



A walk to remember



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VALPARAISO | Vinod Nagubadi was passionate about helping children and animals.

Vinod's mother, Subbayamma "Sue" Nagubadi, is passionate about her son — so passionate that she founded the Vinod Nagubadi Corp. for Child Development after Vinod died at age 28 after taking a combination of prescription medications.

The organization celebrated Vinod's legacy Saturday with the second annual Each Life Is Precious Fun Run/Walk at Butterfield Pavilion in Valparaiso.

Proceeds from the event — which included a walk, silent auction, raffles, children's crafts, entertainment and guest speakers — will benefit local animal shelters and rescues and child development programs. In 2010, the organization donated \$5,000 to the Porter County Animal Shelter and Family and Youth Service Bureau in Valparaiso.

Sue Nagubadi said her son was a rising star who attended Valparaiso High School and graduated from the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and the Humanities and Indiana University. Vinod had applied for graduate programs in neurobiotechnology just before his death.

Although Vinod's death caused her what seemed like insurmountable grief, Sue Nagubadi founded the nonprofit organization "immediately" and today plans to increase its outreach.

"We want to double our programs," Nagubadi said. "We want to keep his name alive."

Nagubadi said she wants to address the "gap between the cultures" that Vinod and his sisters, Nitha and Hashi, often experienced in school.

"We are torn between a way of life we are accustomed to and a way of life our children expect growing up here," said Arjun Gupta, a Valparaiso physician and family friend. "The most successful family is a good melding of what is good in both cultures."

Nagubadi wants school counselors to help children with conflicting values so the "next generation can focus on just being children and enjoying life."

The event's speakers included Valparaiso physician Mann Spitler, on addiction and his daughter, Manda, who died from a heroin overdose in 2002; Michele Murphy Wise, of the

Porter County Visiting Nurse Association's Phoenix Center, on children's grief; and Bill Donohue, a veterinarian at Vale Park Animal Hospital, on pet care.

Sue Nagubadi cared for Vinod's beloved Siberian husky, Monty, until the dog's death in 2009.

"Vinod brought animals into our lives," said Nagubadi, who had her beagle, Victoria, at her feet.

Volunteers and family members at the event wore T-shirts adorned with photos of Vinod and Monty.

"She is so full of energy and commitment to doing good," Karen Kinsey, a friend and volunteer, said of Sue Nagubadi. "She wants to celebrate his life. I understand her grief, and this is her way of working through it."