This summer, Huntsman student, Gavin Salisbury, MIS, ’16, and recent Huntsman MBA alumnus, Riley Duke, ’15, traveled to India to work with the KVM Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides English language and professional skills education to university students and community members in Visakhapatnam, a small city on the mid-eastern coast of India.

Because the foundation only has the capacity to admit 10 percent of its applicants, Salisbury and Duke helped make plans to open a new for-profit business, The American Academy. This new venture will be staffed by college students from the U.S. and local professionals to provide English language training, interview preparation and accent training courses. Any profits from The American Academy will be directed to the KVM Foundation to provide similar education and opportunities to those unable to afford the Academy.

Although the majority of their time in India was spent conducting market research, creating a business plan, and finding seed funding, Salisbury and Duke also wanted to help in other ways.

A few days before their departure, the pair asked their friends, family, and classmates in the US for donations to help provide food, clothing and hygiene items for the Visakhapatnam community. Within 24 hours they had raised $800 and began working with a local humanitarian organization to distribute the donated items.

“We were shocked to see the difference a little bit of rice and household goods made to completely transform these families’ lives,” Salisbury said. “They were so grateful for things we take for granted. Seeing these families celebrate over basic necessities of life was a life-changing experience. We would like to thank all our friends and classmates who made this small project such a success.”