



Empathy Week April 11 – April 17

Speaker Biography:

Raj Karmani is the founder and CEO of Zero Percent, an 1871-based public benefit corporation with the mission to make fresh, nutritious meals accessible to the underprivileged in the community. They provide an online food rescue platform, and partner with **restaurants and food service operators** (such as The Signature Room, Lou Malnati's, Whole Foods, Food for Thought, and Sodexo) to make sure that any excess food is donated to local nonprofits in an easy, reliable and safe way. Every donation is tracked using an Uber-style app and detailed data is available on a dashboard for analysis. More than 10,000 meals are donated every week from 100+ businesses to 70+ nonprofits in Chicago, and soon in other cities. 69% of the donated food is prepared or perishable.



Raj has a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During the last year of his PhD, he co-founded Zero Percent that combines his passion for technology, volunteerism, and entrepreneurship. In 2014, he received the CityLIGHTS Trailblazing Award from the Illinois Technology Association for Zero Percent's model.