

# CC MONTHLY

*The official newsletter of Charity Crossing*



## IN THIS ISSUE

**CC RECIEVES  
GOVERNOR'S  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARD**

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY**

**A DAY IN THE WAREHOUSE**

**GIVING TUESDAY  
FUNDRAISER**

**EDUCATING  
THE HEART**

**NOVEMBER, A RECORD  
MONTH FOR CC**

**VOLUNTEER & VOLUNTEER  
FAMILY SPOTLIGHTS**

**SERVING COMMUNITIES IN  
UPPER DARBY, PA**

## Charity Crossing Receives Governor's Outstanding Community Service Award.

By Rohan Sivva, Saatvik Kumar, and Jay Muthukamatchi

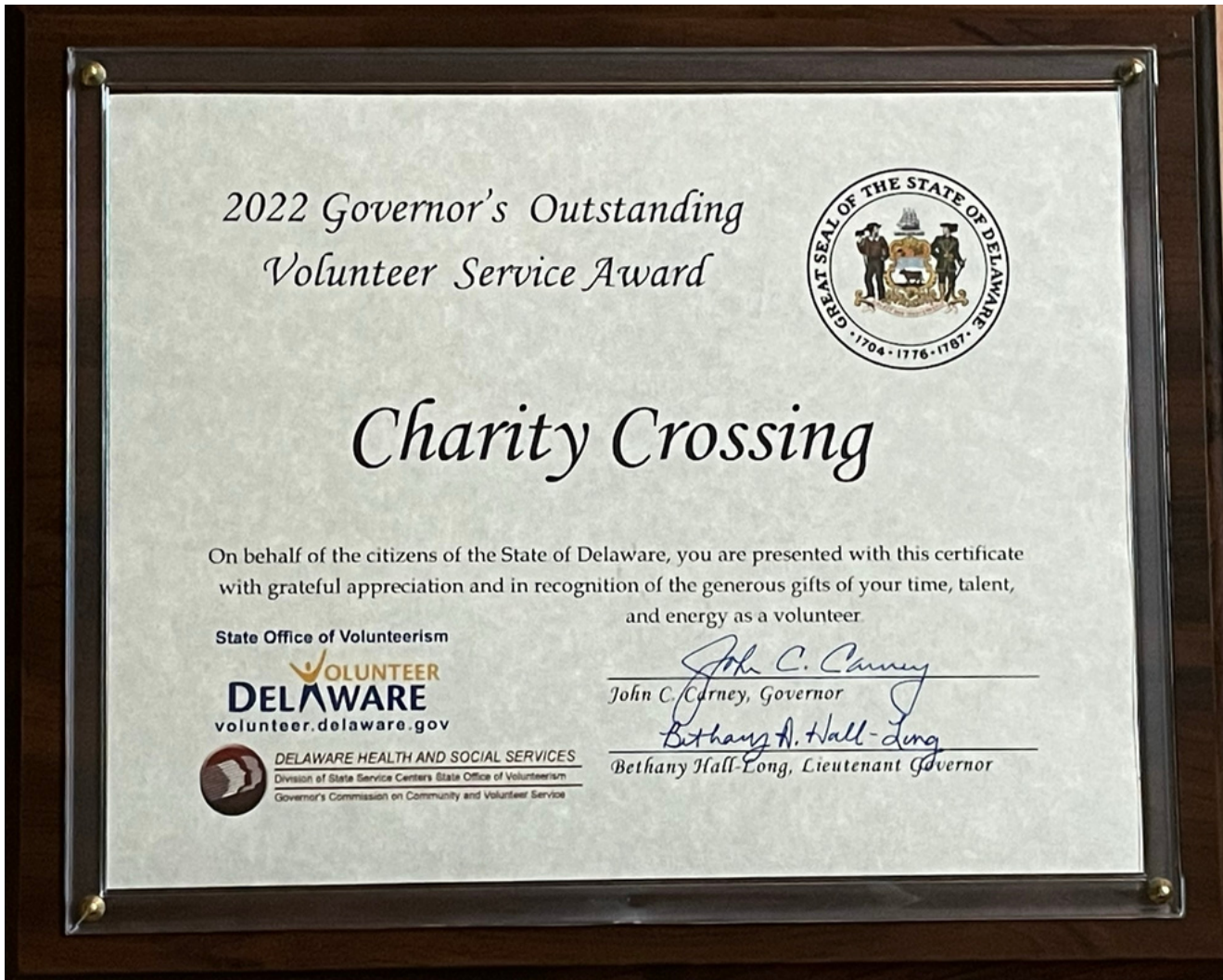
**Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long**

"Volunteers are critical to the well-being of our state. Thousands of Delawareans wake up every day and donate their time to help better their communities.

I congratulate Charity Crossing and all its volunteers on being 2022 honorees.

The Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award recipients go above and beyond in their community service. The award is our way of saying thank you [volunteers] and raising awareness of all the great work you [volunteers] do but never claim credit for."





On December 1st, Charity Crossing was invited to the Governor's Service Event to receive the honorable and prestigious Governor's Service Award, which commends individuals and volunteer organizations for contributing to making the community a better place. The event was an incredible experience, allowing us to meet people who have made incredible achievements in volunteering and who work hard to instill volunteerism in those around them.

**What our volunteers and nominator say about Charity Crossing?**



**Tina Gary** - With more than 50,000 hours of service, Charity Crossing has helped people in underserved communities struggling with poor nutrition by providing them with nourishing meals, canned goods, and non-perishable items. They empower the economically challenged by identifying and successfully executing meaningful initiatives that benefit the community. The group's endeavors include accepting returned, off-season, and unsold merchandise from retailers and finding new homes for these items. In the last 6 years, they distributed 2.5 million worth of donations to the community. Other initiatives include 5K walks, blood donation drives, candy drives, holiday drives, hygiene drives, school supply drives, sock drives, and disaster relief.



**David Tackett** - "Efforts in the community headed by Charity Crossing are a wave of donations and earnest giving that we have not seen before. This organization is led completely by volunteers, with a board of 100% volunteers. This is something extremely special, and that is why I believe in them so much,"

**Gifty Boateng** - "Being at this event has been a wonderful experience and is a meaningful achievement for the CC community. It ensures that the hours we put into volunteering, the countless donations we make, and the thousands of smiles we put on peoples' faces are recognized and give our volunteers energy and encouragement to continue working hard."

**Gopi Srini** - "The event was great, as many different volunteers and groups were awarded for their amazing contributions to the community. I saw someone who got a Lifetime Service award, who spent over 50 years helping the community, and countless others who truly impacted the people around them. The event itself was very nice, with great food and decorations, and allowed us to meet a wide variety of people, giving us a bigger perspective and appreciation of the volunteers in the community. This event appreciated our hard work and encouraged us to keep volunteering and impacting the community.

**Veni Jayakumar** - "We had a great time, and the event will be a memorable experience. It was an amazing recognition from the state's top leadership, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and other important memoirs of Delaware's Government. Thank you for joining us on this journey for the past seven years, and we are looking forward to continuing the great work for the decades to come."

**Sumalata Gudipati** - "I'm very happy and thankful to be a part of Charity Crossing, as it allows me to help the community and make a difference. Serving the people motivates me, and it's great to serve the people, and it motivates my family and me to do more and more service to Charity Crossing, and I'm thankful to Charity Crossing for being a part of this."

**Ininder Parmar** - "We had a good time today. I was really happy to see how other organizations contribute to the community and how big of an impact Charity Crossing has on society. We are now recognized in Delaware and Tri-states, which is a remarkable achievement for us."

**Vaishali Ameen** - "Every day is new, and we make many faces happy no matter what challenges we face. We see kids coming around smiling, which makes us happier to serve the community."

**Jay Muthukamatchi** - "The volunteers at Charity Crossing have kind hearts. They go to great lengths to help our community. CC volunteers hold themselves to high standards and excel in volunteering."



**Volunteering is so unique.  
It spreads love and it is contagious.**



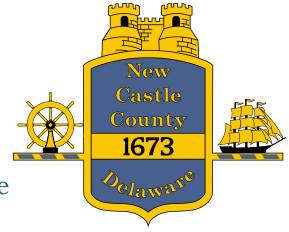


# Partner spotlight - New Castle County Community Services

By Jane Rattenni

## Introduction to the Department of Community Services

The New Castle County Department of Community Services provides a wide range of services to New Castle County residents and visitors that build communities, improve neighborhoods, and ensure safe places and spaces for people of all ages and abilities to live, learn, socialize, and play. Divisions include Community Development and Housing, Community Resources, and Libraries.



## Hope Center Overview

The New Castle County Hope Center provides temporary, emergency non-congregate shelter for Delaware residents experiencing homelessness. The Hope Center houses individuals and families in a converted hotel purchased by New Castle County in 2020. The County oversees shelter operations, and a partner company manages hotel operations. The Hope Center provides wrap-around services, including medical care, healthcare, addiction services, and case management, to investigate other social services, workforce opportunities, and opportunities for permanent housing.

The Hope Center houses approximately 400 individuals, including 100-150 children at any given time, aiming to find permanent housing within 30 to 90 days. Currently, a United Way program provides onsite activities and organizes events and field trips for families, but no academic enrichment program exists for K-12 students. This RFP seeks to find an experienced partner to engage youths at the shelter and provide individual after-school tutoring to advance their academic potential. The Hope Center Academic Enrichment Program is intended to focus on academics and supplement the services provided by the United Way. The County will oversee the program's effectiveness by speaking with students, families, and teachers and reviewing individual student progress reports.



## Partner spotlight - New Castle County Community Services

By Jane Rattenni

### Annual Socks Drive

Sock collection boxes are placed across New Castle County at libraries, recreation centers, and county offices. The 20 convenient locations make it simple for New Castle County residents to make sock donations. In partnership with New Castle County, Charity Crossing has collected 8,000 pairs of socks to help the community stay warm.



Socks are the #1 most requested clothing item in homeless shelters. - Bombas

### Glasgow Park Partnership

The Glasgow Park “Red” Bank Barn in the farm complex is home to Charity Crossing’s giveaway events. The partnership between Charity Crossing and New Castle County began in the summer of 2022, growing from one to two events per month. These events serve families, individuals, veterans, first responders, and healthcare professionals in need. Donations to the public include household items, school supplies, and other personal items. At least 400 to 500 people benefit every month.



Each people attending the event receive at least \$25 worth of donations. By the end of 2022, at least 5,000 community members would have received \$125,000 worth of donations.



## Giving Tuesday - Thank you

By Jay Muthukamatchi



### Food Donations from DOT Foods

On this Giving Tuesday, DOT Foods and its staff delivered \$5,000 worth of food. This will help families enjoy happy meals this holiday season. Thank you, DOT Foods.



**CC received \$21,500 + \$5,000 worth of  
food on Giving Tuesday.**

**🙏 Thank you, donors. 🙏**



## A Day in the Warehouse

By Rohan Sivva and Jay Muthukamatchi



**"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen." – Michael Jordan.**

"Jordan's quote, "...Others make it happen." is so fitting for this awesome group. It is led by Raj Karpurapu and co-led by Chandra Dontaraju.

They are the core of Charity Crossing. Everything starts from here. Ten awesome volunteers run this group. They receive donations, sort them, pack them, and equitably distribute them to the multiple giveaway teams.

They all work full-time, yet they find the time to volunteer. Tuesday through Friday, they operate the warehouse between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. On Saturdays, they start their day at 8:30 am. They work with other volunteers as long as it takes to receive and store truckload donates. On Sundays, they operate between 10 am and 12:30 pm. On Fridays and Sundays they support donations pickup.





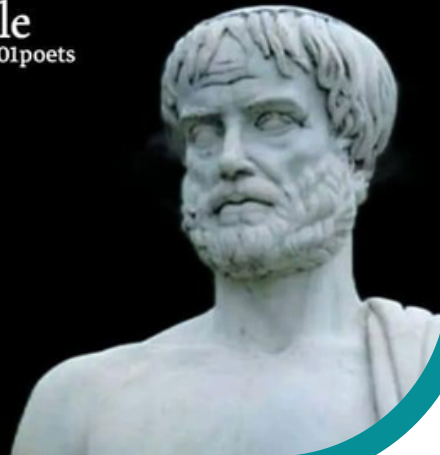


## Educating the Heart

By Jay Muthukamatchi

“Educating the mind  
without educating the  
heart is no education at  
all.”

— Aristotle  
[www.facebook.com/01poets](http://www.facebook.com/01poets)



At Charity Crossing, we  
educate the hearts. Join us,  
together we will make an  
impact in our community and  
Mother Nature.



# November, a record month for Charity Crossing

By Jeshen Kannan and Jay Muthukamatchi



In a month of giving, filled with joy, thankfulness, and love, Charity Crossing volunteers served 5,000 different people across four states. We gave out roughly \$125,000 worth of donations and prevented at least six truckloads of goods from being tossed into landfills.

Despite the cold and windy November weather, on November 19th and 20th, Charity Crossing served 1,771 community members among 14 locations across DE, NJ, PA, and MD. With each person receiving at least \$25 worth of goods, our organization distributed more than \$44,275 items to our communities. The previous weekend, November 12th and 13th, we distributed items in 13 different locations to 1,137 community members of all ages. That's another \$28,425 worth of donations.

But weekly serves weren't the only thing Charity Crossing was involved with in November. Our leads arranged their charity events along with our countless warehouse volunteers and members who sorted boxes at home. With the help of other leads, MOT Charter High School sophomore Sai Suram led a sock/clothing drive in over 10 locations across DE. Along with the clothing raised from the collection locations, companies pitched in to help too. Apparel company Bombas, who pledges to donate a pair of socks for every pair bought, donated 9,000 socks to our drive.

In a single month, Charity Crossing and our amazing volunteers, partners, and donors made incredible contributions to our communities. Although we set some remarkable records this month, we look forward to breaking these next month and in the new year. Thank you to each of our phenomenal volunteers, partners, and donors for their part in making November truly a month of giving! Happy holidays!.





On this Thanksgiving day, Charity Crossing thanks all its Volunteers, Donors, and Partners for their service to our community and Mother Nature.



# Serving Communities in Upper Darby, PA

By Praharshitha Nagraj

On Sunday, November 13th, Charity Crossing was fortunate to host a community giveaway in a new location in Upper Darby. The Apostolic Church Intl. Philly Assembly (71 N Macdade Blvd, Darby, PA 19023) held the serve from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Despite the freezing temperatures, we had numerous willing and excited volunteers from Charity Crossing and the Church eager to participate.

The Giveaway consisted of various things, including but not limited to clothing, hygiene products, toys, small household items, pet items, baby items, socks, and a plethora more. Seeing so many Christmas and holiday decorations and goods are given to highlight the holiday season was especially joyous.

Due to the new location, the word about the serve was not as known throughout the community. The traffic at the serve was slow at first, and we had many boxes that were disproportionate to the people arriving at the giveaway. It wasn't easy to notice how quickly all the items disappeared as time passed. From excited children grabbing as many toys as they can to individuals looking to gift themselves and their loved ones, the number of people arriving at the serve rapidly increased – as did the gratification and satisfaction of its volunteers.

We want to thank the Apostolic Church Intl. Philly Assembly for being so cooperative and helping us share this opportunity with their community. It was an incredibly productive and exciting experience that deserves to be had more than once.

We look forward to working with them again, and hopefully, we see more of you there!



## Volunteer Family Spotlight - Raghuma Kankanala

by Saatvik Kumar

Since joining Charity Crossing, mother and volunteer Raghuma and her daughters Aasritha and Aashraya have contributed much to the organization and community, being involved with numerous drives and initiatives throughout Delaware, including warehouse sorting, the Middletown/Smyrna serves, and the Glasgow Park serves. Despite their young age, daughters Aasritha and Aashraya have already contributed more than 200 hours of community service this year!

The family initially joined Charity Crossing in the summer of 2022, with the main motive of joining being to get involved in their community and improve their social skills. “[We wanted to] make friends and communicate effectively with everyone and get rid of the fear & shyness inside us, and at the same time help the people in need and serve the community in any way we can with our best efforts using this great platform. Thank you, Charity Crossing, for allowing us to serve the community and making us part of the organization’s great accomplishments.



Volunteering as a family engaged us to be closer together and helped my children to [gain] confidence to explore and learn many new things,” Raghuma says.

“We felt that we have been loved by the community we served when we see smiles on their faces and the blessings they showered on us,” the family says.



# Volunteer Family Spotlight - Raghuma

by Saatvik Kumar

Volunteering has allowed Raghuma and her daughters to positively impact the community. “We saved many people who are homeless and do not have basic needs and were able to build a good relationship with the community we served,” the family said. “[This] created an impact that this organization will stand first to serve them when in need in any best possible way.”

As they volunteer as a family, Raghuma says that she and her daughters have gotten closer through serving the community. “Volunteering as a family engaged us to be closer together and helped my children to [gain] confidence to explore and learn many new things,” Raghuma says. Other benefits the family says they have gotten from volunteering include increased self-confidence, communication skills, socialization skills, and positivity. In addition to these benefits, they also gained much satisfaction from serving the community. “We felt that we have been loved by the community we served when we see smiles on their faces and the blessings they showered on us,” the family says.

Looking forward to volunteering together in many more future events,” they said.



# Volunteer Spotlight - Sunil Chowdavarapu

by Sunil Chowdarapu

I, Sunil Chowdavarapu, work as VP-IT Sales as a professional and a Dad of 3 Kids. Since childhood, I have been passionate about helping and serving the community. I used to watch my grandfather & father helping the poor and serving the needy. They both played a major role in serving the community. They have been a great source of inspiration for me since then.

I have been associated with Charity Crossing since 2018. Since then, I have been an active volunteer in CC and a regular blood donor. Started volunteering at CC 1st location Front St, Warehouse lead, and now leading the Herlihy location. I wanted to inculcate the same in my children and ensure they are also responsible for serving back to the community. I thought CC would play a vital role in educating my kids about serving the community, and I am glad that is happening. We together serve at different locations and attend a few events. My kids participate in the CC-socks drive and regularly attend stocking for soldiers. Thanks to Charity Crossing for giving us a platform to serve and volunteer for the community.



My daughter has been inspired by GIVING and wrote the below quote, which has become my favorite:

Kindness gives Joy, Joy spreads Love. -  
Aashrita Chowdavarapu





# Volunteer Spotlight - Arun Daga

*by Arun Daga*

My name is Arun Daga. I work as Treasurer in Charity Crossing and also a Lead at one of the Location (Herlihy). The location we handle has got low income bracket community and it gives immense satisfaction to all of us who serve and support as we can help them and bring smiles to their faces.

As being a Treasurer it's an immense responsibility to make sure books are transparent, to make sure as an organization we don't fail in any of our financial commitments. I get a lot of support from Jay/Veni on it. I think it's very important help which I get from both Board of Directors.

Young kids, old women/men handicapped people all are part of the community we serve. They give so much blessings to all of us and all the volunteers of Charity Crossing. I would just say help to the extent possible with your family support and set a great example for your family and Friends.



# Volunteer Spotlight - Shravan Subramanian

*by Shravan Subramanian*

My name is Shravan Subramaniam, and I am a senior at Appoquinimink High School. I have been volunteering with Charity Crossing since middle school and have been a lead volunteer at MOT since its inception. Additionally, I was one of the main leads for the 2021 Charity Crossing Autism Acceptance 5K Walk. I am extremely passionate about volunteering and try to help out in my community wherever possible. I have made an impact by participating in multiple Glasgow Park Giveaways, helping in the New Castle Police Department Giveaways, and distributing food to local veteran centers and food pantries.

I am grateful to Charity Crossing for giving me this opportunity to improve many aspects of myself, from communication to leadership. My biggest accomplishment with Charity Crossing comes from how many people I have been able to help and the countless smiles I see every time.



# 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](https://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](mailto:info@charitycrossing.org)**

### MEET OUR TEAM!



Shriya R.  
Writer



Saatvik K.  
Writer



Rohan S.  
Writer



Aratrika G.  
Designer



Jay  
Muthukamatchi