

CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



6th Annual Autism Walk 2023

Jeshen Kannan, 9th Grader, The Charter School Of
Wilmington

On Sunday, April 22, 2023, over 300 community members across PA and DE walked for autism understanding and acceptance. The two event locations were Glasgow Park in DE and Wilson Farm Park in PA. Participants registered for free and set off on the 5K trail shortly after community leaders from across the state(s) and Nemours Childrens Hospital talked about autism understanding and acceptance. Participants of all ages walked as much as they could and had the opportunity to learn more about autism spectrum disorder. After the walk, a giveaway event was held to distribute sensory toys, school supplies, and other items for the autism community. Overall, we raised close to \$2,000 between both walks to benefit the autism community. Proceeds from the PA walk went to the Comprehensive Learning Center and the DE walk donations went to the play area in Glasgow Park designed for people with autism. Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners, donors, volunteers, and participants from helping us make this event a success! We hope to see you again next year!

IN THIS ISSUE

2023 AUTISM WALK

LJBC 1ST ANNIVERSARY

**VOLUNTEER FAMILY
SPOTLIGHT**

CC'S 3 R'S

PET GIVEAWAY

SORTING BOXES

HOW TO USE POINT APP

EDUCATING THE HEART

CC QUOTES

CC Autism Acceptance & Understanding Walk Booklet

Jeshen Kannan, 9th Grader, The Charter School Of Wilmington

What Is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

WHAT: A developmental disability caused by differences in the brain

WHO: Anyone, regardless of nationality, creed, religion, race, or sex, can have ASD

WHY: There is no official cause but doctors have determined certain risk factors (like being born to older parents)

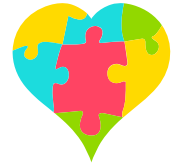
WHERE: Across the globe, roughly 1 in every 160 children have autism

WHEN: Children with ASD are usually diagnosed by the age of 3



Charity Crossing's 6th Annual
Autism Acceptance & Understanding Walk

People with ASD may behave, communicate, interact, and learn in ways that are different from most other people



Each person with ASD can have different abilities, likes, and skills

People with ASD often have problems with social communication and interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests



Why Do We Walk?

We walk because supporting an individual with ASD can cost a family \$60,000 a year on average.

We walk because each person with Autism Spectrum Disorder is a unique individual and deserve to be treated as their own person.

We walk because we are recognizing that creating a neurodiverse workforce is fundamental for success.

We walk because there is no requirement for providing supportive services to people with autism in adulthood.

We walk because many people with ASD are already successfully living and working and contributing to the well-being of others in their local communities.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Facts

- Affects nearly 1 in 36 children
- Boys are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed
- One of the fastest growing developmental disorders in the United States
- Affects all nationalities, all creeds, all religions, all races and both sexes
- People with ASD can present challenges before the age of 3
- ASD lasts throughout a person's lifetime
- There is no current cure for Autism Spectrum Disorder



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED
IN AND/OR PLAYED A ROLE IN ORGANIZING
THE WALKS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
ALL OF YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

A Family That Volunteers Together Grows Together

Manasi and Mukul - CC Volunteers and proud parents of CC Youth Volunteers - Siddharth and Keshav

One of the greatest pleasures in the world is spending time with your family. Our precious time with our family today becomes memories we cherish tomorrow.

Having lived and seen poverty on three continents, we were passionate about helping improve the lives of underprivileged people. Also, as parents, we worked diligently to transmit and instill values such as selflessness, responsibility, and gratitude in our two young boys, Siddharth (13) and Keshav (8).

So how do we achieve both? We volunteer as a family so our boys can observe other volunteers and us modeling compassionate behavior towards communities, the environment, and peers.

Charity Crossing gave us that opportunity and is our favorite organization, where we love to volunteer as a family. Its mission of executing eco-friendly initiatives helps deliver the United Nations' sustainable development goal of ending poverty, which resonates with our beliefs.



Also, the volunteering opportunities are extremely family-friendly, where other adult volunteers look out for youth volunteers, helping them learn and complete volunteer tasks safely and effectively.

By volunteering at Charity Crossing, our children are learning real-life leadership skills and putting them to practice, planning and resolving complex challenges with creative thinking, building solid relationships with other youth volunteers, and organizing and executing significant community events with empathy and passion. These experiences empower them today and create an excellent foundation for them as adults tomorrow, teaching them lessons that cannot be taught in the classroom or learned from reading a book. Recently our eldest son was trying to solve a supply chain challenge we were facing in the Charity Crossing Warehouse operations.

We have had the joy of experiencing camaraderie and endearing support from the Charity Crossing leads and volunteers, which we truly cherish and appreciate.

As a family, we are growing together, reflecting on what we learned from our volunteering experience and reminding ourselves that we have the power to make a change.

We leave you with this message; volunteering is (one of) the best way to bring everyone in your family – parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and more – together around a joint mission and spend quality time together. If you are already a Charity Crossing volunteer, we would love to see you at the next event with all of your family. If you are thinking about volunteering with your family, we would be honored if you do it with us in the Charity Crossing family.

THANK YOU TO THE SHARMA/JOSHI
FAMILY FOR INSPIRING A COUNTLESS
NUMBER OF OTHER VOLUNTEERS!



Jeshen Kannan: Inspiring Youth Volunteerism In CC

Siddharth Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G Waters Middle School

Jeshen Kannan is a 9th grader at The Charter School of Wilmington, and a youth volunteer Charity Crossing is proud of. She inspires youth volunteerism across the community through her dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm.

Apart from regularly dedicating her time to volunteering events on weekdays and weekends, she has been the youth leader of two major CC events this year: the CC Annual Volunteer Appreciation event and the CC 6th Annual Autism Walk.

Both events were huge successes, primarily due to her organizational efforts and creativity in solving complex problems. One example is when she devised an easier way for Autism Walk participants to register for the walk and donate through their phones. Jeshen is also an active member of the CC Communications team, writing and editing the inspiring articles you love to read in this newsletter. We at Charity Crossing are grateful and blessed to have Jeshen as a youth volunteer; her drive and passion for positively impacting the communities we serve are inspirational. From Charity Crossing to Jeshen, keep shining like the bright star you are! We appreciate you!



Jeshen volunteering with her mom at the Glasgow Holiday Event



Jeshen at the Autism Walk with fellow youth volunteers



Jeshen at the annual Volunteer Appreciation event



First Year Anniversary Of Serving at Lion Judah Bible Cafe

By Rishil Garlapati, Freshman at Charter School of Wilmington

The Lion Judah Bible Cafe's goal is to help families in the Tri-State Area achieve optimal social and emotional health, wellness, and success, and by working with them, we have achieved so much. Part of Charity Crossing's mission is to promote volunteerism and giving. Since Charity Crossing's first event at the Lion Judah Bible Cafe in April of 2022, we've been able to donate canned food, clothing, household items, toys, pillows, chairs, garden supplies, chandeliers, pet items, and much more every week to the Perryville Community.

To mark Charity Crossings first anniversary serving the community, on Apr 8th 2023, during Easter time, Charity Crossing held a sizable event at the Lion Judah Bible Cafe in Perryville, Maryland. Many families were beneficiaries of this service, having access to a full truckload of items.

Around 150 guests of all ages, from little kids to the elderly, came to the event and patiently queued to receive the donations which the volunteers had laid out on tables for them. The guests appreciated all what Charity Crossing was doing and were delighted with what they received. They expressed their gratitude in thank yous and many blessings to the volunteers.

Although the cold weather was unfavorable for an outdoor serve, 20 volunteers assisted in this service, arriving as early as 8:30 in the morning to organize and make things ready for the guests. The event was great showcase of the commitment to support, that Charity Crossing volunteers have, for the local community.



CC's 3 R's: Reducing Waste, Recycling, & Repurposing

By Jay Muthukamatchi

In the Fall of 2022, as we opened the donation boxes at the community serve, we saw many boxes of nuts. Initially, we were happy to give them out to the community. Our excitement was short-lived. These nuts had expired in July 2022. So, we had to set them aside to trash them. One of the guests in our event, inquired why we had kept those boxes away. We said they expired in July 2022; we plan to throw them in the trash. The guest requested us to not throw the nuts; he was happy to take them home. With hesitation, we gave the guest two boxes. Within a few seconds, all 30+ boxes were gone. A valuable lesson learned which would influence our future actions.

In another event, one of the volunteers requested us not to throw expired nuts. He said, "His chickens love them."

Since then, we have had bins to collect good-to-use food, expired foods that are still okay to use and expired nuts for the chicken. If you have expired nuts in an original container unopened, please bring them to Glasgow Park. We will take it and give them to the Chickens.

We received two packs of Kid Milk for Goat Kids two weeks ago. A year ago, we would have thrown it out. Now, we don't. We know how to find a use for such items. We are happy to tell you that we found a taker; two goat kids are happily enjoying the milk.

It is not easy to reduce waste. It takes a lot of effort and creative thinking. In 2022, we handled 50+ truckloads of donations. This year, we already handled 32 truckloads in 4 months. In partnership with the community, we are determined to make our best effort to reduce, repurpose, and recycle as much as possible.



3-in-1: Taking Care Of Pets, Owners, & Earth

By Jay Muthukamatchi

The past weekend was one of a kind for me and my fellow volunteers. We received two loads of donations on Saturday and one load on Monday. On Saturday, when we opened the truck trailers, we saw them filled with dog crates, playpens, beds, and Hamster Cages. We always handled small loads of Pet supplies. We didn't know how to give them to the community and clear warehouse space to receive another load on Sunday. It was 5 pm on Saturday. We were stumped. Our problem-solving mind kicked in. We reached out to community members through social media. We hoped at least 30+ community members would show up Sunday morning. At that time, we didn't know how these donations would impact our community's pets and pet owners. Our giveaway post was reshared 260 times. Wow.

As we arrived on Sunday morning, the rain poured, and the cars lined up. Our volunteers didn't mind the downpour and began serving pets and pet owners in our community. Within 3 hours, 200+ cars lined up. Some drove more than 2 hours to receive these donations. This week, we may have served 350+ families and their pets. They came from four states (DE, MD, NJ, and PA). The giveaway events were a huge hit. We gave out two truckloads of donations in just three days.

One of the pet-owner shared the photo of her pet and this message with us. The pet's name is Daizi (see her photo attached). The owner rescued her from an abusive home a year ago. Daizi is enjoying the crate that we donated. Community members are sharing their pet photos. Seeing those photos warms my heart.

They would have landed in a landfill if we had not taken these loads.



Sorting Boxes at Home

By Aratrika Ghosh

As the warehouse receives 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, and Friday
 - b. Saturday and Sundays - only when we receive the donation load
2. Each box sorted is equivalent to 20 minutes of volunteering
3. Sorted boxes can be dropped off at the warehouse or brought to a serve (after confirming with the 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 the boxes
 - c. Drop-off date of boxes
 - d. If bringing to a serve mention in the comments



Volunteer Delaware Updates

By Lupita Murphy

Hello Charity Crossing Volunteers. Great work this past week with the giveaways and preparing for the weekend events. We are always looking for ways to recognize and celebrate our volunteers, and so to do just that, we have partnered with Volunteer Delaware 50+. Volunteer Delaware 50+ is a statewide program for those 50 and older. Its mission is to celebrate senior volunteers and bring awareness to the organizations they serve with regularly.

Volunteers who are or soon will be 50 years of age or older are invited to join our 2,000+ statewide volunteers and be part of Volunteer Delaware 50+.

Please visit <https://volunteer.delaware.gov/volunteer-delaware50> to download a copy of the registration form. To enroll, complete the form and email it to Guadalupe.Murphy@delaware.gov.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please get in touch with Lupita at 302-255-9746.



The Difference Between “Service Hours For School” & “Volunteering For The Community”

By Jay Muthukamatchi & Community

We asked our community, **“What is the difference between “service hours for school” and “volunteering for the community”?**

The community replied:

"Can be the same depending on where your heart is." - Deb

"Motivation. However, they can coincide." - Paul

"Volunteering for the community is the purity of giving back. Service hours means expecting something in return." - Jothsna

"The intention behind it is what either makes the former the focus or a natural byproduct."
- Kala

"School requirements versus a want to help." - Jess

"Schools/colleges sincerely try to involve youth in volunteering and giving back to the community. But a few involve only for securing some hours." - Praveena

"Volunteering for the community is about our impact on people's lives. Service hours for schools are an opportunity for the students to participate outside of the classroom to build a great volunteer in them. Both bring tons of benefits to everyone." - Durai

"Some do service simply to fill a requirement; others choose to help where they see the need. Service hours at school can be fulfilled within the school and can include working in an organization at school that MAY do work outside. Outside volunteering may not count toward the requirement, so it would be done primarily as an independent good." - Sunita

"I not only get students who come to check off the box but parents for the same. Some try to buy you out by donating from BJ's and saying they “did a donation drive”. The list goes on and on." - Shefali

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The Difference Between “Service Hours For School” & “Volunteering For The Community”

By Jay Muthukamatchi

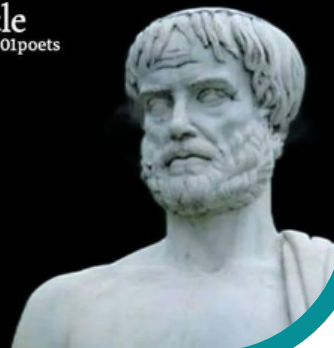
The community service hours required for NJHS, NHS, school, etc., are meant to allow the student to get to know the world outside of the school. An opportunity to get to know the community, the challenges faced by fellow citizens, the world, etc.

It provides an opportunity to build people skills. An opportunity for the student to become a better person, citizen, and leader.

Most students volunteer to check the box. They are not benefiting from such wonderful Community Service program. I volunteer with many students. I often observed that the students who came to check the box were the least productive volunteers. The students who are passionate about helping others are distinctly self-starters. They do whatever it takes to get it done. They are problem solvers. They are true leaders; they see the way, walk the way, and show the way. They have the "heart."; when you are around them, you feel it. - Jay

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

— Aristotle
www.facebook.com/01poets



Volunteering At Charity Crossing

By Jay Muthukamatchi, Founder and President, Charity Crossing



At Charity Crossing, we educate hearts and souls. Together, we will positively impact our community and environment.



Charity Crossing initiatives are structured to provide exercises for body, mind, and soul.



Charity Crossing provides an opportunity to build people, networking, leadership, etc. skills to help you become a better person, citizen, and leader.



Charity Crossing provides opportunity to get to know the community, the challenges faced by fellow citizens, the world, etc.



Charity Crossing recommends awards for outstanding volunteers.



A **Leader** at Charity Crossing "Sees the Way, Walks the Way, and Shows the Way. It is the leads responsibility to ensure 100% of that initiative is completed successfully.

The **Excellence in Volunteering** award at Charity Crossing goes to Volunteers who demonstrate a passion for serving the community and caring for the Environment.

The prestigious **Volunteer of the Year Award** at Charity Crossing is not measured by the number of hours. It goes to Volunteers who excel in volunteering, inspire volunteers, instills volunteerism, and help the volunteer and organization grow.



If these are of interest to you. Please join us. Together, we will positively impact our community and environment.

For more information, please email info@charityCrossing.Org with your contact information



Point App: Reference Guide For Our Volunteers

by Veni Jayakumar, Vaishali Ameen, Chandra Dontaraju

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:

- Download the app at pointapp.org, the App Store, or Google Play.
 - From the desktop, go to: <http://app.pointapp.org/>
- Create a new account using your home EMAIL ID
- 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.
- Follow causes that you care about. Aka-what do you want to get involved in? Think: ending homelessness, tackling climate change, helping animals, etc.
- Choose Charity Crossing as your Organization to view CC events.
- Sign up for events. Find a CC event and sign up by tapping “GO.”

If you need help, please get in touch with Vaishali Ameen or Chandra Dontaraju. We hope you will enjoy using this new platform.

Important Disclosures:

- 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>

Happy Volunteering!

For more information, please email info@charityCrossing.Org with your contact information.



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."

"Through my experiences volunteering with Charity Crossing, I have been able to first-hand make a difference in my community. I've had the opportunity to meet new people; learn from fellow volunteers; and gain leadership, service, and organizational skills through volunteer events. I'm grateful to CC for the opportunities provided to me!"

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 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!



Jeshen
Kannan



Aratrika
Ghosh



Siddharth
Sharma



Mukul
Sharma



Jay
Muthukamatchi