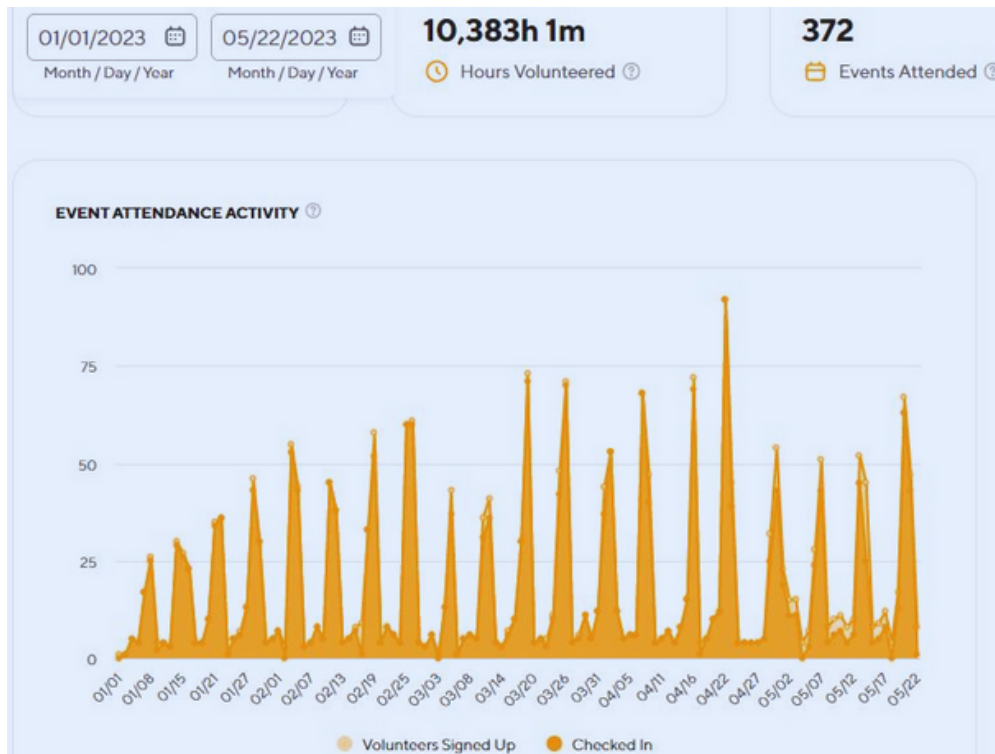


# CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



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## The Difference Makers!

by Jay Muthukamatchi

In 142 Days (Jan 1st to May 22nd, 2023), 389 Volunteers performed 10,383 hours of Community Service, \$301,107 economical value\*\* and repurposed 28 truckloads of donations of at least \$280,000 in value.

Charity Crossing is committed in helping youth in the community to find meaning and purpose by working together for the common good, in this time period, 156 registered youth volunteers performed 4278 hrs of service. Rain, shine, snow, Saturday, or Sunday, these fantastic volunteers were out helping the community and environment.

Charity Crossing continues to raise the bar higher in Community Service and making a difference !

*\*\*economical value is based off a blended rate, to account for volunteers across DE,NJ,PA and MD as published by Independent Sector report on current value of volunteer hours here <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>*

# 12th Quarterly Blood Donation

By Karthi Jayakumar

Thank you so much to our volunteers who donated at our quarterly blood drive on May 6! This is our 12th quarterly blood donation. These blood donations may have helped save over 500 lives.

Veni has donated 4 Gallons of Blood to date, and Jay has donated 2 Gallons of Blood products.

So proud to see our CC community give back in so many different ways. Keep up the great work! – at the [Blood Bank of Delmarva](#).



## Learning Supply Chain: CC Warehouse

By Mukul Sharma

Spend some time with CC founder and president, Jay and he will often tell you, "The Charity Crossing Warehouse is at the heart of our operations".

It has taken me the best half of this year to truly appreciate his words and gain immense respect and admiration of the leads and volunteers who spend weekdays and weekends to keep the Warehouse and CC operations ticking.

For those not in the know, the CC Warehouse on 38 Albe Dr in Newark is where we receive donations almost every weekend, unloading almost 26 pallets per load and storing them for further distribution to the serve locations.

The trailer trucks will pick up donations from Corporate Warehouses and sometimes do more than 2 loads on a day across the DE and PA warehouses. The logistics involved require careful coordination by the Warehouse leads with the contacts at the Corporate warehouse, the truck drivers and volunteers, starting 4-5 days prior to the load being delivered.

Once the load is delivered, adult and youth volunteers quickly unpack the pallet in the truck and store each box received in the Warehouse, so as the truck can go for the next load. The lead for the event has the creative task of figuring out how best to store the boxes (and sometimes loose items) taking into consideration which boxes need to be sent to which serve locations, grouping similar items together, safely stacking them while reducing the amount of storage space taken.

Later during the week (Tues, Wed and Fri evenings) Warehouse leads and volunteers will help location leads to load these boxes while sorting out what was received. Finally clean up, re-organising and being considerate of the facility and our neighbours is a constant priority.

The Warehouse team is requesting donations of equipment to improve the capability to unload and stack more donations. Roller tables, pallet lift stackers and pallet racks are needed. If you know where we can source these donation these items please contact a CC volunteer.

In the mean time, take the opportunity to practically learn about supply chain, while working with creative and committed CC youth and adult volunteers. Sign up to volunteer at the CC Warehouse at the next available event, I would love to see you there !



# Improved Guest Experience for CC Events

By Siddharth Sharma, 8th Grader at Alfred G. Waters

Charity Crossing is constantly striving to ensure the guests at our serves have a smooth and memorable experience.

One innovative way introduced from May for major CC giveaway events has been ticketing through EventBrite.

The tickets are free to purchase for all and provides a check in time so that people do not have to queue for long. All attendees (adults and minors) must have a valid ticket to attend the event. All adults must show ID proof that matches the name on the ticket.

Despite few hiccups at the start, the response from the guests has been extremely positive.

Tracie one of the many guests that attended CC's Glasgow Park serve with the new ticketing system said, "Thank you for a smooth event. We were in and out in no time. Great items and great people as always. "

Renee another attendee of the Glasgow Park serve said, "I appluad CC for a smooth running event. The tickets seem to work and it went well. Thank you for your timje and sharing the contributions"

Charity Crossing remains committed in ensuring that we serve the community in the best way possible

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Thank You to all the volunteers at the event in Glasgow Park on 5-20. Everyone was very nice, from the check-in ladies to each table of volunteers, to exiting and having one of the young men actually stop me to shift an item before it fell off my walker seat. I made sure I thanked each and every volunteer as I walked by them. The event was very well organized & the tickets I think was a great idea. I've only been to 2 events in the past and this one was so calm & went so smoothly, it was totally different than the ones I attended before. I was blessed to find a few things needed and a few things that weren't needed, but useful. I also want to take this time to say thank you to all those who were on the ramp that moved to the side so I could get down the ramp with no issue. From start to finish from what I saw, the event went very well. Thank You Charity Crossing for all your hard work and all you do for the community. Appreciate all of you !!! God Bless !



# No One Hungry, No Food Wasted

By Rishil Garlapati

Due to inflation, the cost of food items rose rapidly. Many people are struggling and are not able to afford food. So, on May 6th, 2023, I decided to do a food drive to feed the needy. This is because Charity Crossing already donates many other things like household items and toys.

Even though there are already food banks and other services to help the hungry, I still wanted to do my part by collecting excess and unused food from my community and giving back. When I first started this drive, I did not know how many people would donate. However, after advertising this drive on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Messages, and with my own friends and family, even creating a poster for the drive, I have seen a massive response.

Many people replied and messaged me asking if I could pick up food from their homes. Furthermore, some people donated on multiple occasions. This made me realize how many generous, kind people there are in the world. I have collected 800+ pounds of food from different people's homes and donated it across various different locations for Charity Crossing.

The beneficiaries of this food drive were veterans, first responders, healthcare professionals, teachers, senior citizens, families with special needs, and some kids. As I was giving chocolates to a few kids, I felt immense joy and warmth in my heart as I witnessed the radiant smiles and boundless excitement on their faces when they received the chocolates. The drive was very successful, benefiting more than 240 families. All of the people were very grateful for the donations they received. We have distributed cereal boxes, pasta, pasta sauce, canned food, fruits, coffee, chips, chocolates, cornflower, cooking oil, sugar, bread, protein bars, lots of snacks, noodles, dressings, milk powder, spices, and much more.

I would like to thank all our community members who donated food for your kindness and generosity, and I would like to thank my parents and family members for supporting me and this drive. Also, I want to give my gratitude to Charity Crossing for giving me such a great opportunity. Special thanks to Jay Muthukamatchi for his guidance and mentoring.



# Serving at New Performance Family Community

By Eesha Swaminathan, Freshman at Appoquinimink High School

The New Performance Family Community Giveaway plays an important role in the community. This event benefits low-income families and homeless members of our community. We repurpose returned and excess inventories and find new homes for those items. As a result, we protect the environment and help others. At this event, we provide Clothing, PPE Hygienic items, some seasonal items, and dry/canned food.

On May 21st, 2023, we had the pleasure of hosting this amazing event with the community. It was our second New Performance Family Community Giveaway, and it was in collaboration with DHSS & NPF - New Performance Family. So many people showed up for the first time and now know of a beautiful community resource for needy families.

We were at a new location in Elsmere which worked out perfectly. Children could play together at the park or safely sit down and draw with chalk while their parents waited in line. Almost 500 guests of all ages, from little kids to the elderly, came to the event and patiently awaited to receive the donations which the volunteers had laid out on tables for them. All our guests were very grateful and happy with the gifts they received. I had a great time speaking to some of the attendees in Spanish as I am a Spanish immersion student and enjoy practicing my language.

Our deepest gratitude goes to all the volunteers who made this event successful. Thank you, Goldy Parmar, Vishal Karthikeyan, Vellore Gopi, and his beautiful family. A special thanks to Lupita Murphy and Vaishali Ameen for continuing to teach and guide Charity Crossing youth volunteers as we learn, grow, and improve what we do so our guests and volunteers can have the best experience. Thank you to the Volunteer Delaware 50+ senior volunteers and Journey volunteers who came out and served all day. Thank you to Castillo Collision Center for donating the truck, tables, tents, drinks, and snacks for volunteers. We had a great time volunteering and cannot wait until next month!



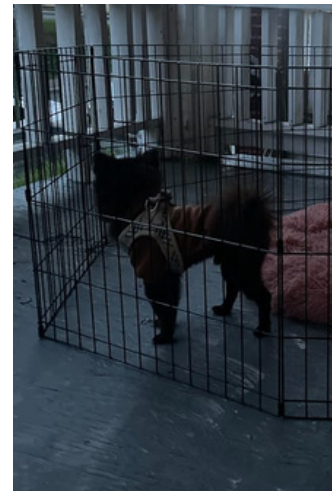
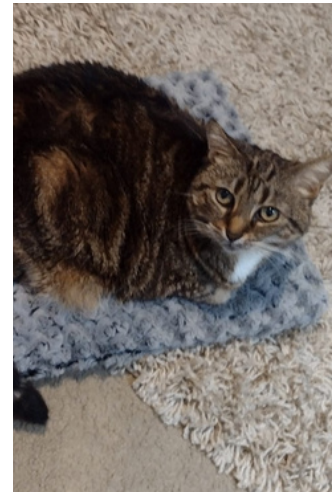


## Social Media Buzz



By Siddharth Sharma, 8th Grader at Alfred G. Waters

In April, Charity Crossing had a special Pet Giveaway event where Pet owners were provided with Dog Cages , Playpens , Beds and Hamster Cages. Since then many Pet Owners have been sharing photos of their pets enjoying these donations, here is our pick of some of them



## My Charity Crossing Story

By Rishil Garlapati

Charity Crossing, a nonprofit managed entirely by volunteers, has had a significant and uplifting impact on my life. Charity Crossing provided me with a transforming experience that improved my well-being, the feeling of community, and my general quality of life through its commitment to carrying out eco-friendly initiatives, promoting volunteerism, and giving and providing opportunities for personal growth.



I've found a new sense of empowerment and purpose by participating in Charity Crossing's projects. I feel satisfaction and fulfillment knowing that my participation in eco-friendly initiatives has helped my community and the environment. A purpose-driven emphasis also promotes personal development, increases self-esteem, and instills pride in one's capacity to make a difference.

Charity Crossing serves as a catalyst for building connections and a sense of belonging. I've had the chance to develop long-lasting friendships, widen my social networks, and create a support network through volunteering and interacting with like-minded people. Beyond the specific projects, shared experiences and a common objective generate connections that foster a sense of belonging and connection to something bigger than oneself.

Charity Crossing goes beyond its core purpose by giving volunteers like me a chance to gain valuable knowledge and skills. I have improved my leadership, communication, and interpersonal abilities due to my involvement. In addition to giving me the opportunity to take on duties, work together, and build highly transferable skills to various aspects of life, including the workplace, relationships, and personal activities, the organization offers a platform for my personal growth.

The impact of Charity Crossing goes far beyond the confines of its environmental programs. The organization has significantly and positively influenced my life by empowering its volunteers, building a feeling of community, encouraging personal development, and imparting good values. Charity Crossing offers a life-enriching experience that fosters a better, more compassionate society through its dedication to making a difference.





# 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.



# 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](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 May 2023 Edition of the CC Newsletter!