



**Project Open Hand**  
meals with love

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 15, 2024

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**World Central Kitchen to Receive Ruth Brinker Visionary Award  
at Project Open Hand's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala**

SAN FRANCISCO (November 11, 2024) – Project Open Hand's annual Hand to Hand gala on Friday, November 22 will capture the attention of local community members as it presents its highest honor, the Ruth Brinker Visionary Award, to World Central Kitchen at the event.

Ruth Brinker, a pioneer of HIV care in San Francisco's community, would go on to become a legend in the city where she founded Project Open Hand, often receiving some of the loudest cheers at San Francisco's Pride March.

Today, Project Open Hand is a staple of the Bay Area food community, serving nearly a million medically tailored meals each year to people living with severe, complex, or chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS, cancer, and heart disease.

Reserved for exemplary community members who embody Project Open Hand's founder in their selfless dedication and generosity, World Central Kitchen will be presented with the Ruth Brinker Visionary Award at the gala.

World Central Kitchen, the front-line organization that provides food relief to communities impacted by natural disasters and humanitarian crises, has provided fresh, nutritious meals to those impacted by them. The organization, founded by celebrity chef José Andrés in 2010, has served countless communities globally, and provided relief this year alone to people in Spain, North Carolina, Gaza, and more.

According to the World Central Kitchen CEO, Erin Gore, "World Central Kitchen is honored to receive this award and help celebrate Project Open Hand's achievements toward a healthier California. We are kindred organizations that both believe in the power of food—no matter where you are, it is a reminder that you are not alone, someone is thinking about you, and someone cares."

Emceed by Franco Finn, MC Host and TV Personality for the NBA World Champion Golden State Warriors, the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Hand to Hand gala will be held on Friday, November 22

from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm at The Hibernia San Francisco (1 Jones Street). Individual tickets are \$250 and include a cocktail reception with food, as well as a seated program, music, entertainment, and a live auction. To purchase tickets, visit <https://give.classy.org/H2H24>

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### **Hand to Hand 2024 Honorees:**

#### *Ruth Brinker Visionary Award 2024: World Central Kitchen*

*World Central Kitchen, the front-line organization that provides food relief to communities impacted by natural disasters and humanitarian crises, will be honored at this year's Hand to Hand gala with the Ruth Brinker Visionary Award. Reserved for exemplary community members who embody Project Open Hand's founder Ruth Brinker in their selfless dedication and generosity, we are thrilled to bestow our highest honor on World Central Kitchen.*

#### *Most Outstanding Community Partner Awards 2024*

*Alameda Alliance for Health: The Alameda Alliance for Health offers accessible, affordable care to over 400,000 residents, partnering with 10,000+ providers to enhance health and well-being in Alameda County.*

*San Francisco Health Plan: San Francisco Health Plan ensure quality, affordable health care for all residents, focusing on vulnerable communities to improve health outcomes through innovative, equitable access initiatives.*

#### *Jon Borset Award: Lisa Erdos*

*Motivated by a friends' struggle with AIDS, Lisa Erdos has volunteered over 2,400 hours at Project Open Hand since 1993. Read Lisa's full story at: [www.openhand.org/2024-volunteer-award](http://www.openhand.org/2024-volunteer-award)*

### **Hand to Hand 2024 sponsors include:**

*Master Chef Sponsor: John and Marcia Goldman*

*Chef de Cuisine Sponsor: Jason Wei*

*Sous-Chef Sponsor: Alameda Alliance for Health, Sharon Davidson/Linda Glick, Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco Health Plan, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Wilcox Foods*

*Chef de Partie Sponsor: Bon Appetit Management Co., Andrew Chang and Danni Xie, Theresa and Eric Chang, Alberto Cortés / Paul Hepfer, Richard Long, Dr. Preston Maring*

### **About Project Open Hand**

*Since 1985, Project Open Hand has provided meals with love to older adults, adults with disabilities, and those living with complex, chronic health conditions like HIV/AIDS, cancer, and heart disease. Each year, Project Open Hand serves nearly a million meals to*

*clients across San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties. To learn more, visit [www.openhand.org](http://www.openhand.org).*

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