



Giving Back: CYOC's Annual Donation Drive

Ruichen Feng, November 2024



It was a warm Sunday in late fall when Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC) held its annual donation drive, an event that I, along with a few other CYOC adult advisors, had been planning and advertising for some time. Back in October, one of our members, Charlotte Sauder, designed a beautiful flyer that outlined the items we would be collecting, as well as the time and location of the drive.

We shared the flyer on social media and the Next-door app to attract more attention from the community.

Since October, my parents have also helped by collecting donations from their friends. I created a Google Form to recruit CYOC volunteers to help collect and accept donations on

tion drive, and I learned a lot throughout the planning process. With the help of my parents and the CYOC adult advisors, I feel this drive was very well organized and executed.

On November 17th, the day of the donation drive, I arrived at 10:05 AM after attending a basketball class earlier in the morning. After dropping off the clothes and toys I wanted to donate, I sat under the tent to manage the sign-in sheets. Once all the volunteers arrived, more cars pulled up, and people began

dropping off their donations. It was heartwarming to see so many people contributing, even if it was just one or two bags. Around 11:00 AM, as fewer cars arrived, our team had some downtime. During this time, people interacted with each other, made new friends, shared interests, and even played with some of the donated toys. This donation drive

was large enough to fit everything at once, so we had to leave some items behind for later pickup. Despite this, the drive was a success.

Looking back, leading this donation drive was both challenging and rewarding. As the organizer, I had to balance a lot of responsibilities—planning the logistics, recruiting volunteers, and making sure everything ran smoothly on the day of the event. But it was incredibly fulfilling to see the community come together for such a meaningful cause. It

gained a deeper understanding of what it takes to coordinate an event like this, and how important it is to communicate clearly and stay organized.

Reflecting on the drive, I'm proud of the selfless actions of those who donated and the hard work of our volunteers. Thanks to their efforts, many underprivileged people will have access to clean clothes, books, and other essentials—and they will be grateful for our work. This experience has inspired me to continue finding ways to give back to my community, and to lead future initiatives with even more confidence and purpose.



As part of CYOC, I had the opportunity to participate in a clothing and item donation for So



Helping the Community

By Camille Hu

What Else, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving underprivileged communities. This experience was

both enlightening and fulfilling, allowing me to contribute to a meaningful cause while gaining a

deeper understanding of community service. The process began with collecting used

clothes from my family, friends, and neighbors. My mom was reaching out to her friends for clothes, and within days, we had various items—coats, sweaters, pants, and even a pillow.

The van arrived later, we started carrying bags and boxes of clothes, and toys. The van was stuffed after several bags, there were even some toys that were left out because of the stuffed van. One of the most rewarding moments came when a staff member shared stories of families who had benefited from similar donations in the past. It made me realize that even donating clothes can make a significant difference in someone's life. This experience taught me the importance of giving back to the community and the value of being resourceful. I'm grateful for this opportunity and plan to continue supporting So What Else and similar organizations in the future.



摄影:CYOC 家长