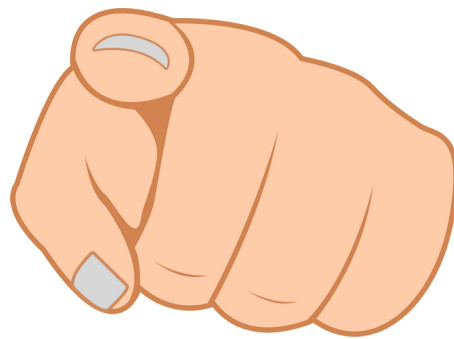


# CC MONTHLY

*The official newsletter of Charity Crossing*

## CHARITY CROSSING NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



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### Charity Crossing Fund Raiser

by Mukul Sharma

Dear Reader,

I am writing to you as Charity Crossing is in immediate need of funds to continue the great work it does for the under-served community and the environment.

Our efforts support the most vulnerable in the society today, low to very low income families, single parents, foster children, homeless, veterans and senior citizens. Each gets a smile and some economic relief from the donations that Charity Crossing provides.

However to bring that joy to the people who need it the most, there is a cost involved mainly transportation, location fees and storage rent.

If you can help, please donate whatever amount you can through <https://charitycrossing.org/donate/> Each dollar donated is supporting the community and protecting the environment we live in.



## Green Thumbs for a Great Cause

by Mukul Sharma

If you have any interest in gardening, you would know how difficult it is to propagate a plant year after year. You have to protect the parent plant from the harsh winter, nurture and feed the sapling carefully throughout spring, bringing it out into the sunshine at just about the right time so that its roots strengthen and it grows into another beautiful marvel of nature, spreading joy through its fruits and flowers.

To do all this requires superior gardening skills, and to do it for a great cause, of raising funds for Charity Crossing, requires a generous heart like Jay Muthukamatchi and Veni Jayakumar have. In Jay's own words .....

Dear Friends, thank you for purchasing the Jasmine Plants to support Charity Crossing. We raised \$500 from the Jasmine plant sales. As promised, my family matched \$500. In total, we raised \$1,000. Thank you.

Since Charity Crossing is a volunteer-run, it is able to put these funds toward benefiting the community. It would benefit more than 200 families. These families would have at least one item they didn't have the day before. That's the impact these funds would create. Have a wonderful day.

It takes 8 to 9 months to produce a baby Jasmine plant. Caring for baby Jasmine plants inside the home during winter is the toughest. With Almighty's blessing, we are able to produce more than 20 Jasmine plants every year, which we sell to raise funds.



As a Charity Crossing volunteer, I am inspired by how Jay and Veni have utilized their skills in gardening to do good for the community. I encourage all volunteers to think of ways to raise funds to support the great work that Charity Crossing does. Like Jay said, and one of the appreciative comments from a Charity Crossing guest who attended a giveaway event, ***"I am thrilled to death when I can attend. Leaving with 1 item is 1 item more than I had the day before. Always feeling the blessings of those who work so hard for others. Thank you!!"***



# Spread Love, Share, and Care

By Jay MuthuKamatchi, CC Founder & President

**An email from a Foster Parent** (To protect privacy of this family, names have been changed):

"Yesterday I was informed that I was the chosen CASA to award one of my kids a Nintendo Switch. Being a CASA for 14 years has been one of the most rewarding things in my life. I can make a difference in a child's life, and I am excited to provide this to a deserving young lady. Because I have 5 teens in my care, deciding who was most excellent was tough.



Angel is going to be 14 in a few months. She has had the most traumatic and horrific life of any child in my care. She is so grateful for anything given to her because she has so little. We gave her socks and underwear, and she cried. She is a very intelligent, unselfish, and pretty young lady who deserves to have some good happen in her life. Her mother is a drug addict. Her addiction caused great harm to all of her 8 children. In a week, she will deliver number 9th. All of them were addicted at birth and taken into custody. Before Angel came into (my) care, she did all the caregiving to her younger siblings. She watched her mom get high and have men in and out of the home daily. She saw and experienced things no child should ever have to endure. She is with a relative who loves her but cannot provide much for Angel because she lacks finances. Seeing what this poor girl must go through daily breaks my heart. She wants to be like her friends. She can't talk about her great life, the places she has visited, the movies she has seen, the vacations, trips to the mall, and just enjoying being a kid. If I could give her one thing to make her happy, my job would be all worthwhile. I can bring joy to a wonderful young lady who really deserves it. Thank you for letting me share this with you, and hope she is chosen. There will be tears of joy, I can tell you that."

### My personal experience

Growing up in India, I saw similar things daily. Such incidents registered deeply in my subconscious mind, acting as a daily guardrail for me. On the other hand, my children & others of the same age don't have such opportunities to understand the life challenges of fellow citizens. That's one of the reasons I created Charity Crossing, so our children can get that awareness. I appreciate all those parents who volunteer along with their children. You have given opportunities for your children to learn valuable life lessons. That's only 0.01% of the parents.



## One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

By Jay MuthuKamatchi, CC Founder & President

What I thought was "trash" this morning was a "treasure" for some. This morning while sorting donations, I found some "2023 Graduate" decoration items. I decided to trash it since the 2023 graduation season is almost over. Then my inner voice said, DON'T. I put them inside the party item box. This evening Donna came to collect donations for Foster children. I requested her to look into the party item box to see if anything could be useful to those children. When she opened the box, she was thrilled and excited. Her face brightened. Her eyes opened wide. She jumped for joy on seeing those items. She said that this year 6 or 7 of our foster children graduated; none of them had graduation parties. We will use these party items and host a graduation party for these children. We are going to make goody bags for them. Those children will be thrilled and excited for sure.

In addition, we gave a box of toys, books, and a Nintendo Switch. It will bring smiles to many children. My heart is filled with joy. It was a beautiful day, indeed.



## New Board Member: Mukul Sharma

by Jay Muthukamatchi

Charity Crossing welcomes Mukul Sharma to its Board. Mukul will lead Digital Communication and Fundraising initiatives. As we continue to grow, these two initiatives are vital to our success.

Mukul Sharma is a Product Manager at JP Morgan Chase and moved to Delaware, US, in 2016 after living in the UK and India. He is passionate about helping improve the lives of underprivileged people. As a parent of two young boys, both youth volunteers, he is working diligently to instill values such as selflessness, responsibility, and gratitude among his children and youth volunteers within the community.



Mukul is a committed Charity Crossing volunteer. Beyond volunteering for the organization's day-to-day work, he utilizes his professional skills to drive impact by seeking grants for the organization on innovative initiatives. He is heavily engaged with Charity Crossing's communications team publishing the monthly newsletter and showcasing the value the organization delivers to the community and environment.

Among his many interests, Mukul enjoys taking photographs of people, capturing the various emotions and stories behind a smile. When he can find the time, he loves to ride his motorcycle and explore the beautiful countryside Mother Nature has blessed us with.

As a board member, Mukul will look to diversify the organization's operations, engaging youth volunteers to deliver eco-friendly initiatives in STEM and health care for the community. He will diligently adhere to the standards of conduct expected by the organization while upholding his responsibilities, including the duty of care in making decisions, the duty of loyalty to always have the best interests of the organization in mind, and the duty of obedience to act in faithfulness to the mission of the organization.

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## Gloves Initiative

By Jeshen Kannan

A couple of weeks ago, the CC Delaware warehouse received a large number of vinyl glove boxes in our donations. We received over 200 boxes and each box held ten smaller boxes with 100 gloves each. Overall, we totaled over 100,000 pairs of gloves that we needed to find some use for. So, CC youth leaders got to work and started the "Gloves Initiative." They created a group chat on WhatsApp and asked the CC community for volunteers who wanted to help distribute gloves to the nearby community and small businesses. They created a spreadsheet to keep track of how many boxes were being promised to different places/people to make sure they were not promising to deliver more boxes than they had available. They also enforced a rule that said no organization could receive more than 10 boxes (10,000 gloves total) unless they could provide a reason for needing a larger amount. Through this, the "Gloves Initiative" was able to provide thousands of pairs of gloves to members of the community, small businesses, local hospitals, and more.



# Leadership Team

by Jay Muthukamatchi

## Management Team:

1. Board of Directors – Jay Muthukamatchi, John Treadwell, Allison Abessinio, Bala Krishnaraj, Mukul Sharma, Veni Jayakumar, and Karthi Jayakumar
2. Treasurer - Arun Daga
3. Warehouse manager - TBD
4. Deputy Warehouse Manager and Point App Admin - Chandra Dontaraju -
5. Volunteer Manager and Point App Admin - Vaishali Ameen
6. Grants Manager and CC Digital Communication Manager - Mukul Sharma
7. Donations Receivable Manager - Sakthi Raghubathi

## Leads and Co-leads:

1. Herlihy - Arun Daga & Sunil Chowdavarapu
2. AME Trinity Church, MOT - Chetna Sivamurthy & Arundhati Ghosh
3. AGOM (Amazing Grace Outreach Ministries) - Ruth Taylor
4. RHCC (Rosehill Community Center) - Veni Jayakumar
5. The Apolostic Church, Smyrna – Suma Gudipati, Gifty Boateng, and Rahuma Kankanala
6. ICH (Interfaith Community Housing) - Barani Radhakrishna & Caren Turner
7. PCI-Front St – Rahul Rathinam and Ranjith Rathinam
8. Glasgow Park – Raj Karpurappu, Krishna Prasad, Chadra Dontaraju, Rahima Takur, Raghuma Kankanala
9. LJBC – MD - Goldy Parmar & Varsha Patel
10. PACS – PA - Sumitha Ramasamy & Deepa Ponniah
11. Media Food-PA - Rejy Joseph / Devin Joseph
12. Dover/Kent County - Ajay Talabathula
13. New Jersey - Venky Udayavar
14. Warehouse Leads - Anand Chandolu, Krishna Prasad (KP), Barani Radhakrishnan, Hari Kuppuswamy, Raj Karpurappu, Vaishali Ameen, Mukul Sharma, and Sakthi Raghupathi
15. DOJ Lead – Anand Chandolu
16. Hicks Lead - Hari Kuppusamy & Bob Cannon
17. Elsmere/Newport – Lupita Murphy and Vaishali Ameen
18. NCCPD – Sakthi Raghupathi
19. Blood Donation Drive – Karthi Jayakumar



## Why Volunteer as a Youth ?

by Aarushi Patil , 8th Grader MOT Charter

Have you ever done charity work? If you haven't you should try! My favorite group for this is Charity Crossing. It's formed by people who care about community, want to help the society and take out their personal time to make a difference in others lives.

I meet a lot of families at parties, events, etc, but interacting with people at giveaways is much different. Even though they are in need of materials and support, they put others needs before them, this shows Community.

Seeing this is very joyful and brings happiness to my heart. I talk to many people at the giveaways, and they each come with a hope that they will find what they need to help them through their tough times.

After becoming part of Charity Crossing, I have realized that life can become uncertain any time and we should keep hoping for better times and remember that there is always someone to help. I will always try to be nice to everyone and make sure that I can make at least a small difference.





# Crossing New Territories

By Jay MuthuKamatchi, CC Founder & President

Every day brings us a new experience and pushes us into new territory.

Yesterday mid-morning, one of the community members messaged us about donating formula. We responded yes and asked for product information and expiry date. While we were waiting for their reply, someone rang the doorbell that afternoon. They delivered these "Tube Feeding" food products. They said they didn't need them anymore, the insurance company won't take them back, and the insurance company continues to deliver them. They didn't want to throw them away. For over 2 months, these products were stuck in their dining room. They had a hard time finding a place to donate. They were so happy to donate these products to us.

Oh Boy! For a short while, we didn't know what to do with that.

That afternoon, we messaged our contacts. One of them responded "Yes". Today evening all these food products are being delivered to a deserving young man, who is on tube feeding. The young man is in his 20s with special needs. Our heart is filled with happiness knowing that we were able to play a small role in this young man's life.

Please join us in wishing him well.

## What is tube feeding?

Tube feeding is a therapy where a feeding tube supplies nutrients to people who cannot get enough nutrition through eating. A flexible tube is inserted through the nose or belly area to provide nutrients by delivering liquid nutrition directly into the stomach or small intestine.

Doctors usually insert the tube while you are in the hospital, but you may continue to use it outside the hospital, at home, or in a nursing facility. Tube feeding is also known as enteral nutrition and if provided at home, is termed home enteral nutrition (HEN).



## Month & Year To-Date Impact Metrics

Mukul Sharma



**35**

~9 events/week



PUBLIC EVENTS HELD

**298**

~50 events/month

**1,574**

~2 Months



TOTAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE HRS.

**12,475**

~17 Months

**782**

~130 School days



YOUTH VOLUNTEER SERVICE HRS.

**5304**

~4.6 School Years

**68,000**

~13 Ford F-150 Trucks



APPROX POUNDS LANDFILL WASTE  
REPURPOSED

**884,000**

~180 Ford F-150 Trucks



# 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](mailto:info@charityCrossing.Org) with your contact information and visit <https://charitycrossing.org/cc-volunteering/>



# 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](http://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](mailto:info@charityCrossing.Org) with your contact information.



# 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  
Ghosh



Siddharth  
Sharma



Mukul  
Sharma



Jay  
Muthukamatchi

Thank you for reading the July 2023 Edition of the CC Newsletter!