

CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing **A SUMMER OF CARING**

By Mukul Sharma

August 2023 has been an exceptional month for Charity Crossing. During the peak of summer, we were able to care and support the community in so many ways. From a record of serving at **least 2,329 community members** during the week of Aug 7-13 to holding numerous events throughout the month, Charity Crossing volunteers made sure it was a summer to remember !



We were blessed with having community leaders like respected **Councilman David Tackett** volunteering with us while also being able to welcome foster families as volunteers.

Despite the heat, our volunteers made sure each participant was safe and left with a smile.

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE COMMUNITY



Joanna Abruscato

Dear Charity Crossing, Thank you for allowing us to volunteer and be a part of giving back to the community in yet another fashion. Your system for preparing for events is absolutely amazing, and your volunteers impress us every time! Your blessings touched many foster families this past Monday. The look on a 5 year oldest face while getting some of the items were priceless. The amazement was beautiful as many kids in care come from not having even the basics. So much was able to go to great use. We hope to continue to volunteer and continue to bless others with you. Thank you so so much.

Non-working Parent, I'm a non working parent and my husband works to pay our bills. We live check to check and no matter how much we live below our means we just can't catch a break... I'm very thankful for CC... because you give my family a break from life expenses.

Working Parent, I home school because I am a caretaker of a child who receives SSI and public school failed to teach him at his level. Of course this can get expensive since theres never help with this, so I ALWAYS appreciate the work you all do! Sometimes I'll find educational tools (which I love) or christmas gifts I can put up which helps to lift that future that burden.

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I have been to a few of these events throughout New Castle County, and each and every time, these young adults never quit amazing me with their drive, willing to do anything asked of them and always with a smile on their faces. The respect they show to other people is beyond reproach and a lot of young adults could learn from them.

My Thank You goes out to all the volunteers and event coordinators that put these on.



8 Years of Caring - CC Birthday - Sep 22nd !

By Mukul Sharma

On 22nd Sept 2023, Charity Crossing will celebrate its 8th anniversary since being founded.

For 8 years Charity Crossing has been making a positive impact on the community it serves and the environment it strives to protect.

On this day lets celebrate the inspiration that led to the foundation of the organization, the generosity of our donors, the hard work of each volunteer that serves the community and most importantly the hope and joy the organization brings to the people we serve !

In the words of our organizations' Founder and President, Jay Muthukamatchi

“At the end of the day, the Almighty will review my performance. He will look at what I did with the skills he blessed me with.

I never thought an organization I founded in my basement would serve 50,000 people and their pets yearly. It continues to grow. I am adding my goodwill credit every day.

Also, we are seeding the art of giving and volunteering to young minds. They will take it to the next level for sure.

If Charity Crossing's work interests you, please join us. Let's make a difference in many lives and environments.

Let's leave a positive legacy.

My heartfelt thanks to my family and friends for their support.”



Charity Crossing Helping Homeless Sleep Safely

By Mukul Sharma

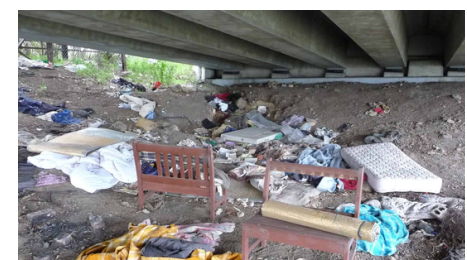
At Charity Crossing we agree in the belief that dignity is a human right. In Smyrna, Kent County DE, during winter months, due to lack of shelter homes a large number of homeless people have to sleep on the streets across the city. While our organization helps with household items and essentials, stocking up on them is not an option when you are homeless. Our objective is to help these unsheltered citizens and provide them with protection from harsh weather and improve their dignity, sleep, health, warmth and comfort.









We are extremely grateful and thankful to **Benjamin Potter Trust Grants Fund** of the **Delaware Community Foundation** for selecting Charity Crossing to receive a \$5,000.00 grant for our project, Charity Crossing Helping Homeless Sleep Safely (CCHSS).

The grant will be utilized to provide **Backpack Beds for Homeless**, which is a Backpack with storage that rolls out into an all weather protected bed. It is study proven to save homeless lives and has been internationally (including US) recognized.

Charity Crossing community outreach and weekly giveaway events in **Smyrna Kent County DE** will be utilized to distribute these Backpack Beds to the most vulnerable and in need, in the period leading to and during winter.

Please spread the word to ensure we make the initiative a success. If would like to participate in the initiative please reach out to Mukul Sharma - ms@charitycrossing.org



 Lightweight 6.6lb Street tough material	 Full Body Protection 4 season summer & winter	 Fire Retardant Fabric + Mattress 6ft 3" x 22"	 Water & Wind Proof Protects against winter chills
 Full Body Mosquito Net Stop bites on hot summer nights	 Ergonomic Backpack Adjustable shoulder & chest straps	 Storage Pockets 4 pockets - store over 44lb	 Secret lockable pocket With brass key lock

Source : <https://backpackbed.org/us>

CC - SUPPORTING FUTURE OLYMPIANS

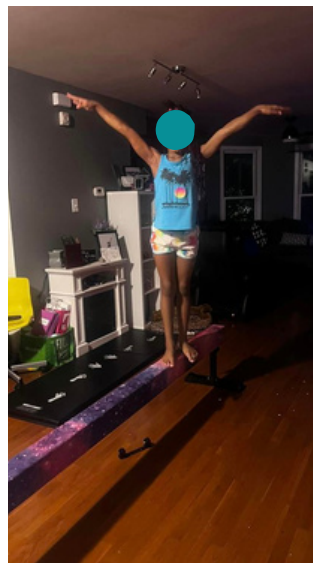
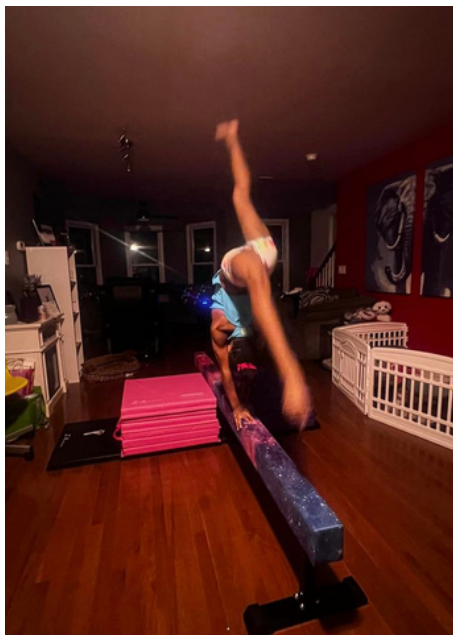
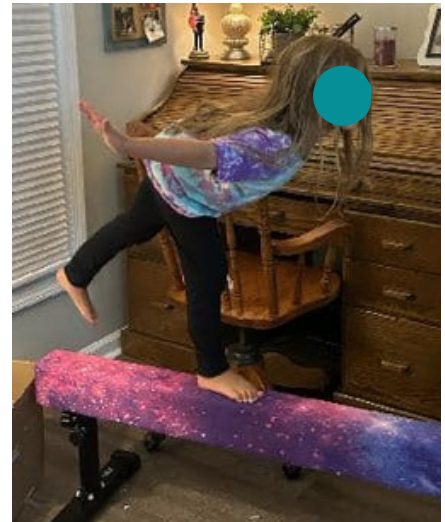
By Mukul Sharma

Charity Crossing is painfully aware how hard it is for some families in the community to support physical activities like gymnastics for their children. So when the opportunity came to procure 25 Gymnastics Balance Beams, Charity Crossing founder and president, Jay immediately reached out to the community to gauge interest.

The community responded overwhelmingly. Parents, physical therapists working for special needs schools and other charitable organizations responded, with more than 31 requests and some had to be waitlisted.

Charity Crossing Warehouse leads diligently distributed the balance beams to all community members who had expressed the need and very soon the community responded with gratitude and photos of little ones enjoying the balance beam.

Charity Crossing wishes all these children the best in developing their physical capabilities and hopes to have inspired a new generation of Sportspersons and Olympians who will make the country proud of their achievements !



CC WAREHOUSE TEAM - MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE

By Siddharth Sharma, 9th Grader Appoquinimink High School

When the going gets tough, the CC Warehouse team gets going

With the updated home box sorting procedures and a summer where the community needed Charity Crossing to step up, recently appointed Charity Crossing's Warehouse manager Chandra Dontaraju had an uphill task.

Enough boxes needed to be sorted to support the many public giveaway events planned and continuous space needed to be created in the Warehouse to take in new donations. Constraints laid down by the Warehouse property management, meant that unloading donation boxes from the truck was going to be harder. However disappointing the community was not an option.



With support from other WH Leads, Anand Chandolu, Baranidharan Radhakrishna, Vaishali Ameen, Hari Kuppuswamy, Sakthi Raghu, Raj Karpurapu, KP Prasad and Mukul Sharma, Chandra lead from the front.

Targets were formed on quantity of boxes that need to be sorted and distributed. Warehouse was opened for 2 additional days a week to facilitate the volume of activities required. CC youth and adult volunteers responded and ensured they participated at all Warehouse events.

From hosting foster families so that they could volunteer at the Warehouse, opening the Warehouse on weekends for special event distributions, segregating school supplies for supporting our educators and students in the community, to handling the distribution of special items like balance beams, kitchen sinks etc. the Warehouse Team delivered above and beyond.



The impact was seen across all the events in August, Charity Crossing kept its commitment to the community and ensured we continued to serve and alleviate the challenges faced by them.

CC Warehouse Team you truly make the impossible, POSSIBLE !

CC's Dedicated Volunteers At The Dover Event

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

Whether it's raining or the sun is shining, Charity Crossing volunteers are dedicated to helping their community. In Dover, our dedicated volunteers were able to serve over 100 people at the serve and more than 10 youth volunteers unloaded more than 475 boxes at the warehouse. You will certainly be in awe and inspired by these amazing volunteers and their commitment to helping others!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS AND THE WONDERFUL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY!

Updated Home Sorting Guidelines

By Aratrika Ghosh

1. Only Giveaway location Leads and their approved volunteers are allowed for home sorting.
2. Unsorted boxes taken for home sorting must be used for their upcoming serves and cannot bring them back to the warehouse.
3. *Leads* are solely responsible for ensuring quality of sorting and making sure no volunteer takes any donations for their personal use. Leads must instruct and coach their approved volunteers how to sort. If you are unsure of whether an item is appropriate to be served or is of high value, post a photo in the Whatsapp chat and consult with the leads.
4. Volunteers (kids and adults) who are claiming service hours must serve at locations. Sorting without serving at locations will not be allowed.
5. Only the Warehouse Leads are allowed to do home sorting and bring the sorted boxes back to the warehouse.



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.

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 Aug 2023 Edition of the CC Newsletter!