### VOL. 13



The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



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### MLK Day, Day of Service at CC

By: Saatvik Kumar - 10th grader at MOT Charter High School Suma Gudipati

On January 16th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we had a great serve at Glasgow Park. The event was during the cold winter weather, but that didn't stop people from showing up. We donated many essentials such as household items, hygiene products, toys, warm clothing, perishable food, and party items for people. We were able to serve 200+ families.

The outpour of support from our community was heartwarming. It was amazing to see so many people come together to make a difference in the lives of those in need, despite the harsh weather conditions. The event went smoothly, and we ensured everyone was safe and comfortable during the cold weather. That event reinforced a belief in the power of community and the impact that small actions can have on the lives of others. A special thanks to the youth volunteers.

Great work, and keep rocking. Thank you to everyone who made this event a successful one!

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### **Volunteer and Partner Appreciation Day**

By Bala Krishnaraj and Jay Muthukamatchi



# CHARITY CROSSING

VOLUNTEER, DONOR, AND PARTNER APPRECIATION EVENT



### MARCH 4, 2023 - 4PM TO 8 PM NUR SHRINE 198 S DUPONT HWY | NEW CASTLE, DE 19720

On behalf of the Charity Crossing's board, we are excited and happy to invite you to our 2023 Volunteer, Donor, and Partner Appreciation Event. The event celebrates more than 350 volunteers who have given a collective of 19,450 hours to the community. We expect various local, state, and corporate leaders to attend and give away PVSA medals to more than 102 recipients.

### Purchase Tickets Here: https://charitycrossing.org/event/20230304/

# Suggested Minimum contribution to cover the event expenses:

- Volunteers Only No Dinner \$10
- Volunteers Only With Dinner \$20
- Friends & Family With Dinner \$40
- Sponsors 5 tickets with Dinner \$500

## Please indicate your meal preference when purchasing ticket(s):

- No Dinner
- Vegetarian Dinner
- Non-Vegetarian Dinner
- (Dinner will be served after the event.)

Event Check-in starts at 3:30 pm

Event will start sharply at 5:00 pm

Charity Crossing will provide Snacks, tea, and water. Charity Crossing will sell CC's T-Shirts, bags, and Jackets to raise funds.

Support us at: paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1550840

### Meet our Angel Volunteers who refuse to sit at home during an Arctic Blast

By Jay Muthukamatchi

When CC's Angel volunteers arrived at the warehouse, the temperature was 19 degrees. We had an Arctic blast. It was very cold. Our hands, feet, and face felt it. That didn't bother these angels. They had one goal: to serve the community. Everyone was at their best from 9 am to 6 pm. Please watch the videos in this post. The youngest Angel is 7 and the oldest Angel is 74.

Our Angels distributed over 100 chairs to community members. . We will give 25 more chairs tomorrow. Our Angels unloaded 72 pallets of donations. We have enough donations for the next few weeks to help our community.

















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### Amazing Youth Volunteers Get Going At 6 A.M. On A Saturday

#### By Jay Muthukamatchi

It was a Saturday morning. It was 32 degrees. These youth volunteers, age six and up, woke up early morning, probably around 6 am, got ready, and reported to serve the community at 7:45 am. They happily volunteered and served 120 community members for the next four hours. So proud of these youth volunteers for their passion and commitment to helping the community.

Apologies for missing out on a few volunteers.

Here are testimonials from community members say about these Amazing Youth Volunteers:

- Rahima said, "Well done to our youth volunteers. They're doing an outstanding job!"
- Lupita said, "These kids. Damn, they put us all to shame. Maybe it's because I can't think of many things motivating me to wake up SUPER early on the weekend and serve at FREEZING temperatures. And volunteering is my thing, right? I don't think my parents could have motivated- forced me, or bribed me enough to do what these kiddos do on a regular base voluntarily. Maybe I am just so impressed and so excited at the idea of what they will be able to accomplish as adults, given the level of motivation, love, and discipline that they already have at this age. Just blown away. I applaud their parents for being excellent teachers and role models cause that's where it starts, and I hope that as my kiddos get older, they have a little of what these kids are already demonstrating. So inspired. So appreciative. Just WOW!!! Keep up the amazing work, Charity Crossing. You guys are sincerely changing so many lives."
- Tina Said, "I have experienced firsthand the ongoing work of Charity Crossing youth volunteers. Their generous energy and time contributed to this volunteer work is incredible. Their spirits are uplifting, and I admire their enthusiasm. Great job leading these youth Jay and his team. Can't wait to see you all again."
- Yogesh said, "super."
- த.பாலகிருட்டிணன் said, "வாழ்த்துக்கள். இளைய சமுதாயமே..."
- Jeany said, "Amazing young people smiling too!"

Paul said, "Teaching them young guarantees a lifetime of service. Well done."



### **Remember Sri**

By Sachin Shyamsundar

Some of you in Charity Crossing may remember Sri. In January 2021, Sri donated his cute piggy bank savings consisting of coins valuing \$100. He was five years old at that time, and he still sits in the Charity Crossing organization.

Sri turned seven this year, and his parents count the money he has saved in his piggy bank.

On his birthday, his parents asked Sri what he wanted to do with piggy bank money he had saved up. Sri wanted to donate \$100 to our Charity Crossing organization. His parents donated his \$100 to Charity Crossing, and they were so proud of Sri's generous heart, and for having such an inspirational quality in him. Thank You Sri, we are proud of you.





### Volunteer Spotlight: Priyanshu Kumar

By Sachin Shyamsundar

This is Priyanshu Kumar, he is a middle school student at Montgomery Upper Middle Schooland and he is a part of the Charity Crossing Organization in the New Jersey Chapter. Priyanshu has participated and contributed so much to the Charity Crossing Organization. He has been a part in many Charity Drives, and has given \$100 to the Charity Crossing Organization with the help of his classmates from school.





""My school name is Montgomery Upper Middle School or UMS for short. Me and 4 of my friends collected money for the Charity Crossing. The people names were Krish, Carter, Vincent, and Shaurya so in total there five people participating including me. All five of us combined spent eight hours. Carter and Krish spend six house on it, and Shaurya and Vincent spent two hours. We collected about \$53 dollars, and my dad donated the rest to make it \$100. Ethan donated the most amount money which was \$20"- Priyanshu Kumar



### **MOT Serve**

#### By Aratrika Ghosh

Each Sunday Charity Crossing has many serves at different locations throughout Delaware to help the underserved population with household, pet, kids, and clothing items. This Sunday at the Trinity AME Church we brought 8 boxes which were sorted at home which included many necessary and useful products to help the community. 50+ people showed up in a matter of 10 minutes, it was wonderful to see the smiles on everyone's faces: volunteers and recipients both. Not only are our volunteers ready to help and serve but the members of the church go above to beyond to help out in any way they can. Despite the gloomy weather everyone was in a cheerful mood, there were kids from ages 1-10 that were so surprised and happy to see many toys and craft items. The serve ended in a success and most of the items and products we brought were gone. Our volunteers at CC go above and beyond to ensure every person receives donations. As a CC volunteer it makes me feel happy and honored to serve the community in a beneficial manner.









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### **Sock Drive**

By Sai Harshith and Jay Muthukamatchi

In the Winter of 2022-23, Charity Crossing successfully completed its socks drive. With the help of the New Castle County Center of Recreational service, NCC Libraries, and the leadership team, the drive collected 1,392 items to distribute to those who needed them most. The reason Charity Crossing started Socks Drive is to be able to provide warmth and happiness to everyone during the winter. Since the inception of the socks drive, we have collected and distributed about 49,892 socks. But, we are giving people more than just socks; these socks are a means to provide them with a sense of reassurance that they can stay warm in the winter. We hope to continue putting smiles on people's faces.

This is our fourth socks drive. We thank our partners, hundreds of donors, and 24 Charity Crossing volunteers for supporting this initiative.











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### **CC Youth Spotlights**

By Jeshen Kannan 9th Grade - The Charter School of Wilmington

#### Ruchi Daga:

Cab Calloway School of the Arts 8th grader Ruchi Daga has been an avid Charity Crossing volunteer since joining the organization 2-3 years ago. In 2022, Ruchi earned more than 100 volunteer hours by volunteering every Sunday with her dad and sister at the Herlihy Serve. She also sorted boxes at home after her mom picked them up from the warehouse. At this year's Volunteer Appreciation Event, Ruchi will be honored with the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award. About volunteering, Ruchi has said "Charity Crossing has taught me many valuable lessons ... [that volunteering is] just as important to me as it is to them ... I do it for the [effect] it has on the community and how it truly helps everyone out."





#### Suhas Gudipati:

Only a sophomore, Suhas Gudipati from MOT Charter High School is another one of Charity Crossing incredible youth volunteers. Through his weekly work at the Smyrna Serve, consistent volunteering at the Glasgow Serve, and help with loading the U-Haul truck at the warehouse with items for the Glasgow Serve, Suhas earned around 120 volunteer hours in just 2022. Suhas has been volunteering with his mom and brother since he joined CC in April of 2022. His mom also has around 120 hours and his brother has more than 80 hours. At the upcoming CC Volunteer Appreciation Event, Suhas will be honored on-stage with the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award. Suhas volunteers because he believes "happiness doesn't [just] come from the things we get ... it also comes from the things we give."

### **CC Youth Spotlights**

By Jeshen Kannan 9th Grade - The Charter School of Wilmington

#### Manushri Gupta:



Manushri Gupta, a junior at MOT Charter High School, is just one of CC's many committed teen volunteers. After joining CC in June of 2022, Manushri earned roughly 100 volunteer hours before the end of the year. Helping with the Trinity AME (MOT) Serve and shifts at the warehouse, she and her friends/fellow volunteers made big differences in their community. In addition to being one of the MCs for the upcoming Charity Crossing Volunteer Appreciation Event, Manushri will be recognized with a Gold President's Volunteer Service Award at the event. When asked, Manushri said that "I enjoy volunteering because I get to help the community and meet new people."

#### Sahithi Immadi:

A newer member of Charity Crossing, Sahithi Immadi, a freshman at MOT Charter High School, is already another one of CC's amazing youth volunteers. Even though she joined the organization in January of 2023, Sahithi already has about 10 hours of volunteering under her belt. For now she does Saturday work at the warehouse, but she'll start volunteering at events like the MOT Serve in the near future. Through her experiences volunteering with her parents and sister so far, Sahithi realized that "Charity Crossing is going to be a great help to me in many ways. First, Charity Crossing will help me gain more communication skills when working with other people. Second, Charity Crossing will help me in ways like learning practical skills like managing my time and work. Finally, Charity Crossing is helping me save my society and environment by initiating several donations and drives. It's nice that we support so many areas."



### **CC Youth Spotlights**

By Jeshen Kannan 9th Grade - The Charter School of Wilmington

#### Akash Kathiravan:

One of the members of the famous "Charity Crossing Trio," Akash Kathiravan, an MOT Charter High School sophomore, has been one of CC's most enthusiastic volunteers since he joined the organization in mid-August of 2022. Akash volunteered for a total of 100.5 hours last year through his summer work at the warehouse and weekend serves during the school year, earning himself the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award. From CC, Akash has learned that "The more you give, the more you'll receive." He says that "Charity [C]rossing has given me the opportunity to experience warehouse [management]" and that he "volunteer[s] to get the opportunity to help people in need and ... make a change in the community [he] reside[s] in."





#### Hanan Mohammed:

8th grader Hanan Mohammed of Odyssey Charter has been volunteering with Charity Crossing since April of 2022. Hanan and her mother and sister are dedicated CC volunteers and volunteer at the warehouse and Glasgow Park events whenever they can. They also volunteer at the Rose Hill Serve almost every weekend. Hanan earned more than 120 hours of volunteer work in 2022. Hanan said "I've had an amazing experience volunteering with Charity Crossing. I love helping out the community and people in need. Being part of the CC community, I have learnt how to always help people who need it. My family and I volunteer to help out the community. It's the right thing to do. Being a volunteer [for Charity Crossing] has made a great impact on my life and I will always continue to volunteer."

### **CC Youth Spotlights**

By Jeshen Kannan 9th Grade - The Charter School of Wilmington

#### Abhinav Penaganti:



#### **Glenn Xavier:**

Charity Crossing's Glenn Xavier, a sophomore at North Penn High School, started volunteering at CC with his parents in December of 2021. Last year, he helped with the Sock Drive in the winter, the PACS Serve in the summer, and helped CC as a Youth Lead for the 2022 Autism Walk. In 2022, Glenn contributed 76 hours of volunteering to CC and qualified for the Silver President's Volunteer Service Award. Glenn says that "thanks to Charity Crossing, I feel that I am doing my part in helping the least advantaged people of our society. I like to do what I can to alleviate people's problems, so I volunteer here." One of three friends, MOT Charter High School sophomores, and Charity Crossing volunteers, Abhinav Penaganti started volunteering with the rest of the trio in August 2022. During the year, he worked at the warehouse on Saturdays and at the Glasgow location whenever he could. Abhinav contributed around 130 hours to CC in 2022 and his efforts earned him the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award. Although he hasn't volunteered with CC recently because of his busy schedule between school and afterschool activities, Abhinav plans to volunteer more with CC in the coming months and over the summer. Abhinav volunteers with CC because "helping the community out and making people happy brings [him] joy."



### **CC Youth Spotlights** By Jeshen Kannan

9th Grade - The Charter School of Wilmington

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHARITY CROSSING AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITIES!



### Volunteer Spotlight: Barani Radhakrishnan

By Barani Radhakrishnan

Hello, my name is Baranidharan Radakrishnan but I also go by Officer Barani. I am from Chennai, India, and I moved to Dallas, Texas, then moved to Delaware, where I now work at a financial institute.

I live with my wife and two daughters and enjoy volunteering, playing volleyball or cricket, and watching Tamil movies. I have been a part of Charity Crossing for several years and have become very passionate about helping others.

I started my volunteer work with Special Olympics and a hospice along with my daughters to connect with others in need. After discovering Charity Crossing and volunteering here for a couple of months, I loved connecting with those I was helping and building relationships with my peers.





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### Volunteer Spotlight: Mani Ashok Kumar Family

By Sachin Shyamsundar

MManikandan Ashok Kumar (Fondly known as "Mani") lives in the quiet neighborhood of Belle Mead, NJ along with his wife Arti Mudaliar and daughter Hamsini Manikandan with a busy schedule for all 3 of them and barely gets together for a family dinner and struggle for few hours of togetherness during the weekends. However, when they heard about the start of Charity Crossing NJ Chapter, they immediately jumped on to support the efforts of CC and the community/neighborhood - and has always been there when the community needs them.



Mani family is been an integral part of CC NJ events and activities right from day 1 and has driven to the Delaware Warehouse in the early days to get the donations to NJ Along with other volunteers The entire family has taken part in many charity drives, unloading boxes, and driving far distances to pick up and drop donations at various locations in short notices. In addition to his unconditional support, he also discussed Charity Crossing with their neighbor and arranged a new serving location at AME Zion Church in Trenton, NJ where we continuously serve every 2nd Sunday and distribute donations to 50-60 families. Over and above they also generously donate and help us get matching contributions from their employers.

Here is what Mani and his family have to say about the organization:

"Charity Crossing is a marvelous organization that helps the less fortunate. We joined Charity Crossing last summer, about 6 months ago with some of our family friends. My family and I are glad to be part of it. It brings us great joy that we brought sparkling eyes and smiles on people's faces by this small yet impactful action" - Mani, Arti, and Hamsini.

All the best to Mani Family and thanks for serving the community!!

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### Volunteer Spotlight: Sumalata Gudipati & Family

By Sumalata Gudipati

We Joined Charity Crossing in May 2022. We were hoping to uphold our duty as a citizen by serving the community, making a difference in the lives of people in need, and bringing a smile to their faces. After joining Charity crossing, we have served thousands of people. The impact we made after joining Charity Crossing is raising Awareness about the Charity Crossing Organization and its mission which can help to motivate more volunteers and other supporters for the well-being of society and by helping those in need as a volunteer of Charity Crossing. Volunteering as a Family enabled us to understand the importance of Unity and a Sense of fulfillment and Satisfaction in our hearts.



Had a wonderful opportunity to Serve in Various Charity Crossing drives and initiatives such as Smyrna CommunityCentre, Glasgow Park event, Warehouse sorting, and NCCPD drives. Serving at different events or locations was a good experience for us as volunteers because it taught us humility and created a sense of positivity and understanding for future endeavors which can improve our organization's well-being and serve for the betterment of our community. Had a wonderful experience as a volunteer serving the community and interacting with various people we served, which solidified us as a pillar of our community.

For the community, We, the Volunteers, provide valuable services and support by helping to assist community events and providing support to vulnerable members of the community. For the volunteer, Volunteering can be a way to give back to the community, meet new people and develop new skills. It can also be a way to get a sense of purpose and fulfillment and to feel a sense of belonging. Overall, volunteering can be a positive experience for both the community and the volunteer and can help to build stronger, more resilient communities.

Volunteers must be dependable. Be respectful of the people you are serving and the organization you are working with, and always be open-minded and willing to learn about the issues and people you are working with. Always be flexible and adaptable to help in different ways as needed. Learn to be positive and enthusiastic; Your attitude can make a difference in your work.

Charity Crossing's work is not only about giving and learning but also a way of learning and growing. Happy to be a part of the Charity Crossing Organization.

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### Volunteer Spotlight: Deepa Ponniah & Family

By Deepa Ponniah

#### "Kindness is the one of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon another" - Katharine Hepburn

"My name is Deepa Ponniah; I am a working mom with two kids Ashwant, who's in 10th grade, and Anoushka Rajesh, who's in 7th. My husband Rajesh and I have always thought of instilling giving back to the community in our kid's minds. We were introduced to Charity Crossing in 2020, and since then, we have been part of several initiatives like co-leading the community serves at PACS & ICH. We have also helped with sorting at the warehouse, Stocking for soldier's initiative, and more.



The smile on the face of families receiving donations has always brought a sense of accomplishment to our minds. They never expected a small deed could bring so much happiness to others. Volunteering at Charity Crossing has taught them several values like kindness and empathy and gained much more self-confidence. Volunteering as a family also allows us to bond and work together as a team.

Charity Crossing has also helped us make wonderful friends, and serving with them has brought us more happiness. I would like to thank Charity Crossing for making such a huge impact in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania communities. Of course, this is not possible without the help of donors, and I would also like to thank them, which have helped Charity Crossing in running the serve successfully.

### **CC Quotes**

By Jeshen Kannan 9th Grade - The Charter School of Wilmington

"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."

### **Educating the Heart**

By Jay Muthukamatchi

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

Aristotle

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 Veni Jayakumar, Vaishali Ameen, Chandra Dontaraju

### **POINT App**

Charity Crossing uses POINT App to publish Volunteer events and track volunteer service hours. It is a One-Stop shop. Registering, signing up for events, and tracking your service hours are convenient.

Please watch this short intro video to familiarize yourself with this POINT App: https://youtu.be/vbBoy5Fdv4E

### Helpful Tips:

1. Download the app at pointapp.org, the App Store, or Google Play.

- From the desktop, go to: http://app.pointapp.org/
- 2. Create a new account using your home EMAIL ID

3. Enter all the necessary information. You must enter your Full name, email id, phone, and city. DOB will help when ordering medals and certificates. The address is optional but suggested to enter.

4. Follow causes that you care about. Aka-what do you want to get involved in? Think: ending homelessness, tackling climate change, helping animals, etc.

5. Choose Charity Crossing as your Organization to view CC events.

6. Sign up for events. Find a CC event and sign up by tapping "GO."

If you need help, please reach out to Vaishali Ameen or Chandra Dontaraju. Hope you will enjoy using this new platform.

### Important Disclosures:

1. A parent or guardian must accompany all minor volunteers.

2. Service hours are calculated as follows: actual service hours plus travel hours (travel hours should not exceed 1 hour).

3. You may be eligible for Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Check eligibility criteria here https://presidentialserviceawards.gov/eligibility

Happy Volunteering!!!

### 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 dollarsfor-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

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