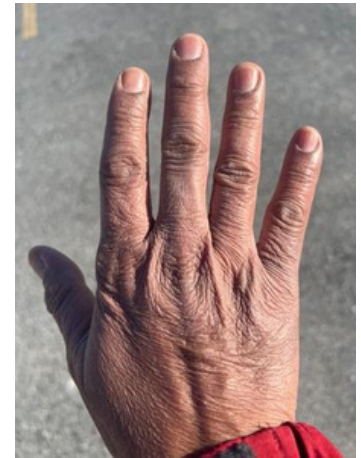


CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



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Experience a day in Winter without heat or warm clothes!

By Gopi Srini, Rahul Rathinam, and Anand Chandolu

Forget about a day; it is tough to stand outdoors for a couple of hours during the brutal and bone-chilling winter. Exposed body parts such as our face, neck, hand, feet, and head start feeling chill, and after a while, we experience frostbite; our skin gets cold, then numb and stiff, and pale. A case in point is the brutal winter weather we experienced around Christmas.

What was your experience venturing out during brutal winter weather?

While that is on your mind, let us think about the people experiencing homelessness and low-income families who are unable to afford to buy the must-have essentials to survive the brutal winter; they need at least 2-3 pairs of socks, a well-insulated winter jacket, scarves, gloves, hats, and good boots.

Hello
WINTER

Rosehill Serve on Christmas Day

By Gopi Srini



We had a winter storm on Dec 23, 24, and 25th; the temperatures dipped below 30 degrees; Charity Crossing had pre-planned Giveaways on Christmas, and we can't back out as people will be expecting rain or shine, hot or cold, CC will be there. We went ahead with the serve, and it was our last serve at Rose Hill in 2022.

It was bone-chilling weather, and many of our guests were already queued up and ready for the serve when we arrived to set it up. They have been waiting for almost half an hour in this bitter cold to get something to their family that may ease their burden financially. We served all the items from Clothes, Socks, Household items, Food, Pet Food, and Christmas items, to name a few, they were delighted, and the smiles on their face showed how much it meant to them.

At the end of serving the community during this bone-chilling cold, fellow volunteers and I felt numbness in our hands and feet; we were unable to feel them sense of numbness as they turned very stiff. We went to the car and switched on the heat; after a short while, we felt better. That experience made us think, what about those who can't afford a car or people experiencing homelessness? What will they do? How do they beat the winter weather day in and day out, year by year? It's unimaginable, and we don't know how they survive during the incremental weather year after year.

The best way as a community we can help them is by donating our fairly used winter jackets and warm clothes on an ongoing basis and supporting charity crossing by donating some funds, which will be very useful for the monthly expenses of running the organization. We wish all the community to come forward to help the poor and needy people. As charity crossing always operates in a highly effective way of serving the right needy throughout the year, even a small donation can have a surprisingly huge and large impact. It really make a big difference.



Front Street Serve on Christmas Day

By Rahul Rathinam



CC's (Charity Crossing) and PCI's (Premiere Charities Inc.) Front Street serve on Christmas Day was an example of the determination and perseverance of the volunteers. The weather was very frigid which ended in many volunteers with numb and freezing hands after the serve. But we still managed to make sure that the people who attended didn't leave without receiving a hot meal, clothes for winter, blankets, beverages, and etc.

The volunteers did a great job serving that day; they especially managed to come out on Christmas Day when they could have been with their family or loved ones, which is impressive. As our serve began, a PCI volunteer was kind enough to give us three boxes of gloves, scarves, and hats. That volunteer prepped bags with all 3 of those clothes, making it very easy to distribute. We could also give them to unfortunate people who needed these clothes for the winter season. All of those deeds from the volunteers show that they displayed determination and perseverance. As the serve went on, it was going very smoothly as many people were satisfied with what they got. Still, I remember one man telling us he appreciated us coming out and serving because he was an Amazon Warehouse Worker. He doesn't get to spend much time with his family and his kids anymore and getting clothes, jackets, and a blanket for his kids for Christmas made him very happy. As a CC volunteer, this made me very proud of CC for being able to help our communities and assist the homeless and impoverished.

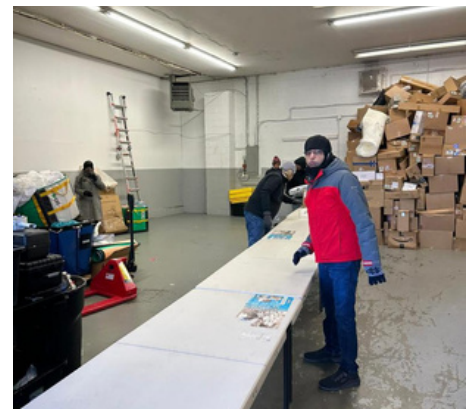


Receiving Truckload Donations on Christmas Eve

By Anand Chandolu

Charity Crossing, fondly we say CC has once again proved that we are Committed and Passionate about serving our Community. The weather was cold, with harsh, chilly & gusty winds. We had a 53' footer of donations from Amazon, which we were neither expecting nor prepared for as it was Christmas eve, and most of our volunteers were either out of town or spending the holidays with family and friends. We had to scramble for volunteers to unload the donations, and just a handful of volunteers were available to help us. Now coming to receiving the donations, we have always been accommodating to get donations, so we did not want to lose the chance of receiving the donations. Hence we decided to go ahead with the handful of volunteers we had to unload.

There was about 30 mins delay for the truck to arrive, and miracles do happen when you least expect it. So when finally the truck arrived, guess what? We had about 15 volunteers show up to help us. This instance tells our volunteers are ready to help with the slightest opportunity and prove that we are genuinely committed to Charity. We distributed these donations at a few of our serve locations. So definitely, we were able to fill some warmth in a few families' homes for this Christmas. As always, Kudos to all the volunteers who showed up in the harsh weather to unload and clean up the warehouse.



Donor Spotlight: GOOD360

By Melissa Skabich, PCE Communications

Charity Crossing partners with Good360, the global leader in product philanthropy and purposeful giving, to distribute essential items to needy people. Good360 closely aligns with Charity Crossing's eco-friendly mission, and in 2022 the organization extended the useful lives of more than 11,000 truckloads of goods, ensuring that more than 175 million pounds of essential items didn't end up in landfills.

Good360's mission is to close the need gap. The organization partners with some of the world's largest corporations to source essential goods and distribute them through their network of diverse nonprofits, supporting people in need to open opportunities for all. As these needs are being felt acutely around the world, socially responsible companies with an abundance of goods are looking for a better way to give back. That's where Good360 comes in. Corporate partners donate a wide range of new or like-new items, including housewares, hygiene products, shoes, and toys, and Good360's network of more than 100,000 vetted nonprofits to get access to goods they can distribute on behalf of their communities, allowing people in need to reach their full potential.

Charity Crossing (CC) has sourced products from Good360 corporate donors, including household items, toys, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene products. These items have been distributed to many thousands of families. In 2017 CC received its first set of donations, which helped a few hundred families. Our relationship started to grow. In 2022, we received nearly 50 truckloads of donations from Good360, which CC distributed to 10,000 families.

In 2022, Good360 distributed more than \$2 billion in essential items to 22 million people in need. With a milestone anniversary on the horizon, 2023 marks 40 years of closing the need gap, reinforcing Good360's decades-long commitment to bridging the ever-widening gap between those with plenty and those without enough to get by.

For more information about Good360, visit www.good360.org.

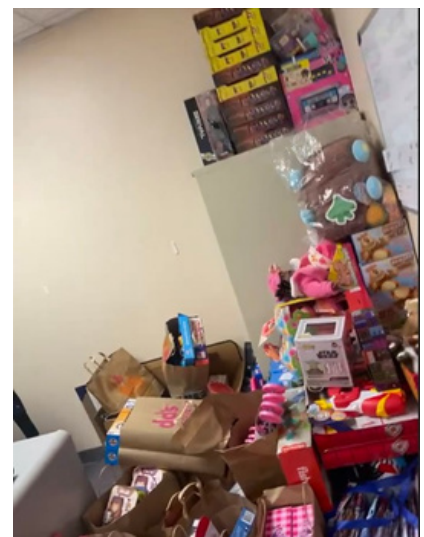


What a powerful way to end the year!

By Alia Grier, Community Partner Support Unit Supervisor, DHSS, Northeast service center

Such an amazing event I had to share. What a powerful way to end the year.

De'Andrea Bibbs, and Arbellar "Shay" Walker (N.E.S.S.C/C.P.S.U. ASSIST Team) held a Toy Drive on 12/23 at The Hope Commission in Wilmington in which over 238 people attended, and countless children were able to receive toys. Each community member who attended was able to fill up a bag/box with small household items, receive one large household item, and 3 toys from the toy room. \$50 gift cards were also given out as prizes. They coordinated this entire event and put in the work to make this happen. It was showing how collaboration and teamwork can create successful movements. Their leadership, organization, teamwork, and work ethic made this event one of the largest toy drives in the 19802 area. During this past month, I have seen these ladies connect with partners in the area to ensure clients' needs are met. I have also listed other events that have been successful with their coordination. Their turnouts are always in the hundreds. People trust this process and it shows. This is what CPSU is all about, and I appreciate their services to our agency.



Special thanks to the following partners:

- Corie Priest, from the attorney general's office, has made an impact with his Community Engagement events. Through him, we were able to connect with the other partners that made this possible. Mr. Priest has been guiding us in the right direction to make effective relationships, and it has been awesome! I look forward to relationships growing in 2023.
- T.E.A.M: (Grandville Brown, Roger Gordon) Thanks for sponsoring part of the toy drive, and allowing us to utilize your building to provide services and resources. Your team was right there with us every step of the way. The services you provide will continue to be beneficial to our organization and community. Excited to be connected to you, and we look forward to building our relationship.
- Charity Crossing: donated thousands of toys, household items, and gifts.
- DSS: Porter CPSU donated over 100+ toys toward the toy drive on 12/23/2022. April Johnson, Chief of personnel & Supervisor Jennifer A. Harris attended the events and helped us distribute the items. Gatefred Wayde Bivens donated handmade gift baskets to give away as a raffle to customers as they waited in line.
- Henrietta Johnson: was there to provide dental and medical resources to the community.
- Stephanie Bolden: State Representative stopped by to Volunteer
- HOPE Commission: Dr. Debra Mason & her Executive Director Darius Brown opened the doors for us to use their building even though they were closed. The HOPE Commission team took it a step further and donated a room full of toys.

Much Thanks and appreciation to you all. Aunyea was a community member there passing out socks, hats and gloves to keep everyone warm, along with a host of others who came out in person or through donations. The overwhelming amount of support from partners was amazing! The community and I thank you. Please take a moment to check out some pictures and video of the event and team.

Also, Charity Crossing held giveaway events in Dover and Milford in partnership with the DHSS team led by Tina Gary and her team.

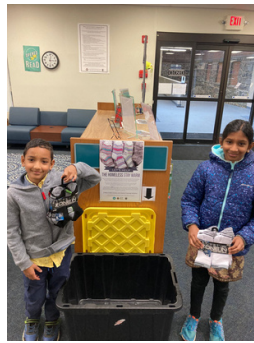


2022 Accomplishments

By Rohan Sivva, Saatvik Kumar, and Jay Muthukamatchi

During this past year, Charity Crossing has been able to help tens of thousands of families, donate millions of dollars, and serve multiple communities across four states through 14 serve locations. This year, we've received and donated over 50 truckloads of items, or at least One Million dollars worth of items. We accomplished unbelievable achievements and set higher records for the organization, including a record high of 411 people served in one day at the Canaan Baptist Church, and a record high of 1,137 people served in a single week. Our 325+ volunteers worked hard, giving over 19,000 hours to help the community. Not only this but CC has been nominated for multiple service awards, including the Governor's Service Award and well over 100 PVSA awards.

A huge thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for making these feats possible this year! 2022 was a great year for CC, and we shattered many records. Another huge thank you to the various outside organizations who helped us along this journey, donating items and making all of this possible for CC! In 2023, we hope to set even greater records than this year, growing CC's accomplishments even further and helping more people in our community. Happy New Year to all our gracious volunteers and our community, and here's to our growth and an even greater year in 2023!



Glasgow Park Holiday Event

By Jeshen Kannan

During the month of December, CC volunteers, in cooperation with the New Castle County Parks & Recreation Department, helped run the annual Holiday Celebration and Market at Glasgow Park. Prior to the event dates, CC members helped to decorate the location where the event was being held. On Friday and Saturday, December 9th and 10th, volunteers helped by manning the arts and crafts tent, giving out cookies at the refreshments table, and doing henna. Even in the freezing weather, they stayed from 4:30 to 8:00 to help with the event.

In the craft tent, volunteers helped kids and their families make paper cards and paper plate trees. At the refreshment table, they handed out five different types of cookies to the attendees and volunteers. Those on decorating duty helped by decorating wreaths, stringing up lights, decorating a Christmas tree, and much, much more. Even when problems arised, like other volunteers leaving their posts, CC volunteers adapted to make sure the event would be a success. Thank you to all the volunteers who spent their days and/or nights helping out and thank you to the NCC Parks & Recreation Department for allowing CC to help with this amazing event!



Volunteer Spotlight- Saroja and Samhitha Vallury

By Saroja and Samhitha Vallury

Both Saroja and Samhitha Vallury joined Charity Crossing in June of 2021. "I joined Charity Crossing last year and since then, it has never failed to inspire me in the work it does to serve others"- Samhitha Vallury.

My experience in Charity Crossing so far has been multi-faceted. I have taken part in helping with various responsibilities of the organization, which include warehouse sorting, and assisting at different serve locations, and helping distributing goods. This work may be difficult sometimes due to the amount of time dedicated to it, the weather and the strenuous activity it can entail. However seeing people have the opportunity to access the items they need is incredibly rewarding. The smiles on their faces and their gratitude is all the evidence I need to know the immense impact Charity Crossing makes.

We have served at various locations such as Rose Hill, MOT, Wilmington and Perryville, including several holiday/school supplies Giveaway events, contributing to approximately 250 hours. Volunteering as a family helped us build stronger bonds while learning the value of doing good for our communities

Volunteering with CC, increased my awareness of prevalent issues in our community, inspiring me to continue these efforts both personally and professionally in the future .

"Charity Crossing truly benefits people, and it's been amazing being a part of that"



Volunteer Spotlight: Rahima Tukur, Amira & Hanan Mohammed

By Takur Family

The notion of “charity begins at home” was instilled in me at a very young age. I have always desired to pass on this concept to my children. Upon expressing my desire for my daughters and me to be involved in active community outreach to a friend, we were introduced to Charity Crossing in the summer of 2022, which led to my family and I joining Charity Crossing.

Our mission and motive are to serve while living out our passion for volunteering and helping to make a difference in the lives of people in our community. From the onset, it has been a tremendous joy to serve in numerous Charity Crossing drives and initiatives such as Rose Hill Community Center (RHCC), Glasgow Park, Warehouse Sorting, Autism Walk, Stockings for Soldiers, and much More.



Through Charity Crossing, we have made many kind and caring friends and learned more about volunteering. My children have learned valuable skills and gained more confidence in every aspect. Volunteering as a family is entertaining and provides extra bonding time while working as a team.

My daughters, Amira and Hanan, have had a great time as part of Charity Crossing. Amira, 11 years old, says, "I have had an amazing time and experience! I love seeing how the organization helps people in need. I am proud and excited that I am a part of this organization because I love to help people in need." Hanan, 13 years old, says, "We have had an enriching experience with Charity Crossing. Helping out in the community is a very fulfilling experience, and we enjoy actively participating. The joyful reactions we get from guests, and people we support inspire us always to want to volunteer more. Charity Crossing has given us an opportunity to make many people happy at the same time as being a fun-filled experience for us as a family!"

When not volunteering, we enjoy cooking, traveling, decorating, dancing, gymnastics, swimming, coding, and arts and crafts as a family. As a mom, I encourage and teach the kids to be kind, loving, hardworking, and fully engaged in whatever opportunities come their way. Thus far, my daughters and I have combined over 350 hours of community service. The most important aspect is that we love what we are doing. We always look forward to the weekly serve and making a positive difference in our community. It brings us so much joy and happiness to see the guests walk away full of smiles with all the donations they receive.

We all thank Charity Crossing for giving us an opportunity to serve our community. We look forward to doing more volunteering with Charity Crossing as we carry on our aspiration of making a difference in our community!



Volunteer Spotlight - Venky Udayavar

By Sachin Shyamsundar

“The work an unknown man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green.” - Thomas Carlyle

This is Mr. Venky Udayavar, and he is the face of Charity Crossing in the NJ Chapter. He has contributed so much to Charity Crossing, and he goes out of his way to help people in need, and he is ably supported by his wife and children. He is a very humble, compassionate, and very understanding person. While having a very busy work schedule, he reaches his arms out to the people who are underprivileged, or underserved. He executes and organizes donation drives and charity drives for the New Jersey Community.

You can see Mr. Venky helping out people in need every Saturday and Sunday. He understands the suffering and hardships people are going through, and he goes out of his way to help others by giving food, and donations. Many of these donations and drives wouldn't be possible without the help from Mr. Venky. His invaluable contributions are a source of inspiration to many adults and youth.

Here's what the members of Charity Crossing have said about Mr. Venky:



MEMBERS OF CHARITY CROSSING NJ

“Venky has been heading the Charity Crossing events with us from the New Jersey location. Really appreciate his true dedication and perseverance. Always active, ready to serve the community, and passionate about what's Next? Thank you, Venky, for your leadership and commitment! Perhaps you are the greatest example of perseverance in the NJ Charity Crossing group”. - Arti

“Motivating, organizing, and pulling together folks to serve the community when people already have a busy schedule with work, home, and kids is not an easy task. And to do it regularly with the same enthusiasm requires true leadership. We are very proud to have Venky lead our NJ charity drive. Thank you very much, Venky. We are with you”. Mani



December Highlights

By Jeshen Kannan

Even with the harsh weather conditions, CC volunteers upheld their commitments to serve their communities throughout the month of December. On Christmas Eve, in freezing and windy temperatures, our amazing volunteers worked to unload boxes at the warehouse. They unloaded 24 pallets in frigid weather. On December 10th and 11th, our volunteers went above and beyond to help their communities. After we received 3 truckloads of donations delivered to the warehouse, some of our volunteers stayed for 9 hours nonstop on both days to help unload the boxes and move the donations safely into the warehouse. On December 29th, volunteers in Malvern, PA helped 50 to 60 people and gave out 11 boxes of donations in a single hour. On December 23, Charity Crossing, in partnership with Hope Commission, T.E.A.M., and D.H.S.S., helped with a community giveaway at the Hope Commission. Everyone was excited to receive the toys, Christmas gifts, home supplies, and food.

Some of this month's highlights include donating a stroller to a family with a four-month-old baby so their child could stay comfortable during the stormy December day, giving items to a woman who had recently moved into a shelter and needed things like clothes, donating items to seniors so they could have an amazing Christmas, and having a volunteer dressed as Santa during a weekly serve. During the final month of 2022, our volunteers made huge impacts in their communities. Thank you to each and every one of our amazing volunteers, partners, and donors for their help in keeping the spirit of giving throughout the month! Let's continue this spirit during the new year!



CC Quotes

By Jeshen Kannan

“Having such diverse, passionate, and committed volunteers is the core strength of Charity Crossing. They go [to] great lengths to serve our community and the environment.”

“We are doing our bit to protect the environment for our future generations. This is possible because of YOUR passion and commitment to help. Thank You.”

“Every day I see the power of positive energy in the universe. Whenever CC needs help[,] the positive energy in the universe extends its support.”

“The kind of positive impact [you] are bringing to society is just beyond words.”

“Every single volunteer is essential ... I am always in awe at the level of dedication of all the volunteers ... These blessings to those in our community would not be a reality without volunteers willing to donate their time.”

“Another amazing day and many families served by all of your amazing volunteers.”

“We are grateful to CC for the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.”

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Educating the Heart

By Jay Muthukamatchi

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

— Aristotle
www.facebook.com/olpoets



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



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!



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