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Giving Machines find new home at Tysons Corner for 2024 holiday season; Locals have unique opportunity to donate to local nonprofits with charitable vending machines

Community invited to support and donate to 5 local charities and 2 international nonprofits in McLean

McLean, VA – Community members and local nonprofit leaders watched as children unwrapped the Giving Machines outside of AMC Theatres at Tysons Corner Center on Saturday afternoon. The Grand Unwrapping event celebrated the official launch of the Giving Machines for the 2024 holiday season.

The Light the World Giving Machines are just like regular vending machines but with a twist. Instead of swiping your card and receiving a candy bar or chips for yourself, the Giving Machines allow individuals to swipe their card and donate products and services to charities in the DMV and around the world.

Tysons Corner is one of 106 locations worldwide that is home to the Giving Machines — which are sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — for the 2024 holiday season.

“The beauty of the Giving Machines is that they connect the community by providing a fun way to support humanitarian efforts in the DMV,” said Lisa Bartolomei, Giving Machines Event Organizer for Washington, D.C. “Donating or just visiting the Giving Machines is a great way to get in the holiday spirit and share goodness during the holidays.”

This year, people can donate to seven total charities, five local and two global. Those charities include the Catholic Relief Services, House of Ruth, Mentors International, REACT DC, Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas, Willing Warriors, and Young Doctors Project.

Community members can choose from 30 items to donate. These products and services support the featured charities in their humanitarian efforts. Some of the available donation items include chickens, child education packs, doctor’s kit, meals, music therapy, gardening supplies, and more.

Items in the unique vending machines cost between \$15 to \$150. One hundred percent of donations goes to the selected charities.

“The charities featured in the Giving Machines this year all have incredible missions and are dedicated to serving our community members,” Bartolomei said. “These charities provide services to a diverse group

of communities including women and children, homeless, refugees, underprivileged communities, youth, and veterans.”

The Light the World Giving Machines, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, started in 2017 and has raised more than \$43.4 million in donations for local and global charities. This year, the initiative has doubled its Giving Machine locations and expanded its global reach to include 32 states and 11 nations including Kenya, the UK, Panama, the Philippines, Mexico and Australia. Worldwide, more than 450 charities will be benefactors of donations made through Giving Machines.

In addition to providing a unique opportunity to donate this holiday season, the Giving Machines will also host mini events on the weekends to help attendees get to know the local charities and get in the holiday spirit. Check out givingmachinesdc.org in December for more information.

“We hope everyone will take time to stop by the Giving Machines, donate if they can, and learn about these amazing organizations making a difference in our community,” Bartolomei says.

The Giving Machines are located outside of the AMC Theatres at Tysons Corner Center — 7850e Tysons Corner Center in McLean, VA — next to the food court, and are open 24/7 for donations. People can donate at the charitable vending machines from Nov. 23, 2023 to Jan. 2, 2024.