



The Helping Hand Haul

By: Angela Li Sunday, July 14

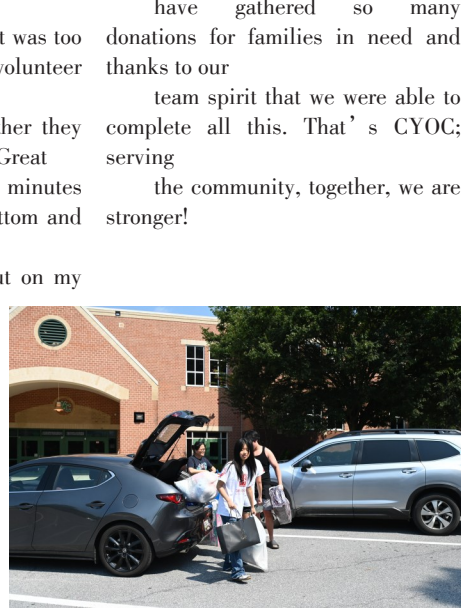
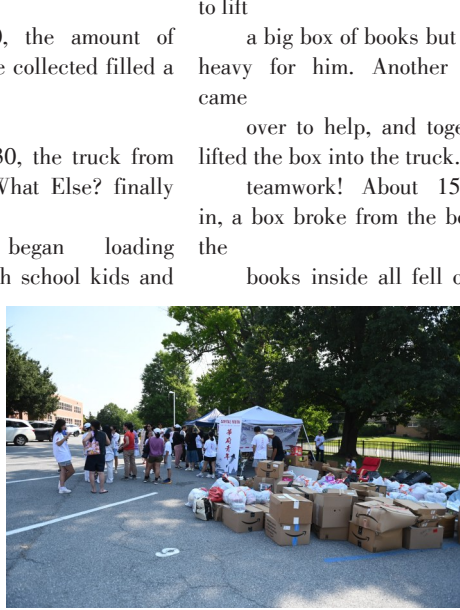
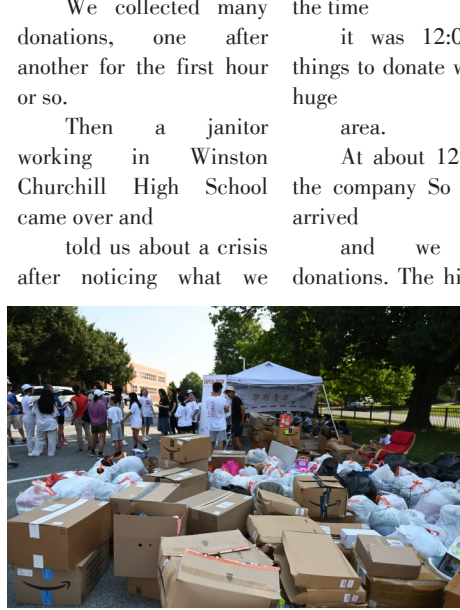
The Capital Youth Outreach Club held the "Helping Hand Haul" event, which was to collect donations including clothes, books and toys for families in need. Most people arrived at 9:00 to help set up and get the first few donations in for the

CYOC. When people arrived, the tarps and banners were set up first, and then people started signing in. It was about 90 degrees today, so many people were sitting in the shade, but it didn't help that much.

we were doing; St Vincent and the Grenadines, an island nation in the Caribbeans, was hit by a hurricane and needed help! So people collected summer clothes and shoes for the Caribbean people in need of such items, and there were a lot! By the time

interns went in the truck to organize and load the boxes and bags. The clothes went in first, and then the toys and shoes, and finally the books, since they were the heaviest. At one point, one of the younger volunteers was trying to lift

legs, corners first. That really hurt, and I had to sit out for a while. Other than these minor setbacks, the truck was fully loaded in about 20 minutes, and people started to head home. We



We collected many donations, one after another for the first hour or so. Then a janitor working in Winston Churchill High School came over and told us about a crisis after noticing what we

it was 12:00, the amount of things to donate we collected filled a huge area. At about 12:30, the truck from the company So What Else? finally arrived and we began loading donations. The high school kids and

a big box of books but it was too heavy for him. Another volunteer came over to help, and together they lifted the box into the truck. Great teamwork! About 15 minutes in, a box broke from the bottom and the books inside all fell out on my

team spirit that we were able to complete all this. That's CYOC; serving the community, together, we are stronger!

CYOC Donation Drive 2024

By: Amy Suh, July 14, 2024

On a hot Sunday afternoon, I was fortunate to join the Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC) and participate in a charity drop-off. Starting from 9:00 am, we settled at the front of Winston Churchill High School and piled our donations. The members set up two canopy tents where we could sit in the shade. As time passed, the temperature rose, and so did the number of items in

the pile. We still had a couple of hours before the truck came to pick up the donations, so everybody had time to relax. I took a look at the different appliances and toys that were going to be given away. There were books, clothes, shoes, and much more! However, one specific thing that caught my eye was a pair of tennis

rackets and a rubber ball. I pulled along my friends to play tennis together, which lasted many rounds before the ball got stuck in a tree. Thank god for the teddy bear, because we launched it into the air and safely got the ball back down! We lounged around for a bit more on the parking lot curb until the truck came, and celebrations were in the air for its arrival. As the

back of the vehicle opened, we were hit with the realization that we needed to move dozens of items into there! The driver asked for some members to go inside the truck and help there. I was one of them, and I can say now that I shouldn't have worn my baggy cargo pants that day. We stacked boxes on top of one another and threw the bags into large compartments. We were all sweating

and working out from the hot sun, but I could feel an upbeat energy as we continued. As we carried the last heavy box into the truck, there was a large group photo to commemorate this event! That day was so rewarding and showed us the meaning of teamwork.

Sweating and Servicing: A Sizzling Summer Donation Drive

By: Ruichen Feng, July 15, 2024

On July 14, 2024, I had the opportunity to participate in the Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC, 华府青年) summer clothes and toys donation drive, collaborating with the non-profit organization So What Else. It was a very hot and sunny day, so we set our base under a big tree in the parking area of Churchill High School to get some shade. After signing in, I stayed with some of my friends to wait for the cars carrying donations and help unload their items. It was surprising to see so

many donations already in the pile, considering it had only been an hour and a half since the drive began. Over the next few hours, we received more and more donations while waiting for the truck from So What Else to arrive and haul our donations to distribute them to those in need. While waiting, I spent some time looking through the donations to pass the time, finding things like a small tennis set, books, and scooters. There were a lot of fun items for kids to play with. Finally, around 1:00 pm, the

truck arrived to pick up the donations. I climbed onto the truck bed to load the bags of clothes into the truck's container. It was a long process since we had tons of donations. I kept throwing bags into the boxes, running to receive new bags, throwing the bags again, and running back. After we finished loading the clothes, we still had boxes of toys to load. The boxes were a bit easier to handle since we only had to drag them to the end of the truck rather than lifting heavy bags into giant plastic containers.

As the truck became more and more filled, we had less and less space to work with. But at last, we finished loading all the donations. Everyone was sweating, but everyone was so happy! Watching the truck drive off, I felt a deep sense of accomplishment. I reflected on the collective effort and generosity of everyone involved. The sight of the truck brimming with donations was a powerful reminder of the impact we can make when we come together as a community. Thinking about the children

who would soon be playing with the toys and the families who would benefit from the clothes, I felt a profound sense of purpose and connection. This experience reinforced my belief in the importance of giving back and supporting those in need. It was a reminder that even small actions can have a significant impact on others' lives. I was proud to be part of such an impactful event and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to my community in a meaningful way.

