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Our athlete friends who are helping us rise to the challenges of COVID-19

By [Natasha Bunzl, Communications Associate](#)

Since our founding, many of our athletic friends have found ways to run, dance, lift, and sweat to support God's Love We Deliver, especially since 1993, when we held our first [Race to Deliver](#). During this challenging period, our friends have once more been active, helpful, and generous, using their physical feats to raise funds. They've been "gathering" digitally to enable us to continue to be there for our clients throughout the coronavirus pandemic. This is a marathon not a sprint, and we are so grateful to have your energy, good will, and heart on our side, especially during these times which have seen more New Yorkers reach out to us for help than ever before.

Here are some of the ways our athletic friends have supported us:

Tristar Athlete principal coach, Cliff Scherb, organized a virtual 10K in the beginning of May to benefit God's Love We Deliver. The athletes all ran a competitive 10K race "together" via social media. Their spirits were extra high knowing that 100% of the registration fee came to support God's Love We Deliver. And this race is not the end of the story! In the beginning of June they will once more run *together* virtually in a half-marathon! So far, the team has raised \$1,925 for God's Love We Deliver from all across the country.

In other fitness news Josh Storm and Justin Mendelsohn organized and led a butt-kicking zoom workout on Sunday May 4th. More than 50 people joined in, raising close to \$4000 for God's Love. Josh and Justin and their families have been close to the organization for years. They formed a Race to Deliver team in the early 1990s, and it is still active!

In March, Dixon McDonald led four individuals (teammates, friends, and a stranger-turned-friend!) in an Olympian commitment: a 4x4x48+2. For the uninitiated, that means running 4 miles every 4 hours for 48 hours (and they added 2 on the last run for a nice, round 50!). Maybe you're thinking, "surely they didn't run in the middle of the night." Oh yes they did! These five incredible athletes spent a weekend running for God's Love We Deliver, raising nearly \$20,000 and sharing their great feat with their friends on social media.

Read the full blog [here](#).

On Saturday May 3rd, Sean Devine hosted a donation based virtual workout class to benefit God's Love. This sweaty and fun event raised nearly \$2500 for God's Love during this difficult time. Sean Devine and his partner Nirali Shah are huge supporters of God's Love and are involved in our annual Ride For Love as well as being dedicated volunteers.

World Rugby Hall of Fame member, Women's Rugby Player of the Decade and current MMA fighter, Phaidra Knight is leading a unique stretch and mobility training session to support God's Love We Deliver. In this session she will share some of the techniques that have helped propel her to top form in every discipline she has participated in.

[Donate \\$35 here](#) to participate, and you will receive a zoom invitation the day before the class.

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God's Love Welcomes the New York Health Foundation and Food Access Leaders