

MORE FROM HOMEPAGE

Court records: Man killed Mesquite officer, shot himself after disturbance over cheating allegations

How did 21 people die in Tarrant County Jail? Here's what we know

These are the North Texas officers who died from COVID

NEWS > INSPIRED

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced this Friday. An Irving resident is among the nominees

Raveen Arora went from being a refugee to supporting entrepreneurs and leading food and water drives in the U.S. and around the world.



Raveen Arora, of Irving, is nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. (Raveen Arora / Courtesy)

By [Sarah Bahari](#)

11:16 AM on Jul 28, 2021 — Updated at 11:32 AM on Oct 5, 2021



Listen to this article now

02:46



Powered by [Trinity Audio](#)

Update: Updated Oct. 5 to reflect the pending announcement.

Raveen Arora was born and raised in the slums of Calcutta, India.

As a refugee, he would walk three miles to a ration shop for staples like flour and milk, which his mother would dilute with water.

Later, he realized the ration shop “was not just dispensing food, they were dispensing poverty.”

His childhood in India would shape his eventual work as a philanthropist, entrepreneur, accountant and international humanitarian worker.

Arora — who moved from Arizona to Irving this year to be near his daughter and grandchildren — has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his global humanitarian work.

The Nobel Committee plans to announce the winner this Friday in Oslo, Norway.

“I am simply grateful that I could go from being a refugee to being a refuge for others,” he said. “I’m touched and humbled by this nomination.”

In Tempe, Ariz., Arora helped entrepreneurs get their start on the India Plaza, which he opened in 2003 in a blighted stretch of the city. He also led food and water drives, donated meals from the restaurant he owned and served with numerous nonprofits.

He has traveled to more than 90 countries, including his native India, to deliver food and other humanitarian aid.

As a child, he said he met Mother Teresa and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., both of whom inspired his work today.

“Lead with humility because what we do for ourselves dies with us, but what we do for others will outlive us,” he said. “That is what drives me every day.”

Service organizations from across the world worked together to nominate Arora for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in Arizona and across the world. He received nearly 70 endorsements from community and service organizations and elected leaders, including President Jimmy Carter.

Arora plans to continue his work in Irving and North Texas, where he will lead his nonprofit Think Human, which seeks to humanize communications in social settings, the workplace and relationships around the world. He also plans to get involved in the North Texas Food Bank and other local anti-poverty organizations.

According to the Nobel Committee, 329 candidates are nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, including voting rights activist Stacey Abrams, Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, climate campaigner Greta Thunberg and former White House adviser Jared Kushner.



Special Contributor. Sarah Bahari is a freelance writer covering Arlington, Irving and She previously worked as a features writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where a little of everything. Email her tips at sarahbahari@gmail.com.

