poverty and marginalization requires a systematic approach that reaches down to the roots of oppression—the beliefs we carry, the language we use, and the stories we tell.

That's been GLIDE's work for nearly 60 years. Whether in the daily delivery of critical services to those in need, the advocacy and organizing of our Center for Social Justice, or the spiritual community nurtured in GLIDE Church—compassionate human relations and racial justice are possible when we are willing to honestly examine, and transcend, the narratives that divide us.

"The message we are constantly trying to get out is that there is a larger system at work," explains Ken Kim, GLIDE's Senior Director of Programs. "We know, for example, that the minimum wage is not a living wage, which is why so many of our low-income community residents of color are one parking ticket away from being homeless or one drug sell away from being incarcerated. That is a systemic problem."

Nikki Dove, client advocate in GLIDE's Walk-In Center, sees the systemic problem getting unfairly transferred to the people most impacted by it.

"It's really sad to me the way the finger is often pointed at folks who are experiencing homelessness," says Nikki. "Instead of just calling this 'the homelessness crisis,' we have to question what is allowing things like this to happen to our neighbors. We need to ask in order to create compassionate solutions."

That's why GLIDE programs offer more than services alone. They are also a space of agency for people who are too often deprived of agency, and a place for human connection.

"I view my role as seeing people," says Nikki. "Folks need to be acknowledged. There is a different connection that you get when you meet folks at GLIDE and make that eye contact."

**Paths and support for re-entry**

For people with the lived experience and trauma of poverty and marginalization, finding stability and ultimately moving forward with wellbeing and self-determination requires a strong foundation of support.

This is particularly crucial for people reentering the community after serving time in prison, since a host of systemic barriers are waiting for them on the outside—the countless consequences of a criminal conviction that can restrict everything from the ability to get a driver's license to exercising the right to vote, accessing needed treatment, or attaining employment and housing.

"One of the most important parts, if not the most important part of re-entry programs is community," says Ken. "Isolation comes up a lot in our programs, especially during this pandemic. People coming out of jail are moving right into quarantine and having a harder time connecting with a sense of community."

In order to meet people where they are during shelter-in-place, GLIDE's Men In Progress (MIP), a 52-week court-mandated batterers' intervention program and an essential re-entry service, has moved online.

One of the few no-cost programs of its kind in California, and the only one in the Bay Area, MIP offers four group sessions a week to support men in acquiring the skills they need to work through anger and change violent behavior.

Saundra Haggerty, lead facilitator and case manager for MIP, says that in her experience most MIP participants are themselves victims of structural racism and its detrimental effects.

"It is important for everybody to understand that all behavior is learned behavior," she says. “Many of the African American men in the program come from single parent households where their mothers were struggling to provide for their families. Their definition of what a man should be is taught in environments that are far too often violent.”

Hence, MIP's goal is not just for the men to successfully complete their mandate, but to restore their relationships.

"This work is about healing," says Saundra. “Healing the family, healing the community and healing themselves.”
Now Is the Time
A letter from our President and CEO

Dear Friends,

I don’t need to tell you this has been a challenging year—a global pandemic that isolates us from one another and preys on the most vulnerable; an economic recession widening the income gap; a national uprising against longstanding systemic racism; and a toxic political atmosphere driving divisiveness and fear.

For many, this moment is merely shining a light on cracks in our systems that have existed for a very long time. Let’s use that light! While the challenges are great, so too are the love and collective commitment rising to meet them. We have a rare opportunity to address the underlying causes of today’s crises, to help those most in need weather the storm while pushing for systemic changes that move our world, finally, toward equity, justice and compassion. Now is the time.

Our response to COVID-19

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, GLIDE has stepped up and adapted to provide leadership, services and policy advice to meet the growing needs of San Francisco’s most marginalized. From the earliest days of the pandemic, we mobilized to modify and expand our integrated services to address the public health crisis. We formed new strategic partnerships with local agencies, private entities, and other community organizations to expand our reach and deepen our impact across San Francisco—especially among unhoused and extremely-low-income people.

Most recently, we launched a free, on-site, walk-through COVID-19 testing program, in partnership with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Bay Area health technology company Color. The Tenderloin Neighborhood Testing Site at GLIDE is lowering barriers to access for our most vulnerable neighbors.

As detailed in the pages that follow, GLIDE is here each day to support thousands of individuals and families through a deeply precarious and challenging time, helping them stabilize their lives and establish foundations for long-term change.

Our racial and social justice work continues

As the nation demands change in the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and all the Black men and women whose lives have been cut short at the hands of police, we reaffirm our 60-year commitment to Black, Brown, LGBTQIA, homeless, immigrant, and socially and economically marginalized individuals and families. Our staff renews this commitment every day through the work of our integrated services, our innovative trainings, and our efforts to change systems to overcome racism and inequality. Here are some of the ways we show up:

- Serving over 70% people of color, GLIDE’s services—from early childhood education and hunger relief to harm reduction and violence prevention—stabilize and lift up individuals and families struggling with the effects of systemic racism.
- Serving hundreds of women and families of color, our Family, Youth and Childcare Center remains one of the smartest investments for breaking cycles of poverty.
- GLIDE’s Center for Social Justice drives systemic change to overcome racism and inequity by challenging and changing discriminatory policies and entities that impact and exclude African Americans.
- GLIDE’s law enforcement training program interrupts patterns of police discrimination and brutality.
- GLIDE’s Racial Justice Pilgrimage Project promotes truth, justice and reconciliation, rooting participants in a deep understanding of our nation’s history of racism and its modern-day persistence.
- GLIDE’s partnership with UCSF is finding new ways to address systemic racial and economic inequities in health care.
- GLIDE is broadening its racial justice and empathy work with transformative experiences for corporate leaders and staff, to help lead social impact in the business sector.

We are right now in a defining moment for our country, in which the long struggle for racial equality and social justice are front and center in the nation’s consciousness and conscience. In this momentous opportunity, GLIDE remains focused on the hard work of disruptive change and lasting solutions. And we thank you for “walking the walk” with us.

With gratitude,

Karen Hanrahan
President and CEO, GLIDE

GLIDE has been actively working with the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (CNAC) to finalize a mutually beneficial separation resolution. Please visit glide.org/umcupdate for the latest news.
Responding To COVID-19

GLIDE is on the frontline of poverty going beyond meeting people’s immediate, basic needs to deliver lasting, sustainable change.

During this time of crisis, the needs are rising. GLIDE is responding.

Through expansion and innovation, we’re providing for the community we love. Every week GLIDE is:

- Offering free COVID-19 testing on-site for up to 500 people.
  More info at glide.org/testing
- Providing up to 15,000+ meals curbside, at GLIDE and across the city to people facing food insecurity and to our community partners
- Making up to 75 stops throughout the city via our mobile outreach team
- Providing 3,500+ instances of support for individuals across San Francisco including essential care items, health screenings, referrals and nutritious meals
- Screening vulnerable community members for COVID-19 symptoms across 300+ encounters
- Offering 400+ 1:1 sessions with navigators and case managers for individuals and families in need
- Supporting 140+ families and their children with educational and parenting classes and resources, and basic necessities
- Providing spiritual support for 4,000+ community members reached by GLIDE Church’s online Sunday Celebrations and congregational life groups

Thank you to our community partners, donors and dedicated staff.  
We can’t do it without you.

Learn more at glide.org/covid19

WAYS TO GIVE

BECOME A SUSTAINER:
Set up a recurring monthly gift and join our Sustainer community. Sustainers receive a lapel pin, eNews, and special invitations to events in gratitude for their ongoing generosity.

ONLINE OR BY MAIL:
Visit glide.org/donate
Or mail contributions to:
GLIDE
Attn: Fund Development
330 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

GIVE A GIFT OF STOCK:
Donating appreciated stocks or mutual funds can be a smart and simple way to maximize your tax savings and provide for the community GLIDE serves.

IRA DISTRIBUTIONS:
72 or older? Consider making a tax-free charitable distribution directly from your IRA to GLIDE. It’s an efficient way to support what matters to you most.

Questions? Write to us at development@glide.org or call (415) 674-6070
Family Ties
FYCC rallies to meet the challenges of a pandemic

Lanie Igtanloc has worked at GLIDE’s Family, Youth and Childcare Center (FYCC) for over 15 years and was just recently named as FYCC’s new Director of Education. She steps into the role at an exceptionally challenging time. Just a few weeks into assuming her new duties as director, Lanie confronted a situation that called for decisions she never thought she would have to make.

“San Francisco schools were closing due to Covid-19,” she recalls, “and my staff were calling me anxiously for guidance on what to do. I learned that I would have to close FYCC the following day until further notice. All I could think was, how can I do this responsibly? What am I going to tell the parents? What am I going to tell the children?”

Before the arrival of the coronavirus, a typical weekday at FYCC included afterschool programming for youth in grades K-5, a Family Resource Center offering parents workshops and family case management, and licensed childcare and early education services for children 18 months to 5 years old.

All of this had to be reimagined as of March 19, 2020.

“I couldn’t tell the families, ‘I will see you on Monday,’” explains Lanie. “I didn’t know what was going to happen with the COVID-19 crisis.”

One thing was immediately clear: FYCC’s hard-working low-income families would need extra help to weather the economic impact of the shelter-in-place order. Food distribution began the following week, as Lanie and her staff mobilized to meet the increased need. Groceries as well as basics like diapers, toiletries, and art supplies for the kids were packaged for three-times-weekly pick-ups at FYCC’s front door.

Lanie and her staff also focused on tailoring FYCC’s educational programming to the physical isolation and distancing requirements brought on by the pandemic. Integral to the reinvention of afterschool programming online was the necessity of engaging not only the children but their parents, too. Through platforms like Zoom and ClassDojo, parents and children were soon bonding in Baby and Me classes, reading books together, and participating in science experiments and children’s homework assignments.

In addition, on July 20, FYCC reopened in-person summer programming on a limited basis. To maintain physical distancing and all public health guidelines, in-person programming is currently limited to 12 students in each of FYCC’s two third-floor classrooms—a necessary reduction from its normal 75-student capacity. Meanwhile, FYCC will continue to conduct virtual programing for students who are not able to attend on-site.

Lanie admits the lift is heavy.

“Teachers are now doing both virtual teaching and in-person lessons,” she explains. “They are tasked with making sure that there is no sharing in classrooms, that every child uses their own crayons, and that all the kids stay in their own individual circles and squares taped on the floor to maintain safe physical distancing.”

At the same time, Lanie knows her staff have much to overcome in their own lives, even as they devote themselves wholeheartedly to FYCC’s families.

“Many of my staff are in their 60s,” she says. “Most are living in the East Bay with long commutes and families of their own. We are trying not to become overwhelmed ourselves. Each day requires motivation.”

“And yet,” she adds with pride, “the fact that my staff overcomes all the fear and all the obstacles for the sake of the welfare of families here at FYCC shows you the true power of community.”

Supporting 140+ families through the COVID-19 crisis, including:

Offering over 30 remote Parent-Child Interactive sessions for 125 participants

Offering over 30 online sessions for 61 parents including Parent Advisory Council; Health and Wellness workshops; and Parent Leadership and Peer Wellness classes.

Holding remote Afterschool and Summer Program classes for 25 children

Providing over 4,500 meals since April for FYCC families and students

*Totals as of July 31.
Food Is Love:
Meeting growing needs with creative partnerships

GLIDE’s dining rooms may be temporarily closed but our Daily Free Meals team is open for service, al fresco! Adapting to the rapidly changing landscape of the coronavirus pandemic, GLIDE’s Meals program—with support from redeployed GLIDE staff who are covering shifts that would normally be filled by hundreds of weekly volunteers—has made sure all who rely on GLIDE for healthy and regular meals can still, safely, come to GLIDE for the love and support they need.

With food insecurity on the rise, GLIDE has expanded its reach to new communities and encampments across San Francisco, thanks to our generous community of donors and some key partnerships seeking to support the health and safety of the city’s most vulnerable residents.

In July, GLIDE began a 10-week partnership with nonprofit Rethink Food—which redirects excess food from restaurants to organizations serving people facing food insecurity—and renowned chef Dominique Crenn. In this arrangement, the three-Michelin-star chef, along with the crew at her Hayes Valley restaurant Petit Crenn, prepares 400 fresh-made meals a day, five days a week, for delivery to GLIDE’s community!

“Our work lifestyle was so fast-paced before—the late nights and intense services attract a lot of young people to the restaurant industry, and we have a lot of fun,” explains Chef Crenn. “But it’s been a desire of mine for a long time to slow down and do something for my community. All of us at Crenn Dining Group have loved GLIDE for a really long time. How can you not? It’s a permanent part of San Francisco and has uplifted so many people in this city.”

With the unprecedented crisis of the pandemic came, too, the chance to give back in an unexpected degree.

“We had already looked into spending a day of service with [GLIDE] when COVID-19 hit and Rethink reached out. Suddenly, we realized that a bigger partnership was possible. Maybe I didn’t anticipate life slowing down this way, but amazing things were able to appear because of it,” reflects Dominique, who has shown up with her team at 330 Ellis Street to join GLIDE staff in serving her healthy, delicious vegan meals to the Tenderloin community—to enthusiastic reviews all around.

“Nothing is too good for our folks,” says George Gundry, director of GLIDE’s Daily Free Meals program. “Thanks to the generous souls who come to us with an idea and a desire to help, we get to prove that in often spectacular fashion. And I know, because I hear from them, that our people appreciate it a lot. Not just the great food but the thought and concern, the love, that comes with it.”

“Our partnership with GLIDE and Rethink represents what happens when one door closes and another opens up,” notes Chef Crenn. “It represents the beautiful opportunities that come your way that you hadn’t planned on because they’re even bigger and better than what you had originally anticipated. We love GLIDE, we love Rethink, we love our city, and we love cooking for you all.”

The Meals Program also thanks for their support:

Pathwater for providing 7,200 reusable aluminum bottles of their 100% responsibly and locally sourced water.

Edelson PC for a generous weekly donation for the duration of the shelter-in-place order.

Colin Kaepernick’s Know Your Rights Camp for delicious lunches of impossible burgers.

And a special shout-out to Pioneer Seafoods, whose founder and skipper Giuseppe Pennisi donates the high-quality, sustainably caught fish that makes possible our much loved #FreshFishFriday!

GLIDE has continued to serve 3 meals a day since San Francisco’s shelter-in-place order in March 2020.

75% of our Meals clients surveyed last year said they’d go hungry if GLIDE did not serve food.

Between the start of Shelter-in-Place in March and July 31, GLIDE’s Daily Free Meals program served a total of nearly 300,000 meals to our community in the Tenderloin and beyond.

In March and April, Project Isaiah—created with the goals of saving jobs and providing food to those in-need—partnered with GLIDE to distribute meals prepared by Gate Gourmet, a leading airline food service provider. Gate Gourmet safely produced and delivered over 15,000 fresh, packaged, and easy-to-serve meals each week to GLIDE.

The generous donation allowed our GLIDE-on-the-Go program to distribute an additional 8,000 free meals every week via community partners and directly to people living on the streets and in encampments in the Bayview, Mission District, China Basin, Embarcadero and Chinatown neighborhoods. Additionally, it allowed our Family, Youth and Childcare Center to distribute 1,200 meals a week to over 100 families in need.

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—Chef Bobby, ready to serve the community.

“The generosity of the community of donors and some key partnerships seeking to support the health and safety of the city’s most vulnerable residents has uplifted so many people in this city.”

“Suddenly, we realized that a bigger partnership was possible. Maybe I didn’t anticipate life slowing down this way, but amazing things were able to appear because of it. Our partnership with GLIDE and Rethink represents what happens when one door closes and another opens up.”

—Chef Dominique Crenn

FALL 2020
Now, New, Next with Minister Marvin

Real talk, there are more questions than answers in our world. Where are we? What happens next? Where are we with GLIDE’s response to COVID-19? What happens next? How is the church speaking with moral authority to the racial and social uprisings that the police killing of George Floyd has sparked? And what happens next?

We are still having church weekly, gathering, singing, dancing, praying, witnessing and preaching. What happens next looks a lot like what’s happening now. Say to yourself, “I am present in this moment, so that I can be present in the next.”

We are in awe of COVID-19’s ability to transform every walk of life. Nevertheless, after the faith-jolting decision to postpone our sanctuary worship experience, we quickly diverted our Sunday Celebration to our online sanctuary. We redeployed our church staff, our Lay Leadership and our Congregational Leaders to the spiritual frontline. We created Essential Faith Workers. We moved in the intention that there would be no disruption in our weekly Sunday Celebration.

We continue to pray for, root for, hope for those fighting in the COVID-19 battle, and those who have died in its wake. Where are we with GLIDE’s response to COVID-19? What happens next? We are relearning who we are as a church and as a movement while we are sheltering-in-cyberspace. We are learning that the perennial truth of GLIDE endures: “GLIDE Church is a spiritual center of healing, faith, justice and community for everyone. No matter who you are, where you come from or what you’ve been through, you’re welcome here!”

And what happens next looks a lot like what is happening now; we continue to spread the good news of GLIDE into the virtual sphere, and when it’s time we’ll learn to have Celebration both in the virtual and in-person.

GLIDE Memorial Church is also compelled in this racial and social justice moment to organize the body of the church over the body of George Floyd—an unarmed black man who was killed by a white police officer’s knee—which followed a police killing in Louisville, Kentucky, of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African American woman in her home—which follows the February killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man, by two armed white men, while he was jogging in his Georgia neighborhood, and the Black lives that have been lost to state violence since then.

How is the church speaking with moral authority to the racial and social uprisings that the police killing of George Floyd has sparked? And what happens next?

Together we are creating a faith-based set of racial and social justice tools to end police brutality in America. We are creating space for all who are interested in the interclass, interracial, interfaith and intergenerational conversation of racial and social justice. We want everyone, victims and colluders, to be liberated from racism. Ambiguity is not our destination, it is a thoroughfare to wholeness, healing, restoration and action. Eternal oppression is not our destination, it is the thing we must dismantle together, and rebuild together as Beloved Community. Can you feel it all, and we all, coming and moving towards liberation? I can. Join us!

glide.org/church
As a broad-based movement for racial justice rises across the country, and around the world, in response to an epidemic of police violence against African Americans, the work of GLIDE’s Alabama Justice Pilgrimage has never been more urgent.

“It feels to me that the ground is incredibly fertile to grow something now,” says Rabbi Michael Lezak of GLIDE’s Center for Social Justice (CSJ), a driving force behind the annual effort.

“Call it an earthquake, call it the match. The pain has been so deep for so long that the murder of George Floyd was the rupture that created a moment of immeasurable pain and profound opportunity. Broad swaths of America are now waking up to issues that GLIDE has paid attention to for fifty-plus years.”

In reckoning with the structural racism in American life, understanding the long history of racial oppression in this country is essential to any movement toward justice. When the Equal Justice Initiative located in Montgomery, Alabama, opened a Legacy Museum and a National Memorial for Peace and Justice in 2018—precisely to encourage a national conversation about racism and its legacies—GLIDE mounted a group visit to Montgomery to coincide with the openings of these powerful centers of truth and reflection.

The pilgrimage to Alabama has now become an annual undertaking that includes GLIDE staff as well as other community members and institutional partners to explore the deep connections between a history that is still too often repressed and the ongoing challenges we face as a society.

In the last two years, a special focus on health care inequities has emerged as a vital feature of the trip, with a diverse group of health professionals from the University of California San Francisco among the committed participants there to learn, build relationships with Southern colleagues, and connect the dots to inequities back home.

In early March, the group visited Selma to trace the steps of courageous Civil Rights activists, including the late Congressman John Lewis, at the site of 1965’s Bloody Sunday attack on nonviolent marchers protesting state violence against African Americans pursuing their right to vote. Congressman Lewis, in one of his last public acts, had been there only days before to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the watershed event.

The trip follows a series of preparatory courses, organized by CSJ’s Rabbi Michael and Isoke Femi, which are designed to maximize the opportunity for insight, group communication and social transformation among the participants. The group also gathers multiple times after returning, in a series of “Rise and Step” classes and other opportunities for deep dialogue and group learning, coalescing as a community to harness a continuing collective effort towards justice.

“It’s not about healing the world by making a huge difference; it’s about healing the world that touches you, that’s around you—this is our power,” explains Isoke, GLIDE’s Maven of Transformative Learning and a guiding light behind the Alabama Pilgrimage. “Whether it’s the police or UCSF staff or GLIDE staff: What part of the restoration-of-the-world project are you here to do?”

Community values, community priorities: An update from Center for Social Justice Senior Director Miguel Bustos

Right now, San Francisco is alive with enthusiasm and energy for change, and the stakes have rarely been higher as our city confronts the economic impacts of COVID-19 and a historic movement for racial and social justice.

CSJ is working on multiple fronts, leading and in coalition with others, to bring about a moral budget for San Francisco; end the harmful, costly and inequitable “poverty tows” in our city; and much more. That includes getting out the vote this November! With the memory and example of the great John Lewis before us, we are determined to protect and exercise the people’s right to vote and to have a say in the kind of city, state and country they want to live in.

And proof of our collective power at the ballot box comes with this late breaking news as we go to press: 2018’s Prop C has cleared its legal challenge and is now law in San Francisco, unlocking millions of dollars for housing, shelter, treatment and assistance for our unhoused and most vulnerable neighbors! You can read more about this huge victory for our community and GLIDE’s role as part of the Our City Our Home coalition, as well as how you can join us in putting love in action, at glide.org/justice.

At the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, March 2020. Photo by Thelma Andree

An Opportunity for Racial Justice: Truth and Reconciliation

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A World Where Everybody Is Welcome

“I have three continents I call home,” says artist and teacher Zahava Sherez, who was born in Argentina, grew up in Israel and moved to the United States as an adult. Her multicultural life experience helped shape her understanding of what it means to be human and informs her connection to GLIDE.

“I’ve always believed that humanity is like a beautiful flower garden: all shapes and colors and forms. At GLIDE, I found a place on the planet that speaks my language, where humanity is the way I see it and I believe it should be.”

Although her family and career were flourishing, Zahava began searching for a spiritual community. Her friends and family told her about GLIDE’s affirming and inclusive Sunday Celebration services. She was skeptical. It wasn’t until her friends started talking about GLIDE’s social justice work that Zahava really started to pay attention.

“In my artwork, in my life and in my spiritual practice, I have always focused on the outsiders—refugees, immigrants, the other—always emphasizing the commonalities between human beings.”

For Zahava, GLIDE reflects her own deeply held values. Today, she attends Sunday Celebrations virtually during the pandemic, and supports GLIDE in many ways, including by donating, volunteering and leaving a legacy for the future.

When we stand together against hunger, poverty, homelessness, racism and homophobia, we transform ourselves and our community. You can create a lasting legacy like Zahava by including GLIDE in your estate plans and joining our Cecil & Jan Legacy Circle. For more information, visit myglidelegacy.org or contact Mariah W. Bozeman, Director of Fund Development, at (415) 674-6041 or legacygiving@GLIDE.org.

This expansive outlook was born from traumatic life experiences. “As a little girl in Argentina, I was [verbally] attacked for being a Jew,” recalls Zahava. “In Israel, I experienced wars as a child, a soldier, a young wife and a mother. Tension and violence were very much a part of our life. The one thing that kept me sane and balanced was art-making.”

Eventually, Zahava moved to the United States, living first in Connecticut and later in California. Seeking a place where diversity was part of life, she and her younger son settled in Oakland where Zahava opened her primary art studio. Today, her son and his wife are raising their family in Oakland and Zahava spends her time there and in Chapala, Mexico, where she opened a second studio.

Zahava made a bequest gift to GLIDE in her estate plans to ensure that societal ills such as racism, and their related harms and inequities, will continue to be addressed and overcome by younger generations committed to unconditional love and radical inclusion.

“My hope is that GLIDE will continue to be a light in the world. GLIDE walks the walk. I have three children and six grandchildren, and they’re all doing pretty well. I want my name and spirit to support not only my family, but also the things that have value, and one of them is definitely GLIDE.”

“My hope is that GLIDE will continue to be a light in the world. GLIDE walks the walk.”
Dare to Love!

A look back at GLIDE’s 2019 Holiday Jam

On November 14, 2019, GLIDE family and friends gathered at the Masonic in San Francisco for an uplifting evening of music and celebration at our annual Holiday Jam. Guests flocked from around the country to enjoy a jubilant gathering, luminous performances, and delicious bites from some of the Bay Area’s finest restaurants including Waterbar, EPIC Steak, John’s Grill and many more. Of course, no GLIDE event is complete without our world-famous fried chicken, delivered as always by our very own Daily Free Meals crew.

The evening’s program opened with inspiring words from GLIDE President and CEO Karen Hanrahan about GLIDE’s decades-long legacy of daring to love—steadfastly standing with, advocating for and supporting our most marginalized communities. GLIDE’s Mistress of Ceremonies—and the voice of the SF Giants—Renel Brooks-Moon kept spirits high and the show moving seamlessly. For the first time, this year’s Holiday Jam included an exciting Paddle Raise fundraiser to support new “GLIDE on the Go” programs bringing much needed services and care to people beyond the Tenderloin. Under the expert auctioneering of Michael Tate, the effort raised an additional $250,000 for these mobile services! The first half of the program concluded with an uplifting number from Grammy-nominated Alphabet Rockers, an intergenerational group dedicated to creating brave spaces to shape a more equitable world through hip hop.

Immediately following the intermission, guests were treated to a special message from San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who spoke about GLIDE’s commitment to love, radical change, and celebration. Lisa Fischer, who brought the house down at the 2018 Holiday Jam, returned to grace us with her unreal four-octave vocal range, and a special selection of spiritual and gospel numbers performed with the internationally renowned GLIDE Ensemble and the Change Band. Then came a moving original poem from Minister of Celebration Marvin K. White. The festive night culminated with 12-time Grammy nominee and Oakland native Ledisi, whose rendition of the Beatles’ “Come Together” had everyone out of their seats and dancing in the aisles!

Honorary Co-Chairs for the 2019 Holiday Jam included Richard C. Blum and Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chip Conley, Felicia and Ben Horowitz, Maja Kristin, and Kelly and Craig Ramsey. Each year, the GLIDE Annual Holiday Jam raises funds for GLIDE’s programs and services.

However we come together again this year, you can be sure that the 2020 Holiday Jam will follow tradition as an uplifting gathering and inspirational program advancing GLIDE’s innovative and life-changing work!

Save the date for this year’s Holiday Jam:
Rise Up for Change
on Thursday, November 19, 2020

Info & Tickets:
glide.org/holidayjam
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

EQUALITY

Craig and Kelly Ramsey Family
Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe Rock

FREEDOM

Richard C. Blum
Felicia and Ben Horowitz

ACCEPTANCE

The Lord Family

DIGNITY

Kaye Foster, Jasmine and Jordan Cheek, Elizabeth Foster
The Friend Family

JUSTICE

Crickette Brown Glad
Amy J. Errett and Clare E. Albanese
Mary Glide and Chris Munoz

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“What does Radical Inclusion and/or Unconditional Love look like to you?”

“For me, radical inclusion and unconditional love go hand in hand. Radical inclusion was when I introduced friends to my family despite my fear that negative things might be said—but taking the risk anyway. Unconditional love was preparing myself to go through a family dinner with friends and holding onto love for myself and for others as I facilitated the interactions. It’s keeping in mind that we all came into the world as loving people and the distance we now have can be unlearned. It’s holding onto the belief that we can become close. Internalizing unconditional love is what allows me to venture into radical inclusion in loving ways. This is not to say there won’t be discomfort, but these tenets offer possibility for change and growth and connection.”

Betty, Daily Free Meals

“Radical inclusion to me is not about relinquishing the power that people hold but rather sharing the platform of power and control. The trip that I went on with GLIDE to Alabama was the only time that I’ve ever experienced a seat at the table, and it wasn’t about power and control but more of a cooperative movement to share the trauma. It’s funny to me that people want radical inclusion when it comes to sharing trauma or in a crisis but not when it’s economic or social.”

Demarco, Walk-In Center

“I’ve been here a certain amount of years, and I achieved a lot of things in life. I achieved working on the computer, I achieved working with the seniors. If I see something wrong with a senior, I will go up and talk to the senior with unconditional love. I’m a people person and I just like to converse with the seniors. I like what I do, and I like my seniors to tell me the truth so we can be able to help. You gotta keep it real, ’cause if you don’t keep it real in life you’re not gonna be helped.”

Iris, Community Safety Team

“Unconditional love is welcoming clients from all walks of life, in whatever situation they might find themselves in, and listening and understanding how we can meet them where they are and help get them to where they want to be. Unconditional love is the flower that blooms when you water the community with harm reduction, compassion, and restorative justice. I feel very honored to be part of a team of people actively working towards that day in and day out.”

Amy, Harm Reduction Services

“When I first started working at GLIDE, we had this client whose nickname was Happy Feet. As time went on, I built up a rapport with him and the group he hung out with. Happy Feet sometimes would be a lot to deal with so my co-workers usually would call me. After saving him from overdose over 20 times, our Harm Reduction Team told me I was his Guardian Angel. He also knew he could come to me for help because I showed him and proved to him that somebody does care. I showed him unconditional love.”

Lisa, Community Safety Team

“Radical inclusion and unconditional love look like the hearts of all our staff and community who embrace everyone no matter what our different circumstances are. Unconditional love, and loving our differences, changes the world.”

Janice Mirikitani, Co-Founder

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Please remember GLIDE in your will.

Coming Soon:
Creative Space Digital Exhibition:
Exploring the Rich History of GLIDE Publications

SAVE THE DATE!
Join us for GLIDE’s Annual Holiday Jam on Thursday, November 19, 2020.
glide.org/holidayjam

We miss our volunteers!
Visit glide.org/volunteer for the latest updates.

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