

CCI's donation to Bhoomi's cause for little Aayush

We take pride in sharing the burden of raising funds with Bangla band Bhoomi, for the cancer treatment of little Aayush in Kolkata. We had planned to raise \$300 among our member families; we did better. We managed to raise \$450, with some anonymous donations.



Dr. Pradyot Sen handed over the sum of \$450 to Mr. Soumitra Ray and other members of the band at their hotel room on Friday, July 18, at Columbus. Needless to say, the band members were ecstatic. So were we.

This was our first fund-raising effort – and what better purpose than to fight for the meaning of the word “aayush”?

In a related effort, Mohinee and Rahuldev decided to raise funds during Bhoomi's performances at Banga Mela. They built two donation boxes and roped in their friends who attended the performance to raise funds with them.

Ahana, Mohinee, Pratiti and Rahuldev were called on stage by Bhoomi and were introduced to the audience on Friday evening. They went aisle-to-aisle during Bhoomi's performance and raised funds. One had to witness their spirit and enthusiasm – it was difficult to turn them away.



Rishav, Saheel, Soham, Shayok (from Columbus) joined them on Sunday during Bhoomi's closing performance to continue on the unfinished job.



By the time Bhoomi finished singing *Kaam Shaarsey* and with many of Cincinnati's attendees exhausted from dancing with them, we realized that the children have collected a little over a thousand dollars (\$1,064) during Bhoomi's two performances. An elated Soumitra Ray did not have enough hugs for all the children.

CCI's future leaders have demonstrated their compassion in an effort to save one of their own, some one they never met, one little Aayush.

Our prayers and good wishes are with Aayush and his family – may he get well soon enough to run, sing, paint, dance and play, like his friends in Cincinnati.