The Needham Community Council is a private, nonprofit organization that supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educational, or social needs and promotes volunteerism, community, and a sense of shared responsibility.

Rajesh's Journey

When Rajesh moved to Needham from the Midwest in 2014, one of his first stops was the Community Council. "I wanted to plug into the community and give something back," he recalls. Since then, the Council has become both a place of service and connection. From office support and database work to thrift store set-up, teaching seniors how to use iPads, and delivering food pantry groceries each Tuesday—Rajesh has done it all.

What does he enjoy most?

"Seeing the joy in some of these folks," he says. "There was one lady who, after I delivered her food, was so happy she gave me a bar of chocolate from Ukraine. And all of them are so grateful. That really fills my bucket."



Music is also central to Rajesh's life. An active member of the Indian Community of Needham (ICON), he performs with a band that has played at Music on the Lawn, with proceeds benefiting the Council. His love of music has also sparked moments of unexpected connection. One food pantry customer, a talented pianist, played for him after a delivery, and the two spent half an hour swapping stories about music.

Looking back, Rajesh reflects, "In a town often seen as affluent, the Council shows you a side of Needham you don't always notice. You don't always see people who are struggling. But through this work, you really get to know your neighbors."

Rajesh recently joined the Council's Board of Directors, continuing his commitment to supporting unmet needs and fostering connection.