

Minnesotans inspired by schoolchildren

On November 19, a gathering in Minnetonka, Minnesota, was held to share information about Sehgal Foundation's Transform Lives *one school at a time* initiative, hear from special guests that included schoolchildren, and enjoy dinner and entertainment by kids from the India School for Language and Culture (SILC). Two inspiring speakers accompanied Jay Sehgal from Des Moines, Iowa, to share what motivated them to create their own nonprofits to help schoolchildren in rural India through Sehgal Foundation: seventeen-year-old Varun Myneni, whose article "Why I started a nonprofit to provide clean water for students in India" was just published in the *Des Moines Register*; and eleven-year-old Shreeya Yarlagadda, who is committed to empowering girls with life skills education and self-defense so they will have strong self-confidence and not be victims of "Eve teasing" or any form of molestation. The SILC children who provided the entertainment included costumed teenage girl dancers and a tabla group of eight young boys. They also demonstrated games that kids in India play (without toys), and some adults joined in. Attendees were in complete agreement that the evening was profoundly inspiring.



Minnesota boasts an impressive slate of Sehgal Foundation donors and partners such as Mosaic Fertilizer, the very first large company that began to partner with the foundation in its earliest years; and Dr. Deep Shikha, a professor at St. Katherine University, who has brought students to visit the foundation annually for more than fifteen

years. The India Association of Minnesota made Sehgal Foundation the beneficiary of proceeds from its annual golf tournament in 2017 and then matched the amount. A core team of supporters in the Twin Cities region have been invaluable in spreading the word about Sehgal Foundation work in partnership with communities and donors.

(Contributed by Marly Cornell, consultant, Sehgal Foundation, US)