

Walking the Walk: Holiday Season at Glide

Everyday at Glide, the programs are in motion, providing health care, free meals, job training; educating young people, housing the homeless, serving those most in need. But it's the latter part of the year, when temperatures begin to drop, that things at Glide get really hot.

Thanksgiving 2005 marked Glide's 36th Anniversary of infusing the holiday with true grace. A morning celebration in the church sanctuary rocked with the music of the Glide Ensemble, Change Band, and inspiring messages from Cecil and Douglass. Hundreds of volunteers had worked the night before and arrived at dawn to begin preparing a Thanksgiving feast like no other. They chopped, diced, cooked, and served a Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings. By day's end, more than 700 volunteers had fed upwards of 6,000 people.

No sooner were the Thanksgiving dishes cleared than Glide staff turned their attention to the church's annual toy drive and giveaway. This year, Glide's community partners – individuals, groups, small businesses, and large corporations – donated more than 10,000 toys for 3,000 children to enjoy.

"Giving these gifts to kids really brings out the holiday spirit in everyone," says Tod Thorpe, Volunteer Resource Manager at Glide. "The whole atmosphere is so festive. When the parents and children come through, a volunteer takes each child by the hand and picks a bag for him or her. Then, at the front of the line, the children get to meet Santa Claus himself.

"When you see the little kids' faces," Thorpe added, "it makes everything seem worthwhile. That's the joy in the Season."



In that same week, Glide sponsors its annual grocery bag giveaway. Again, hundreds of volunteers, many from corporate partner, GAP, gathered in assembly line fashion, putting together bags with about \$40 worth of groceries for 8,000 families, many of whom arrived the night before to wait.

Through the Glide Adopt – A – Family program, individuals and businesses "adopted" families at the Janice Mirikitani Family Youth and Childcare Center at the Cecil Williams Community House.

These families typically wouldn't get anything at the holidays. With Adopt – A– Family, they can ask for—and receive—what they need most."

Steve Fox, a generous donor to Glide, annually sponsors a shopping spree for up to 200 children at Old Navy. This year another Glide member made a sizable donation for Glide teens.

Another long time partner, Joe Betz and his family from the House of Prime

Rib, served for the 10th year their annual prime rib luncheon to 3,500 people who look forward to this special treat. *(continued page 3)*



Janice Mirikitani, Will Smith, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Rev. Cecil Williams

Mo's Holiday Festival Brings Out San Francisco's Finest

Mo's Holiday Festival, a rousing celebration of Glide and its supporters, was a success again in 2005. The event brought celebrities, corporate community partners and generous individuals together at the San Francisco Marriott Hotel to celebrate Glide's many achievements, support the church's extraordinary programs, and pay tribute to a few of its most generous donors.

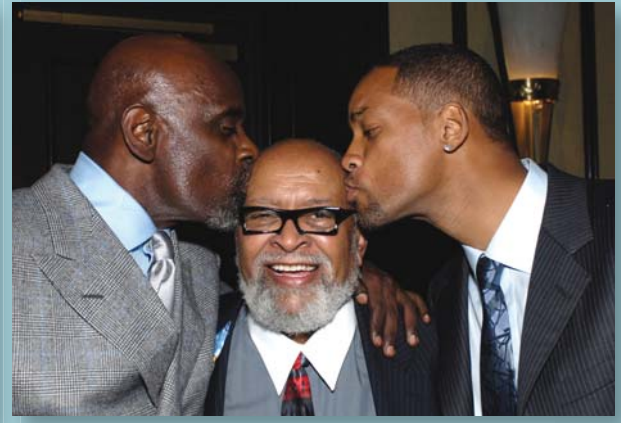
Will Smith and his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, were special guests of the event. Jada told the hushed audience of more than 1,100 how her father battled heroin addiction and her mother still struggles with crack addiction today. Then she spoke directly to the YouthBuild program youth who were in attendance. "No matter what is happening in your life, you are here for a reason," she told them. "You have the power to do anything in this world. Understand that the best weapon is your mind. Educate yourself. I don't care how pretty you are or how well you can sing, you've got to have your mind."

The young people cheered. They shouted. They pumped their fists. It brought down the house.

And with that, the Smiths made a major donation to YouthBuild, a Glide program that helps young people from poor, violence-plagued communities earn their GED or high school diploma and get placed in union construction jobs. *(continued page 2)*

Holiday Festival *(continued)*

Will had just spent much of October in San Francisco – including a full week at Glide – shooting *Pursuit of Happyness*, a film about a formerly homeless man named Chris Gardner who once stood in line for meals and slept with his young son at Glide and today heads his own brokerage firm in Chicago. Chris joined Will and Jada on stage to make his own generous donation to YouthBuild.



KISS-FM's Renel Brooks-Moon and former Mayor Willie Brown served as the event's enthusiastic emcees. Oakland's "American Idol" star LaToya London performed. Rev. Cecil Williams and Glide Executive Director Janice Mirikitani, The Glide Ensemble and Glide Teen Choir inspired with their eloquence and spirit. Pastor Douglass E. Fitch and Chair of the Board Amy Errett also greeted the enthusiastic crowd.



Honorees of the annual event were Man Kim and Irene Scully. Kim arrived here from Korea 33 years ago, homeless and penniless. Today, he is a successful restaurateur who owns Lori's Diners and Sears Fine Foods in San Francisco. Kim helped renovate the Glide kitchen right before the holidays and has supported Glide in various programs. Scully, a supporter of Glide's Family Youth and Child Care programs, is founder of the Irene Scully Foundation, established to help break the cycle of poverty in Bay Area communities. The Glide YouthBuild program was also honored.



Glide is very grateful to the restaurants who so generously donated to the sumptuous feast at Mo's:

- Ambrosia Bakery
- Anzu Restaurant at the Hotel Nikko
- Chenery Park
- Citizen Cake
- Grand Café
- Izze Sparkling Juice
- John's Grill
- La Tempesta Biscotti
- Les Amis Restaurant
- Mo's Kitchen
- New Delhi Restaurant
- PJ's Oyster Bed
- Puccini & Pinetti
- San Francisco Marriott Hotel
- See's Candies
- SF Scone Works
- STARBUCKS



Clockwise from top left: Mayor Gavin Newsom and Pastor Douglass Fitch; Chris Gardner, Rev. Cecil Williams, and Will Smith; Janice Mirikitani and Man Kim; Renel Brooks-Moon and Tommy Moon; Brenda Wright of Wells Fargo with Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith; Irene Scully; LaToya London.

Exciting news!

Glide Health Services will be launching the renovation of its health clinic in May. In partnership with Catholic Healthcare West and St. Francis Memorial Hospital, the new clinic will be housed on the sixth floor of Glide with a spacious new waiting room and several additional examination rooms, allowing the medical team, volunteers and staff to serve many more patients more efficiently and comfortably. "Our patients deserve the best," said Rita Shimmin, Associate Executive Director of Glide, "and we look forward to seeing all of them enjoy the beautiful new environment."

Glide would like to express our most heartfelt thanks to our 2005 Mo's Holiday Festival Sponsors

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Wines provided exclusively by Chalk Hill Winery



A child eagerly awaits his turn at the toy giveaway

Holiday Season *(continued)*

Other holiday programs included a special luncheon for senior citizens and a special gourmet meal prepared by San Francisco's finest Asian chefs for Glide's clients. And on Christmas day Glide again celebrated with overflowing crowds in the sanctuary, and fed 6,000 hungry people a traditional holiday feast.

"Last year was a difficult one," Glide Executive Director Janice Mirikitani said. "It was time for us to open our hearts and give hope to those in need."

"During the holiday season, everyone talks about loving their neighbor and helping the less fortunate," Rev. Cecil Williams added. "But it's not the talk. It's the walk."



Above: Janice Mirikitani, Joyce Newstat, Susan Lowenberg, and their daughter, Ruthie

Below: Rev. Cecil Williams, Board Chair Amy Errett, and Trustee Richard Blum



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Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation

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A message from Janice Mirikitani, Cecil Williams and Douglass Fitch:

We enter into the year 2006 with excitement and hope. We are celebrating the appointment of a new co-pastor, Rev. Donald Guest, who will be joining us with his wife, Brenda, in June. Douglass, Cecil and Jan look forward to working with this newest member of the Ministry Team, as together, we continue the movement of Glide based on the values of justice, diversity, unconditional love and acceptance of all people—no matter what religious background, race, gender, sexual orientation, class, age or nationality. All are welcome as part of the Glide family. "As soon as I entered this building, I felt that I had found home," said Mrs. Brenda Guest.



Left to right: Pastor Douglass E. Fitch, Brenda Guest, Rev. Donald Guest, Janice Mirikitani, Amy Errett, Rev. Cecil Williams

"What attracted me to Glide is that it has always stood out as a church that truly walked its talk," says Rev. Donald Guest. As a district superintendent and pastor in the Chicago area for 35 years, Rev. Guest was a vocal and active agent of change in the United Methodist Church, leading a national call for the inclusion of gays and lesbians in the full life of the church.

The Glide community, staff and Board of Trustees welcome Donald and Brenda Guest to Glide.

Cecil Williams *Chief Executive Officer*
Janice Mirikitani *Executive Director*
Douglass E. Fitch *Pastor*

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