

# CC MONTHLY

*The official newsletter of Charity Crossing*



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## Community Joins Hands To Help

By Jay Muthukamatchi

America, the beautiful. Its beauty and strength were on display today. Today we were in a difficult situation. We had to unload 1500 boxes from the truck and store them in the warehouse. The community stepped in to help. And we did it. Some of us worked 11 hours today. It was a tiring day, but everyone walked away happy, knowing they did their best to help their community and environment. We made many new friends from different countries (India, Nigeria, Mexico, America, and more). Most of us spoke different languages. A few did not speak English at all. We still managed to communicate and complete our task.

Charity Crossing thanks all of them for their support.



# The Spirit of Charity Crossing

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, The Charter School of Wilmington

One of Charity Crossing’s primary missions is to “promote volunteerism, giving, and a sense of community.” In the seven years the organization has existed, hundreds of volunteers, ranging from kids to senior citizens, have discovered a love for volunteering and helping their communities. But one specific member of CC’s youth stands out, not only for the countless hours spent contributing to the many initiatives and events CC runs but also for his endless enthusiasm and commitment to the organization from the start. Although he is only a kid, he has levels of respect, responsibility, dedication, and enthusiasm that represent the spirit of Charity Crossing. The extraordinary volunteer: 13-year-old Sid Sharma from Alfred G. Waters Middle School in Middletown, DE.

Siddharth “Sid” Sharma has been one of CC’s most involved youth volunteers since he joined the organization three years ago. Sid has spent about 350 hours volunteering to help his community with CC in that short time. In 2022, Sid volunteered for 111 hours and qualified to receive the Gold President’s Volunteer Service Award. Sid will be presented his award for exceptional community service on the stage at the annual Charity Crossing Volunteer Appreciation Event on March 4, 2023. In addition to receiving the award, Sid is a member of the team running the Pre-MC show and one of the youths singing “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the event.



To help CC, Sid volunteers at the warehouse on Albe Drive every weekend, always for multiple shifts. He is also a member of his school’s NJHS chapter and drama club. For the 2023 Autism Awareness Walk, he will be one of three co-leads for the Delaware event. Whether it’s his eagerness to lend a hand or his passion for connecting with his community, the sheer amount of effort Sid has put into Charity Crossing is unmatched by most people his age. A devoted and dedicated volunteer, Sid has shown his fellow volunteers exactly how strong his desire to give back is. Charity Crossing thanks Sid for his amazing support and aid over the past three years. Keep up the incredible work, Sid!



# YWCA Pottstown Partnership

By Deepa Rajesh

YWCA Tri-County Area educates children, youth, families and communities. Their programs empower individuals to learn and grow across the life span, providing the foundation for a healthy and thriving community.

Their goal is to help families in the Tri-County Area achieve optimal social and emotional health, wellness, and success. Being a trauma-informed organization means they can help children, youth, and families thrive.

The “Echo hall” at the YWCA is a where we held the serve on Sunday February 19th. The YWCA team along with Charity Crossing members created flyers for the events and created marketing materials so that this event could be known to other organizations that YWCA locally supports and coordinated the first serve.

The day before the event we loaded the truck from the warehouse and had volunteers from the Charity crossing, YWCA, Villanova university and the staff unload the truck and set up the tables for the event next day. February 19th we had 15 of our volunteers ready to serve the community for 7 long hours without a break.

We had served approximately 350 persons attending the serve and each person received a minimum of \$25 worth donations. We are planning to conduct similar events on a monthly basis to help the underprivileged community members.



# Volunteer Spotlight: Sakthi's Family

By Vaishnavi Sakthi

We, the Sakthi Family, are proud to be active and hardworking members of the Charity Crossing Volunteer family. We have been a part of this organization for almost two years and are proud to say that we have made the most of it. We enjoyed taking the time out of our lives to give back to our community, and doing this as a family made it even more rewarding. Despite difficult weather and other conditions, we still tried our best to show up to events and work our hardest. We strive to continue this and keep moving further and working harder. We are a family of 4, and each participates in Charity Crossing events as often as possible.

Sakthi Raghu, the beloved father of Vaishnavi and Varshini Sakthi and the husband of Anitha Ravikumar, is one of the warehouse unloading and NCCPD leads and is very well-liked by the youth of Charity Crossing. He always brings a bright, comedic attitude when showing up to volunteering activities and makes it an enjoyable event. His contributions have been recognized and well accepted.



Both Varshini and Vaishnavi Sakthi are also active volunteers of Charity Crossing. Though school and extracurricular activities tend to dip into their time and dedication, they try their hardest to show up and provide for the community. They are hardworking, energetic, and very fun individuals. They often attend weekend events and have earned Presidential Volunteer Service Award for their service hours.

Anitha Ravikumar is also a wonderfully hardworking member of Charity Crossing and has served as secretary of Charity Crossing. Though she isn't currently on it, she still participates with her husband to support her community. She also helps in other ways, like at home sorting, driving, and providing food and refreshments to members working. She has often been praised for her tea & Horlicks that she provides without fail to volunteers.

As a family, we value the idea of giving back to the community, and we cherish the good we are enabled to do. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to charitable work and sincerely appreciate the opportunities given to us to serve our community through Charity Crossing.



## Sorting Boxes + POINT App

By Aratrika Ghosh

As the warehouse receives more and more record-breaking donation numbers here are a few helpful tips to make at-home sorting an easy and fun process!

1. Warehouse days and hours of operation
  - a. 5:30-7:30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 10:00-12:00 pm on Sundays
2. Each box sorted is equivalent to 20 minutes of volunteering
3. Sorted boxes can be dropped off at warehouse or brought to a serve (after confirming with lead)
4. All party items including holidays (except Christmas) will go in one box named Party box, Christmas items are separate
5. When logging hours on the POINT app don't forget the following:
  - a. Number of boxes sorted
  - b. Pickup date of boxes
  - c. Drop off date of boxes
  - d. If bringing to a serve mention in comments



## CC Quotes

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, 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 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 positive impact [you] are bringing to society is 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 your amazing volunteers.”

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

You guys are doing "God's Service," - community member

## 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 a  
positive impact on our  
community and environment.



# 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](http://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://presidentalserviceawards.gov/eligibility>

Happy Volunteering!!!

YOU GUYS ARE DOING "GOD'S SERVICE,"  
- 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!



Jeshen  
Kannan



Aratrika G.  
Writer



Sachin  
Shyamsundar



Nithya  
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Jay  
Muthukamatchi