

Paddy Puthige

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Paddy Puthige is a project manager by profession with an undergraduate degree in Computer Science Engineering and has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Iowa.

Residing in Cedar Rapids for over 25 years, Paddy continues to volunteer in several community leadership roles.

As a past president of the Eastern Iowa Project Management Institute and fondly recalls being instrumental in establishing a scholarship program for local high school students who are committed to a four-year degree in universities. As a member of the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions Club - Annual variety show committee, he has helped raise over \$25,000 for local projects. Paddy also mentors middle school students for a yearly STEM-based competition that fosters artistic creativity and research skills to design a city of the future.

A trained musician, Paddy plays percussion instruments (mridangam and tabla) at local concerts and enjoys singing for family and friends. Paddy organizes Indian classical music events and he, his wife, and his two sons have all been active volunteers supporting the CARTHA-Iowa Corridor Sangeet Partnership Program. Paddy mentors the 'Carnatic for a Cause' CFAC team which raises awareness and funds (\$40,000 to date) for community causes through online musical concerts. Paddy has also volunteered at the Hindu temple and St. Luke's Hospital.

My Aspirations for Humanity

I come from a humble background, where every day my parents reminded me to be thankful for what we have. My aspirations for humanity are founded on the fact that we are part of a 'one world family' (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) and have an obligation to help each other, even if it is in a very small way. All my community engagements and my discussions with anyone (especially young ones) that I come across revolve around realizing one's full potential and our ability to help someone if we can. We as citizens of this world have many things to offer - a lending hand for those who are in need, our experiences, our point of view, and above all, we have the ability to show empathy and compassion to the less fortunate. We have the ability to listen to another person even if we can not offer any permanent solution. I strive to find a 'middle-ground' solution to any problem benefiting most of the stakeholders. I firmly believe that many problems in our world can be solved and could be a 'win-win' for all parties if we only take a broader perspective of our place in this world. I believe that parents have a very important role in teaching our children that the world belongs to all of us and we need to help each other. Music has been a part of my life from a very young age and I am always excited about projects that involve music and giving back to the community. I can't imagine my life without music. I wish everyone in this world gets to experience music and the therapeutic benefits music offers.