

CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



IN THIS ISSUE

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: BOMBAS

AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT FOR VETERANS

A RECORD-SETTING WEEKEND

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS OUR DAILY BREAD

HAPPY 7TH BIRTHDAY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AND MUCH MORE!

Donor spotlight - Bombas

By Melina Morris
Bombas Giving Team

"Bombas is a comfort-focused, digitally native brand that provides elevated basics and helps those in need. The company was originally founded in 2013 because socks are the #1 most requested clothing item at homeless shelters. Underwear and t-shirts are #2 and #3 respectively. While the brand started with and is known for its extremely comfortable socks, Bombas used its expertise in comfort to launch into apparel with t-shirts in 2019 and, most recently, underwear in 2021. A specially-designed item is donated to the homeless community for every item purchased. To date, Bombas has donated more than 75 million items to those at-risk, in need, and experiencing homelessness."

Please check out their impact report at www.beebetter.com



Happy 7th birthday

By Vedha Kalaivanan & Jay Muthukamatchi



Happy 7th birthday, Charity Crossing. Although you are just seven years old, you touch the heart of 1000s of people. So happy to see you grow with the support of 100s of volunteers, donors, and partners. Wishing you many more happy birthdays to come so you can continue to help 1000s of people.

Charity Crossing Inc thanks the volunteers for their lovely wishes.

Charity Crossing Inc thanks Vedha and CC communication team for helping with compiling this Happy birthday video.

Charity Crossing Inc thanks all #volunteers, #leaders, #donors, and #partners for this wonderful journey where we touched many lives.

You can watch the Birthday video here: <https://youtu.be/HmAL9fk1t3U>

A Record-Setting Weekend

By Jay Muthukamatchi

The weekend that saw

Largest donations: 69 pallets

Longest volunteering day: 14.5 hours

Most served on a single day: 130+ families (400+ individuals)

It all started this Friday evening. Twenty of us loaded three truckloads of donations for giveaways in Dover, Smyrna, and Glasgow park locations.

Saturday morning, more than 30 volunteers arrived at Glasgow Park as early as 6:50 am to set up the event. After helping with the setup, a few of us went to the warehouse to receive donations. Some of the volunteers worked 14.5 hours on that day. It was a record. They received and stored 69 pallets of donations. This was a single day's largest donation. We have lots of donations to bless the community.

The most impressive thing was the **determination of the trios** (10th graders Abhi, Ani, and Akash). These trios and a first volunteer, Rahul, wouldn't stop until all donations were successfully received and stored. They were full of energy. Wow!

Sunday was a busy day for our volunteers hosting the community. Giveaways. Enjoy some interesting photos from this weekend.

Charity Crossing thanks, volunteers and donors.



An exclusive monthly event for our Veterans, First Responders, and their Families

By Chandra Dontaraju

For many years, Charity Crossing Inc wanted to host special events for our Veterans, First responders, and their families. Finally, it came true last Saturday. Charity Crossing Inc and its volunteers held an exclusive giveaway event for them.

More than 50+ families benefitted from this serve. CC distributed Blankets, Socks, Small and Large household items, Pet items, Toys, and Food. Thank you, Amazon and DOT foods, for donating the supplies and food.

Thanks to all 20+ volunteers for serving the community.

Looking for more veterans/service guests next month.

We thank the volunteers, our donors, New Castle County Department of Community Services, Friends of Glasgow Park, Councilman David L. Tackett, NCC Executive Matt S. Meyer, and the CC team leads (Chandra Dontaraju and KP Krishna Prasadh).

It feels good to work with "#difference makers."



Partner Spotlight - Our Daily Bread

by Brian Farragher, MSW, MBA, Board President, Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread Dining Room of MOT, Inc. (ODB) was established as a 501(c)(3) in 2012. Our mission is to feed low-income families, individuals, and children in need in the Middletown, Odessa, and Townsend communities with nutritious meals served at no cost without discrimination in a safe environment. Before moving into our current home in 2016, ODB served approximately 800 meals a year.



ODB's mission remains the same today, but the scale of our work has increased dramatically. ODB is the only soup kitchen in the Middletown, Odessa, and Townsend regions. We are still a volunteer-run organization but now have over 300 volunteers helping to manage the operation, purchase and pick up food and ingredients, prepare and serve meals, and clean and maintain our kitchen and dining room. Today we serve approximately 35,000 meals a year to over 500 individuals struggling with food insecurity. We run a very efficient, productive, clean operation with virtually no overhead costs. Currently, we serve seven meals a week (Dinner: Monday-Friday from 5-6 pm and Lunch: Tuesday & Thursday from 12noon-1 pm) and offer dining in our dining room or take out to our guests.

In the early Spring of 2022, we added another service at ODB. We installed a Community Fridge outside our facility so that those who are hungry in our community will have access to food 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We realized that our service hours make it difficult for the working poor to take advantage of meal service at ODB. The Community Fridge provides food on-demand to those who are hungry. It is simply a refrigerator set up in an enclosure outside our facility. We stock it with nutritious food so those hungry can come by and take what they need when they need it. We estimate we are distributing another 1000+ meals a month through the Community Fridge. This project is a great supplement to what we were already doing; however, it is not a silver bullet and will not end hunger and food insecurity in our community. The issue of hunger in our country is very complicated, and the solutions are equally complex, but we believe access to food is a human right, and we are committed to doing what we can to help keep people fed. You can learn more about the Community Fridge concept at Freedge Yourself! – freedge (<https://freedge.org/freedge-yourself/>)



Volunteer Spotlight - Sakthi Raghupathi

by Jay Muthukamatchi

Sakthi RaghupathiRaghvan is a passionate and avid volunteer at Charity Crossing. He leads Charity Crossing NCCPD(New Castle County Police department) charter. NCCPD coat drive was successfully completed in December 2021, and 'NCCPD Back to School Drive' in August 2022 was a major success. Three more events ('Trunk or Treat, 'Coat Drive' & 'Police and Princess') are planned in 2022 with NCCPD.

Sakthi is also responsible for transporting, loading, and unloading donations from Amazon warehouses in Delaware. In 2022, Sakthi worked with Firm Foundation to be part of 'Seeds of Recovery' organized in Lumps Pond on June 26th, 2022. Charity Crossing was able to help 300+ families as part of this event.



Sakthi's famous quotes - 'Sharing is Caring' & 'All is Well.'

Sakthi is a member of Charity Crossing's Warehouse Team. Seeing his work, his team members fondly call him Sakthimann (a superhero character in a Hindi TV serial).



Volunteer Spotlight - Chrissie Wharton

by Jay Muthukamatchi

Chrissie Wharton is a Charity Crossing Lead at Dover. She is an Administrative Business Manager. She has 3 Children and nine grandchildren; they are the most precious things in my life.

For many reasons, she became involved with Charity Crossings at the beginning of this year, 2022. Chrissie said that Charity Crossing is about uplifting all Communities in our state and those surrounding us. After many hours of research, she realized this Organization was the one she wanted to support in any way possible. She has been in the same place as those we serve. Charity Crossings does not make anyone feel embarrassed, uncomfortable, or ashamed. The volunteers she had the pleasure of working with are all completely committed and determined to help make a change. Unfortunately, there was a huge need in the Dover Community, and nothing available. She reached out to Charity Crossings, who immediately stepped in and stepped up to help the Community she lives in. That in itself speaks volumes.



Chrissie said, "It is not what you have in life but whom you have in it. Cherish every moment, laugh daily, love always, and always smile or speak to those you pass by, as that kind word could change their life."

She is grateful and blessed to be a part of this organization. She looks forward to continuing to build a stronger Community to help those in need find the resources available to them to succeed in a bright and happy future.



Volunteer Spotlight - Sumitha Ramasamy

by Jay Muthukamatchi

Sumitha Ramasamy is working as a Technical design program manager at Google, Newyork. She lives in Malvern, PA, with her husband Kalai and 2 daughters.

Sumi and her family have been active volunteers in the Charity Crossing organization since 2018. Apart from volunteering, Sumi also learns and performs the classical forms of dance Bharatanatyam as a student of Nardhana dance academy. She believes that volunteering strengthens communities and has donated and participated in many charitable causes. All initiatives and drives led by Charity crossing organization are focused on providing underprivileged people with basic needs. These genuine efforts inspired Sumi to get more involved in CC-led initiatives. She has assisted youth volunteers in socks & clothing drives, hygiene product donation collection, and distribution to local community staff and organizations in the PA region.



Sumi said, " I feel truly blessed to be able to give back to those in need and this helps me achieve a greater sense of satisfaction. I believe these activities also strongly support a healthy and an active lifestyle".

Seeing the huge impact CC organization was making in Delaware state, Sumi started exploring opportunities to expand CC volunteering donation distribution in Pennsylvania-Chester and Delaware counties. She identified that the Phoenixville area community service (PACS) organization was willing to partner with Charity crossing for weekly donation serve. With the support of the CC leadership team, Sumi set up the PACS weekly serve in the PA region and leading it since June 2022. She also works closely with warehouse leads for donation pick up for the PA region and makes arrangements for sorting, loading, and inventory management with the support of other CC volunteers. Many of the donation distribution aims at recycling consumer returns, and retailers' excess goods instead of going to landfill. Sumi feels proud about being part of these eco-friendly giveaways.



Volunteer Spotlight - Rupali Langote

by Jay Muthukamatchi

Rupali Langote, is an entrepreneur, owns a business RSL Services (Rsl Henna And Spa). She has done her Masters in Computer Management, also a licensed esthetician, licensed nail technician, professional henna and makeup artist.

SRupali Langote, is an entrepreneur, owns a business RSL Services (Rsl Henna And Spa). She has done her Masters in Computer Management, also a licensed esthetician, licensed nail technician, professional henna and makeup artist. She is a mother of a dedicated son who also volunteers for Charity Crossing. Rupali came to USA in 1998 and had been volunteering since then for the National Park Service, community centers, nursing homes and many other local communities. Rupali has been volunteering for Charity Crossing for more than 6 years. She believes in giving back to the community. During pandemic, she and her son made thousands of fabric masks and donated to many communities, health care centers, nursing homes, hospitals and to the needy people when there was a shortage of masks. Rupali has dedicated thousands of hours serving the community and will continue to do this throughout her life. She also donates blood since her college days, and now she regularly donates blood through Charity Crossing.



*Rupali believes in "Serve Humanity,
give back to the Community"*

Rupali also leads the weekly serve at Rosehill Community Center (RHCC); in addition, Rupali also leads the monthly serve at Claymont (along with Spring Church)



Volunteering in CC Interviews

by Jay Muthukamatchi

Vedha Kalaivanan

Hi, I am Vedha Kalaivanan. I am an active youth volunteer in charity crossing. As you all are aware, charity crossing is a volunteer-run organization. I will share how CC has inspired young children like me to contribute to the community we live in and how it's positively spreading its wings in the PA region.

For the first time, our family participated in the Sunday donation serve at Wilmington in 2018. After seeing the greater influence CC was making on the underprivileged and homeless people, we started to join the socks and winter drive led by the CC team. Socks drive is really close to my heart, sometimes people who receive the donations will say, "may god bless you." Those kind words made a huge impact on me.

For the first time, our family participated in the Sunday donation serve at Wilmington in 2018. After seeing the greater influence CC was making on the underprivileged and homeless people, we started to join the socks and winter drive led by the CC team. Socks drive is really close to my heart, sometimes people who receive the donations will say, "may god bless you." Those kind words made a huge impact on me.



This year we had the opportunity to support the Herring Manor lead team. Working with Herring Manor residence was a great experience. With Jay uncle's guidance, my family explored serve locations in Chester county PA. We were fortunate to partner with PACS(Phoenixville area community server). The serve are successfully held every Saturday. Through Charity Crossing, young children like myself can give back to the community every year.

I'm looking forward to continuing my volunteering journey with CC.

You can watch Vedha's full interview here: https://youtu.be/PiEbd_ifDRw



Say hello to the Trio

by Saatvik Kumar

Abhi Penaganti, Anirudh Singh, Akash Kathiravan

Akash Kathiravan, Anirudh Singh, and Abhinav Penaganti are all MOT Charter High School sophomores majoring in biotechnology. They all joined Charity Crossing as a friend group who wanted to make a difference in their community. Fellow volunteers and CC founder Jay Muthukamatchi fondly call them "The Trios" because of their close friendship.

Abhinav and Anirudh first joined and started volunteering for Charity Crossing in July 2022 Akash followed soon after in August. "What motivated us was to help the community. When we first started, we had a lot of fun meeting new people, us three hanging out," Anirudh says. They also enjoyed volunteering with the kind, caring and compassionate volunteers that they volunteered with. "We never had any rude encounters; everyone was always nice," he continues, speaking about the wholesome atmosphere of the team of volunteers.

As part of the organization, they have volunteered at numerous locations. Still, they primarily are leaders at the CC Warehouse, where they help lead operations to organize goods and donations from the community. "We divide these [goods] into certain groups. We sort these boxes into household items, baby items, toys, and so on," Akash says when asked about their work. "We send these sorted items to people in need, and we send these to locations such as Rosehill and Glasgow," he continues, describing how these items are redistributed back to the community. Their work is important to Charity Crossing's mission statement, as it reduces the amount of waste going to landfills, being as eco-sustainable and friendly as possible while giving back to the community.

The Trio has also credited their volunteering experience at Charity Crossing to them gaining many skills. "We learned how to manage a warehouse, work a jack, be more organized," Anirudh says. He states his opinion that these skills will be useful in the future. The Trio also states that they've demonstrated growth over their time volunteering. "We expanded on our social skills as we got better with talking to people in the community," Abhinav explains, highlighting how volunteering has allowed them to improve their social communication skills.

As students and volunteers who have contributed over 7 hours a week since joining, The Trio had some good advice for newer volunteers. "No matter what, school always comes first," Abhinav says. They believe it is important to manage your time wisely and not get distracted when working. "Definitely try to develop the skill of time management," Anirudh says. "Sometimes we try to finish [work] all at school during study hall (a time allotted for students to work productively at the end of the day). On the days that we don't have study halls, we get home and try to do as much as we can because volunteering on weekdays is usually from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.," he explains.



Finally, The Trio also had some advice for volunteers on how to make volunteering easier and more enjoyable, based on their experiences at Charity Crossing. “We joined with friends. So for us, volunteering became much more fun,” Abhinav relates his experience volunteering with his friends and how he enjoyed volunteering with them. “If you can, join one of your friends and volunteer with them.” Akash also talks about making new friends and talking to new people while volunteering. “Be open to all of the people around there,” he says, “they’re all respectful of each other, and they’re all nice.”

All three are on their way to receiving Presidential Volunteers Gold Medal Award.

Abhinav holds the record of volunteering 100 service hours in a record time of 3 months.

You can watch Trio’s full interview here: <https://youtu.be/FkE1knFdXAI>



NOT ALL HEROES
WEAR CAPES



A quick reference guide to our Volunteers

by Rohan Sivva and Jay Muthukamatchi

Here is some information that you need to know:

- Register at <https://charitycrossing.org/register/> (one-time activity)
- Sign up for events at <https://charitycrossing.org/events/> (you need to do this every time you want to serve). You can view the events you registered for at <https://charitycrossing.org/registered-events/> It is hard to find volunteers at short notice. Please avoid last-minute cancellations.
- Record your service hours at <https://charitycrossing.org/vtf/>
- You are welcome to bring your family to serve. However, you must buy volunteer tickets for them when registering for an event. All volunteers' tickets are free.
- A parent or guardian must accompany all minor volunteers.
- Service hours are calculated as follows: actual service hours plus travel hours (travel hours should not exceed 1 hour).
- You may be eligible for Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Check eligibility criteria here <https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/eligibility>



YOU GUYS ARE DOING
"GOD'S SERVICE", SAID A
COMMUNITY MEMBER

Fundraiser Opportunities

Amazon Smile

Charity Crossing is a member of the Amazon Smile program, a great way for you to raise funds for Charity Crossing. To start, Amazon Smile has the same products as the Amazon that you normally shop on, except this site donates a part of the money from your purchase to Charity Crossing. No extra cost to you! Please go to smile.amazon.com or use the regular Prime app on your phone to sign up first.

Matching Donations

As Charity Crossing is a non-profit organization, a big part of the reason we can constantly serve the community is due to help from corporate donors. An amazing example of this occurred in February, when JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and other employers matched employee donations and helped raise \$11,713 for Charity Crossing's vehicle fundraiser. We encourage you to check with your employer to see if similar programs are available!

Dollars-for-Doers / Volunteers Grant Program

Dollars-for-Doers is a corporate program that distributes monetary grants to non-profit organizations where its employees volunteer. They are also known as volunteer grants or dollars-for-hours programs. The process of receiving one of these grants is essentially the same. First, the employee must volunteer with a nonprofit. They then request a grant from their employer, who will verify the number of hours performed, then send a check to the non-profit organization. Some companies offering dollars-for-doers or volunteer grants include Bank of America, TD Bank, Aetna, Microsoft, and many more. Please check with your employer.

Birthday Fundraisers

Organizing a birthday fundraiser using social media is a great way to raise funds for Charity Crossing. By doing so, you will enjoy a contented feeling, knowing that you played a part in helping those in need on your special day. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc., offer features that allow you to raise funds for Charity Crossing. Please check them out.

For more information, please contact info@charitycrossing.org

MEET OUR TEAM!



Shriya R.
Writer



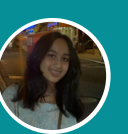
Saathvik
writer



Tanmay
writer



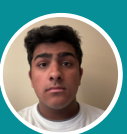
Rohan S.
Designer,
writer



Amika K.
Designer



Aratrika G.
Designer



Abhijeet P.
Editor



Adil A.
Editor



Jay
Muthukamatchi

Please submit feedback on our newsletter at <https://forms.gle/YHcDKthakNJyWe9U6>