



Reflection Report – CYOC 2025 Fall Donation Drive

By George, 8th Grade

The CYOC 2025 Fall Donation Drive was a great success! This was the second time Ruichen and I hosted the event. We organized our first donation drive in the summer of 2025, and this time Kevin also joined us as part of the organizing team. Even though we already had experience, we still learned a lot and worked even better together.

Before the Event

Because Ruichen and I had done this once before, planning felt more familiar, but it was still a lot of work. About a month before the event, the three of us started brainstorming the best ways to promote it. We handed out flyers at our schools and in our neighborhoods, and we posted information on social media. Our parents also helped share the event through their networks, which really expanded our reach.

This time, we were more organized—especially when arranging home pickups for donors who couldn't come on the event day. Visiting different homes to collect donations made us appreciate how many people wanted to support the drive. We also set up an early drop-off station at the Chinese school the day before the event. Thanks to our previous experience, this part went very smoothly.

During the Event

The donation drive took place on November 16 at the Wootton High School parking lot. Even though it was my second time hosting, I still felt excited and a little nervous while setting up. But once volunteers arrived and we began sorting and collecting items, everything came together quickly.

With experience from last time, we divided tasks more efficiently. We were mainly in charge of directing the flow of the event, tracking volunteer hours, and logging all the donated items. Together with other volunteers we also helped unload cars, greet donors, and sort donations.

By the end of the day, we had collected more than 10,000 items, and the big So What Else truck was completely full! Loading the truck was a big task—it required careful planning, teamwork, and the right tools. Volunteers worked together to move heavy boxes safely and stack



items so nothing would get damaged. Seeing the truck full and ready for delivery made me realize how much good our community can do when everyone works together.

After the Event

After the drive ended, we calculated volunteer hours for each participant and wrote reports summarizing the event. These tasks weren't as exciting as the event itself, but they were important, and I'm glad we worked together to complete them.

What I Learned This Time

Even though it was my second year helping host the donation drive, I still learned a lot:

- Teamwork is powerful. With three organizers working

together, everything felt smoother and more organized.

- Experience builds confidence. I felt more prepared and more comfortable taking responsibility than last time.

- Serving the community is meaningful. Seeing how much we collected made me proud of our team and community.

- Leadership grows through practice. Working with Ruichen and Kevin taught me how to communicate better and divide tasks fairly.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

I want to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this event possible. Whether you were

unloading cars, sorting donations, stacking boxes, greeting donors—your energy, enthusiasm, and hard work made a real difference. Together, you turned a plan into action, and your willingness to help is what made this drive so successful.

Conclusion

Hosting the CYOC donation drive for the second time made this event even more successful and meaningful. Collecting over 10,000 items and filling the truck completely showed me the impact we can make as a team. These donations will be donated to So What Else, a nonprofit that improves the lives of children and families in underserved communities in Maryland and Washington, D.C. by providing food

security, access to basic necessities, and high-quality out-of-school programs.

I'm proud of what our team accomplished, and I hope we can keep improving and continue helping our community in future events.

CYOC Fall Donation Drive & Fundraising

By: Peishi Yu

On November 16, the Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC) held the 2025 Fall Donation Drive at Thomas S. Wootton High School. The drive collected items from community members, including clothing, shoes, toys, household items, furniture, school supplies, art materials, and laptops. These donations will support underserved families and students in the DMV area.

This year, the CYOC Fundraising Team partnered with the Donation Drive for the first time, adding an on-site sale to raise funds for future community service projects. Team members Angela, Camille, and I arrived early to organize, sort, and display the items for sale. Once the event began, we enthusiastically introduced the items to community members, engaging visitors and sharing CYOC's mission.

Despite the strong winds on the day of the event, the volunteers were full of energy and excitement, and participants were highly engaged. The lively atmosphere was contagious, creating a warm and vibrant environment for everyone involved.

The Fundraising Team has previously carried out various forms of fundraising, and this first collaboration with the Donation Drive was a tremendous success. Volunteers' efforts not only raised funds for upcoming initiatives but also strengthened community engagement and awareness of CYOC's mission.

We warmly welcome everyone to participate and support CYOC—no donation is too small. Every contribution is a strong affirmation of our commitment to youth and community. Your support helps empower young people and advance the CYOC mission.

