

2023 End of Year Report

Impacting Change

2023 continued as a year full of challenges both personal and professional for GMLP. Our fundraising was impacted by the world's recovery from a pandemic's repercussions. It affected our product creation and development - as not only was the supply chain still interrupted but also facing an ongoing war. GMLP suffered as a small business supporter because several of our best partners were lost to unavoidable closures. A global increase in shipping and handling costs, the rise of basic operating costs, and a global inflation forced us to rethink how best we could operate as self-funded business in George's honor while limiting cost increases from eating into our raised funding. In 2023 GMLP decided it would keep a minimum of 10-20% of sales/raffles for operational costs.

With the world overhauling its business platforms and outlooks of a less than rosy global view, GMLP brainstormed upon its mission, ensuring our supporters could continue to help fund efforts and prevent charity fatigue. We concluded that grand donations are not always possible but daily operations continue nevertheless and making small donations consistently is a way to help meet charity's mission goals, while we all recover. In a world where needs are great, financial bases shrinking, we decided to ensure our platforms allow Lovelies to participate with us as a united charitable front, making sure every dollar counts.

George held that charity should be given where it was most needed, and believed, we give what we can when we can, however we can to make a difference in operations, regardless of its size. In developing projects we create various price points with an eye to the best quality of items. Raffles throughout the year were still the preferred method of fundraising to offer supporters a choice/chance based on the raffle's theme, contents or charity supported for a ticket price of between \$2-\$5. In 2023, GMLP started retaining 10-20% of donations to use in operations, e.g., S/H, mailing supplies, web page management, mail box, and etc.

Our Holiday Hamper is always the grandest of the raffle lots because George was a huge Christmas fan and his hampers were not only unique but grand in expressing his love and gratitude. Friends were always excited to be gifted one of his hampers filled with treasures of the season. The level and depths of George's giving spirit are what remains at the heart of our mission and keeps us focused even in the toughest of times, e.g., pandemic, war and Global inflation.

The joy and grand celebration of George was visible during his June 2023 birthday celebration in Goring. GMLP brought its exceptional plans and skills for what would have been George's 60th

birthday. By invitation of the owner, GMLP sets up tables in front of Barbra's Antique and Bric-a-Brac shop in Goring, UK. Trustees travel to the UK with uniquely designed merchandise to sell which benefit chosen charities and their projects. At times we bring a small collection of pieces to support a special cause or project., e.g., Ukraine families. Trustees of GMLP are thrilled to bear 100% of the costs for this event and merchandise. Additionally, 100% of sales from this celebration are donated to charity.

In 2022 a chance friendship developed on Facebook between a talented artist in the Netherlands and GMLP. The friendship resulted in a commission of a framed oil painting of George during his WHAM era depicting him in their hit "I'm Your Man". The painting brought instant tears to eyes as one of the most honest paintings of George to surface since his death. This piece became the central focus of GMLP's 2023's 60th birthday plans in Goring. It was displayed at Barbara's Antique and Bric -a-Brac shop for view. Raffle tickets were sold for a chance to become the owner of this magnificent work. During the last set by James Bermingham at the Catherine Wheel, James selected the winning ticket. To our surprise and elation, the piece would remain in Goring, where George felt most at home.

During the year, GMLP held several online raffles in support of numerous charities that support the well being of children (Shriner's Children's Hospital in Philadelphia), mental health education and end stigma (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention), care and rescue of swans living on the Thames River (Swan Lifeline), training of therapy dogs for support of disabled persons (PAWS with a Cause), education, support and end stigma of HIV/AIDS (Terrence Higgins Trust), (The Hub) a community outreach for those in need in the Goring/Streatley area and an outreach for relief (Ukraine). Year's donation levels of \$3200 reflects the recovery and inflation impact on fundraising. But we must remember that every dollar counts.

The donations from the Trustees to help support various projects totaled \$ for the year. These causes were near and dear to George during his life. His philanthropy was driven by special need as opposed to just a singular charity based. As the foundational concept for GMLP's support of specific projects, or daily operational needs, it generally looks to help the smaller, less well known charities and assist them in meeting their goals. These efforts resulted in \$ in donations during a recovery year.

Besides raffles, GMLP provides online choices on its website for donors to make direct donations to charities. NOTE: Due to exorbitant production costs and shipping/handling prices or tariff/duty costs, we decided to table our shop at this time. On occasion we may offer merchandise for sale which directly supports an established project or charity need. We create craft packages around the Halloween celebration for children who are admitted to Shriner's Children 's Hospital or visiting and waiting for appointments. The packages include craft items to pass time, or help with therapy sessions.

Barbara's Antique and Bric-a-Brac shop in Goring still retains a modest shelf of George merchandise; and all sales are donated to The Hub. This shop gives visitors to Goring a small souvenir of their visit while doing good for charity.

PLANS FOR 2024

With a global economy that continues its struggle and global households trying to figure out how to fund their budgets, GMLP is sensitive to Lovelies' budgets while continuing to find ways for them to support and honor their beloved George's philanthropy. We offer select raffles and projects that can be supported for minimal costs.

A concept for Partners in Hope is being developed that will make monthly giving available and in return the supporters will receive a Lovelies' Partner box 3 times a year. This type of funding can help financial planning for future projects and merchandise development. This plan will also serve to build a core of multi talented artists who can use their skills to create unique items for raffles and projects.

2024 plans for George's 61st birthday in Goring, UK are well under way. The theme for the weekend will be Love in its many shapes and forms. Lovelies will be treated to a fun, boat cruise down the Thames River to open up the weekend on a celebratory note. It will be a Club Tropicana theme and play music by a DJ for dance, nibbles to keep the dancing energy up, a greeting glass of Prosecco, a cash bar and on board raffles and fun trivia games. An exclusive art piece will be unveiled during the trip.

A unique number of items are being developed by artists and be available to support GMLP's efforts to support charities. We hope to give the talent pool among the Lovelies a platform to share their skills to create items to support charity in honor of George. Share the Love.

"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same— with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead. While we do our good works let us not forget that the real solution lies in a world in which charity will have become unnecessary." Mother Teresa

Jo Becker, trustee