

# NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn Partnership Provides Up to 21 Weekly Meals to Vulnerable...



NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn staffers review informational materials for God's Love We Deliver, which has delivered 32,000 prepared meals to the homes of qualifying Brooklyn patients since August 2022.

**In just over 18 months, more than 32,000 meals have been delivered to the homes of patients with chronic conditions who have difficulty shopping or prepping food for themselves.**

In August 2022, NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn began a partnership with God's Love We Deliver, a nearly four decades-old New York City organization that cooks and delivers medically tailored meals to people who, because of their illnesses, are unable to shop or prepare meals for themselves.

## Partnership Impact

- Only 5 percent of patients benefitting from this partnership are readmitted to the hospital within their first 30 days of starting the meal services.

In just over 18 months, God's Love We Deliver has brought more than 32,000 meals to the homes of qualifying Brooklyn patients with chronic conditions such as cancer, congestive heart failure, kidney disease, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. Now the program's expanding to other parts of NYU Langone Health including Tisch Hospital and Kimmel Pavilion in Manhattan, the Family Health Centers of NYU Langone, and the Beyond Bridges initiative.

The partnership began in 2022 when Erich Anderer, MD, chief of neurosurgery at NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn and a longtime board member at God's

- 85 percent of patients receiving God's Love We Deliver meals have not returned to the Emergency Department.

Love We Deliver, suggested developing a relationship with the organization to Bret Rudy, MD, executive vice president and chief of Hospital Operations at NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn.

"I'm pleased to see this partnership expand to other parts of the institution, increasing the number of patients who can benefit," Dr. Rudy says. "If you're a person with one or more chronic conditions, having nutritious meals cooked and delivered to you at home can have a profound impact on your overall health and well-being."

Since the partnership began, it has greatly contributed to the health of our patients. Among NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn patients, only 5 percent are readmitted to the hospital within their first 30 days of starting the meal services. Another inspiring statistic: 85 percent of the NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn patients receiving God's Love We Deliver meals have not returned to the Emergency Department.

In the last few months, the program with God's Love We Deliver has grown within NYU Langone Health, spearheaded by Andrew Rubin, senior vice president for clinical affairs and ambulatory care at NYU Langone and a God's Love We Deliver board member. Tisch Hospital and Kimmel Pavilion's partnership in Manhattan recently kicked off, with its first meals delivered in February. A new Beyond Bridges collaboration works in two ways: the Family Health Centers of NYU Langone refers pregnant patients with diabetes to the meal-delivery program, and God's Love We Deliver helps assess those patients' family members for others who might benefit from the Family Health Centers' medical



programs.

"For patients who have conditions like congestive heart failure, kidney disease, and diabetes, what you eat is crucial, so the meals have been incredibly valuable," says Deserie Duran, senior director, Brooklyn's case management and social work team. "Having regular, nutritious, high-quality food helps prevent the acute onset of illness, improves general health, and decreases the chance of readmission to a hospital."

Aviann Castaneda, administrative manager, Brooklyn's case management and social work team, adds that having the meals delivered dramatically cuts stress for patients. "They have well-balanced meals at their fingertips, from a trusted organization," Castaneda says. "They can eat safely, without question, and the food tastes really good, too."

The future looks bright for the program across the organization. "The partnership with God's Love We Deliver allows us to continue to advance a care transitions strategy," says Fritz François, MD, MSc, executive vice president and vice dean, chief of Hospital Operations in Manhattan. "It helps address social determinants of health in a patient-centered manner."