



# United Through Service: CYOC 2026 Summer Donation Drive

By George Wang

Today, May 24, 2026, the CYOC Summer Donation Drive was successfully held at Wootton High School. Although the event itself lasted only a few hours, the effort behind it represented weeks of planning, coordination, outreach, and teamwork. Together with Ruichen and Kevin, we organized the drive from the very beginning, and throughout this experience I witnessed how a community can unite through compassion, generosity, and a shared desire to help others.

This year, our donation drive continued its partnership with So What Else, our longtime nonprofit partner dedicated to supporting underserved children and families in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. area. We collected clothing, toys, school supplies, and daily necessities to help families facing hardship. In addition, we were excited to work with a new partner this year, Lift Every Step, an organization that ensures every donated pair of shoes reaches someone who truly needs them. We also partnered with Costco Vision and the Lions Club to collect prescription glasses and reading glasses so they could be redistributed to individuals with limited access to vision care. Knowing that each donated item would directly help improve someone's life made the entire event even more meaningful.

In the weeks leading up to the event, our team focused not only on collecting donations, but also on making community service more accessible and meaningful for everyone involved. We understood that many students, families, and volunteers wanted to contribute but might not be able to attend the main event on the actual day. To solve this problem, I organized three separate pre-donation collection sites at American Chinese School in Rockville, Cabin John Middle School in Potomac, and Hope Chinese School in Gaithersburg. These early collection stations allowed people to donate in advance and greatly expanded participation across different communities. Watching donations steadily arrive at each location reminded me that kindness is not limited by time or distance—people truly wanted to help when given the opportunity.

Another major challenge during preparation was the weather. For several days before the donation drive, heavy rain continued across the area, and we worried constantly that the event might be disrupted. Since the donation drive was planned entirely outdoors, bad weather could have reduced attendance, complicated transportation, and discouraged volunteers. We checked the forecast repeatedly and prepared backup plans while hoping conditions would improve. Thankfully, when the day finally arrived, the rain stopped. The skies cleared, the weather became calm, and everything came together far better than we expected. In many

ways, it felt like a blessing. After days of uncertainty, the good weather brought not only relief, but also renewed energy and optimism to everyone involved.

Early the morning, volunteers began arriving to help set up collection stations, organize signs, direct traffic flow, and prepare for incoming donations. As families started driving into the parking lot, the entire area quickly filled with activity and excitement. Volunteers worked side by side unloading cars packed with clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, toys, school supplies, and many other daily necessities. Others sorted donations carefully into different categories so they could later be distributed efficiently to people in need. Throughout the morning, more and more donations continued to arrive, and the growing piles of boxes and bags became a powerful visual reminder of how much a community can accomplish when people work together toward a common purpose.

What impressed me most was not only the number of donations collected, but the spirit behind them. Every volunteer had a different role, yet everyone shared the same goal: serving others. Some volunteers carried heavy boxes for hours, some greeted donors with enthusiasm, some organized supplies carefully, and others helped manage traffic and logistics under pressure. No one complained or hesitated to step in wherever help was needed. The atmosphere throughout the event was filled with cooperation, responsibility, and genuine kindness. It showed me that leadership is not just about organizing an event—it is about bringing people together, creating opportunities for others to contribute, and building a sense of shared purpose.

By the end of the drive, I felt proud not only because of the large amount of donations we collected, but because of what the event represented. Students, parents, volunteers, schools, nonprofit organizations, and local families all came together to support people they may never personally meet. The event reminds us that communities grow stronger when people choose to care for one another. Even small acts—donating a pair of shoes, volunteering a few hours, helping unload a car, or spreading awareness—can create meaningful change in someone else's life.

Overall, the CYOC 2026 Summer Donation Drive was more than just a service event; it was a reflection of the power of unity, compassion, and community responsibility. This experience taught me valuable lessons about leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and the importance of giving back. Most importantly, it showed me that when people come together with a shared purpose, they can accomplish far more than any individual could alone. I am deeply thankful to everyone who donated, volunteered, supported, and believed in this

effort, and I hope we can continue building a stronger and more caring community through future donation drives.

**风雨无阻,全力以赴,  
华府青年,全城瞩目  
——华府青年2026衣物、  
鞋帽、眼镜"三合一"  
募集活动有感**

作者: Daniel Guo

中文指导老师: 赵瑜萍

初夏的阴雨连绵数日,却浇不灭华府青年(CYOC)心中的热忱。等待了半年的爱心募集活动,终于在今天上午九点雨歇后拉开了帷幕。Wootton高中停车场里,CYOC义工组织者早已搭好帐篷、拉起CYOC横幅,静候义工同学们的到来。

义工同学们乘着家长的车陆续抵达。他们从车尾箱里、从后座上、从副驾驶座上,抬出一件件整理妥当的衣物,送往指定募集处。社区的居民来了,他们也带来了同样整理好的衣物鞋帽和用过的眼镜。看着干净的旧衣渐渐堆成小山,我也将家中反复筛选的五六十件衣物悉数送入其中。有些衣物甚至还未拆标签,我只盼它们能踏上"第二段旅程"——既节约了资源,又温暖了需要帮助的家庭。我想,所有义工同学心中都怀着同样的期盼吧。

衣物募集已是CYOC连续第四年举办此类活动。今年,华府青年的骨干们更是提前深入社区与校园广发募集传单,通知社区爱心人士,让爱心的辐射面更广、传递得更远。

当CYOC的合作单位SWE(So What Else)的卡车缓缓驶入,搬运工作随即展开。CYOC纷纷上前,奋勇争先。我与好友Eric Song默契配合——扛箱、递包或者搭档一起。沉甸甸的物资在我们手中接力传递。汗水浸湿了衣衫,但每一次击掌、每一个相视而笑,都让疲惫烟消云散,取而代之的是携手助人的踏实与快乐。今天还有年幼的弟弟妹妹在哥哥姐姐的带领下参与其中,CYOC的督导与家长义工也一同上阵。我确信,正是在这言传身教之间,公益之火正悄然传承。

在CYOC这个大平台与大熔炉里,我不仅贡献了绵薄之力,更在每一次的协作中真切感受到集体的伟大力量,自己也得到了实实在在的锻炼。"风雨无阻,全力以赴,华府青年,全城瞩目"——这不仅是一句口号,更是我们CYOC华府青年勇于担当的生动写照。未来,我愿继续与同伴同行,在奉献中茁壮成长。

**CYOC 5/24/2026 SWE  
Donation drive**

By Sophie Xu

On May 24, 2026 on a day with auspicious weather the CYOC donation drive started. The passionate CYOC volunteers arrived as early as 9:00 am to help set up tables, banners and donation stations before the event began. Soon as people arrived, all volunteers warmly led them to the correct drop-off areas and clearly coordinated responsibilities with one another. The entire process was organized

with effort and care, with sign-in tables and clear donation records. As more and more people arrived, the donations soon formed a huge pile of bags, clothes, books, toys, baby strollers, and school supplies. Every volunteer was dedicated to their task, with all early a CYOC shirt a unified and welcoming atmosphere was created. The volunteer's enthusiasm encouraged many people to stop by and help contribute and support.

The consistent commitment of the volunteers was clearly portrayed throughout the event, whenever a new car arrived, volunteers quickly gathered and worked together to unload and organize the donations. After finishing arranging the items, the volunteers eagerly waited for the next group of donors and repeated the process with efficiency.

CYOC has had a long history of organizing community events such as donation drives. CYOC has been partners with So What Else since 2023 to support local communities through a range of projects. Initiated by Ruichen R. Feng and George Wang, CYOC members have participated in many important initiatives, including organizing donation drives, volunteering at food distribution sites, supporting the MoCo CARES Charity Race, participating in holiday festivals, and providing bilingual Chinese-English translation assistance. Notably in 2024 alone, CYOC collected over 8,000 items during the Summer Donation Drive and more than 5,000 items during the Fall Donation Drive.

With this current exciting donation drive, after a morning of hard work by around 11:40 am, the So What Else truck finally arrived to pick up the donations. The CYOC volunteers immediately worked together to carefully load countless bags, toys, clothes and supplies onto the truck. Everyone worked with a big smile on their face, proud of their accomplishment. As the truck quickly filled up, the CYOC volunteers and So What Else staff were all satisfied and especially grateful towards the community's support and generosity. Watching the truck leave with so many donations was a meaningful representation of the volunteers' hard work and compassion will help the families in need. In the end just with about 2 hours of collection CYOC was able to collect countless items, notably collecting 125 pairs of shoes in this short period of time.

The success of this donation drive would not have been possible without the support of volunteers, families, community partners, and

donors. CYOC truly appreciates everyone's continuous support through contributions. With kindness, teamwork, and service, CYOC helps to continue to organize events as such to help build and foster a more strong community. With all the success CYOC is looking forward to the next donation drive.

**CYOC 2026 捐赠活动**

By Lily Xu

2026年5月24号,上午10点,CYOC与So What Else共同发起的2026 Donation drive在马里兰州Wootton high school的停车场准时开始。多日持续的降雨也未能阻挡人们参加捐赠的热情。这是CYOC每年的传统公益活动。这个活动非常有意义:它的主要目的是收集大家的闲置物品,实现循环利用,即帮助那些生活中需要的人,为他们提供生活用品和学习用品,又能保护环境,节约资源。虽然每个人捐赠的东西并不一定十分昂贵,但每一件物品都承载着一份温暖和关爱。这次捐赠不仅让所有参与的小义工们与捐赠者们感受到了奉献的意义,也让更多人感受到了希望和世界的善意。

上午10点刚到,捐赠地点前便陆陆续续停满了车辆。家长和学生们从车里搬出各种各样的捐赠物品:有整齐摆放的书籍、有孩子们喜欢的玩具、有干净整洁的衣服、鞋子,还有椅子、文具以及各种日常必需品。许多车辆的后备箱都被塞得满满当当,可见大家对此次活动的热烈支持。每当有车辆停下,小义工们都会立刻热情地跑上前去帮忙。他们有的负责搬运沉重的箱子,有的负责整理分类,还有的负责登记捐赠物品。大家脸上洋溢着笑容,争先恐后的干活,没有一个人喊累。小义工们穿梭在人群和物资之间,忙碌的身影成为活动现场最动人的风景。随着时间的推移,捐赠区里的物品越堆越多。从几袋物资,后来慢慢堆成了一片,很是壮观。

到了11点40分,负责接收捐赠物资的运输车到达现场。原本已经忙碌了一上午的小义工们顾不上休息,又立刻投入到了新的工作中。有的人负责抬箱子,有的人负责把物品整齐地摆放到车上。大家齐心协力、互相配合。很快所有捐赠物资都被顺利装上了车。

望着驶向远方的捐赠物资运输车,大家的心里充满了感动与幸福。通过小义工们的努力,实现了物品的有效循环使用,避免浪费。他们辛勤劳动了一上午,用他们的汗水换来一份笑容,这就是捐赠的意义,实现了爱的传递。不管是小义工,还是捐赠物品的人,或者是未来的受赠者,大家都被这次捐赠活动温暖到。感谢CYOC和So What Else的组织,在小义工们的心底种下爱的种子,这颗爱心种子将沐浴阳光雨露,生根发芽,小爱心连成大大心,温暖整个世界。

