

CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



Amazing Youth Raise Donations For CC

Jeshen Kannan, 10th Grader, The Charter School Of Wilmington

This month, some of CC's youngest volunteers took incredible initiative to raise donations to support Charity Crossing and aid its mission to serve the community. Only in second grade, this trio of dedicated volunteers held a lemonade stand in their neighborhood on a hot summer day and were able to raise \$125 for Charity Crossing. This money will go a long way for helping the people in their communities. They extend their gratitude to everyone who supported their fundraiser and encourage everyone to show their love and support for the others in their community. We at Charity Crossing thank them for their amazing passion and want to serve their communities and help others. Check out the Charity Crossing Facebook page to learn more about efforts our volunteers are involved in.

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What can youth do to protect the environment ?

Siddharth Sharma, 9th Grader, Appoquinimink High School

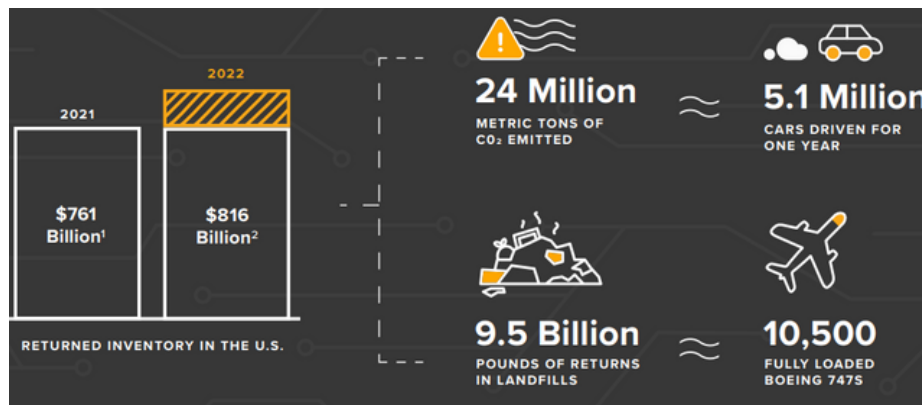
Google this question and you will find many answers ranging from recycling paper to using less plastic, and while all worthy and make an impact, I wanted to and have protected the environment at a larger scale by volunteering at Charity Crossing. Let me explain how.

It all starts with the consumer, once they return an item. Returns seem simple and are often free for the consumer but managing those returns can get costly for retailers, so much so that when these returned items cannot be refurbished and/or re-shelved, the whole stock could end up in landfills, sometimes overseas.

Charity Crossing holds 200+ community events in more than 4 states, distributing items received from retailers to more than 150 thousand community members. By distributing these returned items to community members, Charity Crossing reduces waste and recycles items that would have landed in landfills. While doing so Charity Crossing helps people who are in economic distress, so they can spend their money on other items they need.

Lets get into some numbers to understand the scale, shall we ?

- In 2022, returns cost retailers about \$816 billion in lost sales* that's nearly as much as the U.S. spent on public schools*
- The return process, with transportation and packaging, also generated about 24 million metric tons of planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions* in 2022
- While half of returns are re-shelved to be resold, in 2022 some estimated 9.5 billion pounds of returned goods ended up in landfills*, which is equivalent to 10,500 fully loaded Boeing 747s.



In an attempt to reduce the harmful effect of the returns process, some retailers donate these items, from their local distribution centers to Charity Crossing who inturn, through their dedicated volunteers, ensure that these donations are received by people in the community who need it. Charity Crossing receives a truck load of donations almost every weekend at their Warehouse, where I volunteer to unload pallets and stock them for distribution. Going by the average weight of 1 box, number of boxes in a pallet and number of truckloads received, just this year Charity Crossing has eliminated approximately 360 thousand pounds of items going to landfills.

I want to thank the retailers who are acting responsibly and helping us save the environment. I also want to give a huge shout out to Charity Crossing volunteers who are creating a environment friendly generation.

I am a proud Charity Crossing youth volunteer and I would like to invite more youths to volunteer at Charity Crossing so they can do their part in helping to save the environment at a larger scale

*Lost Sales: <https://nrf.com/research/2022-consumer-returns-retail-industry>

*Public Schools Spend: <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=66>

*CO2 emissions : https://4771362.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/4771362/2022%20Impact%20Report/Optoro_2022%20Impact%20Report.pdf

*Returns in Lanfill: https://4771362.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/4771362/2022%20Impact%20Report/Optoro_2022%20Impact%20Report.pdf



Community Giveaway at Glasgow Park

Sachin Shyamsundar, 12th Grader, South Brunswick High School

Charity Crossing had a giveaway on June 10th, 2023 at the barn in Glasgow Park. The event was mainly for the general public, and it helped 220 community members. The preparation for this event took a week as the Uhaul had to be booked and determination had to be made on how many boxes, donations, and tables could be packed into the truck.

The team met in the warehouse a day before the event to load all of the boxes into the truck. The volunteers showed up at 7:45 A.M the next day to help set up and arrange the tables. The event ran from 9 A.M to 1 PM, and volunteers had to clean up after the event was finished.

Our volunteers showed up bright and early to volunteer and help out. Thanks to them, more than 200+ benefitted from this event.



Donations at Mount Zion Church

Sachin Shyamsundar, 12th Grader, South Brunswick High School

In the New Jersey Chapter, Charity Crossing donated many household items to the Mount Zion AME Church in Trenton, New Jersey on June 18th.

The volunteers and staff members unloaded all of the items, and setup the table. The volunteers were extremely bright and ready, and the all of the members of the church were happy and greeted our volunteers.

All of the members of the church were extremely happy when they left the church thanks to our volunteers.



Serve at the Senior Center in New Jersey

Sachin Shyamsundar, 12th Grader, South Brunswick High School

Charity Crossing(N.J Chapter) had a serve at the senior center on June 29th. The serve was at a new location in Kendall Park, New Jersey.

Thanks to the event coordinator, all of the seniors were waiting in line for their gifts. All of the seniors came one by one to pick and choose the item of their preferences.

All of the seniors were extremely happy and thankful for their gifts thanks to the volunteers and coordinator.



Delaware Governor's 2023 Youth Volunteer Service Award

Veni Jayakumar

Congratulations to Delaware Governor's 2023 Youth Volunteer Service Award winners and nominees.

On June 21st, Charity Crossing youth volunteers received 5 out of the 11 awards in the individual youth service award category. We are achieving this honor two years in a row. It was another proud moment for Charity Crossing.

It was a great event. Well attended by our CC families. We were honored to have the grandparents of Sid and Shravan who came from India and joined to cheer their grandchildren. We had great conversations with our Governor John Carney, DHSS Secretary Molly Magarik, and Deputy Secretary Daniel Walker at the event. It was a well organized and well done event. Thanks to the Volunteer Delaware for giving us a unique experience.

Special thanks Sukanya Subramanian for her assistance with nomination process. CC would like to thank the parents for their support and sacrifices they made for their children to achieve this remarkable milestone.



Delaware Governor's 2023 Youth Volunteer Service Award - Honorees Circle

Veni Jayakumar



Samhitha Vallury

Nominator: Veni Jayakumar

New Castle County

Samhitha Vallury is a senior at MOT Charter High School who dedicates her time to volunteering primarily with Charity Crossing at the Rose Hill Community Center. Samhitha also helps set up and organize giveaways and assists with unloading, sorting, and loading donations at the Hicks Community Center in Wilmington, Trinity Church in Middletown, and Lion of Judah Bible Café in Perryville, MD. She has volunteered more than 125 hours in 2022 through Charity Crossing, earning her the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) Bronze medal. Samhitha is also a National Technology Student Association (TSA) Officer, representing and serving over 300,000 students nationwide. Additionally, she held an internship with the Food Bank of Delaware and volunteered with the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware.

Shravan Subramaniam

Nominator: Veni Jayakumar

New Castle County

Shravan Subramaniam is a senior at Appoquinimink High School, who leads and participates in events and groups for Charity Crossing. He volunteers weekly and has won the Presidential Volunteer Service Award at the Bronze Level for two years in a row. Shravan also tutored middle school students in India, organized events such as winter clothes and children’s toy drives, set up trash pickups at local public parks and interned with UP Cycle Design, a startup company focused on sustainability. He is the Secretary of Interact Club, a member of the National Honor Society, and a Varsity Cross Country athlete. He also volunteered with UD as a scorekeeper during a Special Olympics basketball tournament and continues to intern with UP Cycle Design, a University of Delaware startup company focused on sustainability within the cloth industry. Shravan received the Volunteer Excellence Award from Senators Stephanie Hansen and Nicole Poore.

CHARITY CROSSING WISHES BOTH SAMHITA (DARTMOUTH COLLEGE) AND SHRAVAN (VIRGINIA TECH) ALL THE BEST AS THEY MOVE ON IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNIES!



Delaware Governor's 2023 Youth Volunteer Service Award - Honorees Circle

Veni Jayakumar



Adil Ameen

Nominator: Veni Jayakumar

New Castle County

Adil Ameen is a high school junior at MOT Charter High School and a dedicated volunteer for Charity Crossing. He volunteered more than 345 hours in 2022, helping with food collection and distribution, weekly donation pickup, and several drives. Adil’s creative skills have allowed him to be part of the newsletter team and make event flyers. Adil has earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award Gold medal for two consecutive years and the Volunteer Excellence Award given by Stephanie Hansen and Nicole Poore. He is also involved in various school clubs, such as Science Olympiad, Green Club, Chess Club, Lego League club, and plays basketball on his school team.



Siddharth Sharma

Nominator: Sukanya Subramaniam

New Castle County

Siddharth Sharma is a student at Alfred G Waters Middle School who volunteers for Charity Crossing. Siddharth helps weekly in unloading and sorting donations at the warehouse, as well as serving at various locations and volunteering with the Stockings for Soldiers. He is also a member of the Charity Crossing newsletter team and one of the youth leads organizing the annual Autism Walk. In addition to his volunteer work, Siddharth is an honor roll student and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. He is a certified Grade 4 pianist and has performed in several musicals and all-state chorus. He manages the district champion cross-country team. Siddharth’s enthusiasm and commitment to volunteerism have earned him the title of “Spirit of Charity Crossing.” He is also the first youth in Charity Crossing history to win the Volunteer of the Year award.



Delaware Governor's 2023 Youth Volunteer Service Award - Honorees Circle

Veni Jayakumar



Tanuj could not be at the event due to a planned family vacation and Veni accepted the award on his behalf

Tanuj VS Dontaraju

Nominator: Veni Jayakumar

New Castle County

Tanuj VS Dontaraju is a sophomore at Newark Charter High School. He has been a member of Charity Crossing for over two years and actively participates in weekly events at Hicks Community Center and monthly giveaway events with the Police Athletic League of Wilmington (PAL), Department of Justice (DOJ), and Glasgow Park. Tanuj co-led the Stockings for Soldiers event and sent out Christmas gifts to soldiers serving overseas. Through Charity Crossing, Tanuj has volunteered more than 105 hours in 2022 and won Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) Gold medals in 2021 and 2022. He has also earned "The 2022 Volunteer Excellence Award" given by Senators Stephanie Hansen and Nicole Poore. Tanuj also participates in junior varsity basketball.

Quotes From The Winners

"It has been an honor to serve for Charity Crossing. I thank everyone who has supported me."

- Siddharth Sharma

"Charity Crossing has been a constant for me in my last 4 years. I want to thank everyone that has helped me along my journey."

- Shravan Subramaniam

"Since 2020, I have volunteered out of the kindness of my heart. 3 years later, I still volunteer with Charity Crossing. To everyone who has supported me, thank you so very much! I appreciate all of you!"

- Adil Ameen

"Being a part of Charity Crossing has been one of the most important parts of my high school experience. I've learned so much and truly grown as a person because of this organization.

Thank you everyone who has supported me!!"

- Samhitha Vallury



Month & Year To-Date Impact Metrics

Mukul Sharma



40

~10 events/week



PUBLIC EVENTS HELD

257

~43 events/month

1,690

~2 Months



TOTAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE HRS.

10,979

~15 Months

750

~125 School days



YOUTH VOLUNTEER SERVICE HRS.

4,546

~4 School Years

120,000

~24 Ford F-150 Trucks



APPROX POUNDS LANDFILL WASTE
REPURPOSED

840,000

~172 Ford F-150 Trucks



Charity Crossings Little Stars: Kendrick

Siddharth Sharma, 9th Grader, Apoquinimik High School



Kendrick is a 4 year old boy who volunteers at Sorteo Comunidad events and upholds the values of Charity Crossing. Kendrick holds a great passion for serving the community and is always filled with energy. In order to keep him busy Kendrick was assigned to give gloves to guests standing in the line. There were 100s of people lined up and he was buzzing like a bee. He made sure that everyone got it. Even after two hours of buzzing, his energy and enthusiasm didn't lose a beat. Charity Crossing is doing so much in teaching the next generation the value of service and volunteerism. The joy one gets in helping others cannot be measured. Keep shining bright little star Kendrick ☆ !



CC PACS Phoenixville - One Year Anniversary

Vedha Kalai

This month we celebrate the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Charity Crossing - PACS location. The Phoenixville Areas Community Services(PACS) is a nonprofit organization that partners with food pantries and local supermarkets to provide fresh groceries and food for those who cannot afford it. We were fortunate enough to have PACS join hands with us and allow us to set up a serve location in their facility. Every Saturday morning from 10- 12, families line up to receive free donations such as household items, party supplies, clothes, socks, toys, and more, from the Amazon donation boxes distributed by our Charity Crossing Warehouse.



Rain or shine, our dedicated volunteers have consistently served families of all ages, from small toddlers to elderly people. Seeing the happiness on the recipients faces after receiving the donations is priceless. It's motivation for all volunteers to continue their service every week, since it is an indication of how even a small gesture can change someone's life.

The PACS team provides us logistical support such as tables, chairs, and water bottles during the hot summer days. CC Youth volunteers are key in helping us out at the PACS location and continue to come every week.

Despite the long distance between PACS location and the warehouse, many volunteers from PA and Delaware, CC warehouse team are instrumental in creating a seamless service every week. The PACS location is a prime example of the hard work the CC volunteers put in, in order to give back to the community.



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 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, 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.



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



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

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