



New Beginnings for Two Girls

Prema and Shanti came to live with us in 2008. Both girls had had difficult childhoods up to that point – Prema was homeless and Shanti lived with her single, ailing mother in one room in the slum.

Shanti struggled in school for a long time, giving it her best but, eventually, becoming quite displeased with her performance. We then gave her the choice of joining a nursing certificate program at the hospital near our home, even though she was in the middle of 12th grade. Shanti agreed and started in September.

After just a couple of months, Shanti now works with patients, taking their vitals and giving them injections when directed by the doctor. In this video, she's helping a patient (who happens to be our cook)!

These days, Shanti can't stop smiling. She's happy and, most importantly, has found her self-confidence. After Shanti completes the program in 2 1/2 years, she should be able to easily get a job as a nurse in Mysore, given the big demand for nurses in the city – and everywhere.



Prema grew up homeless and struggled for a long time with health problems and being forced to beg. She hated begging but, even with all that she faced on the street, she was a considerate kid, looking out for her siblings and the other homeless kids who hung out with them.



Now, Prema is in college and is living in the dormitory with other girls from all over the country. Recently, Prema wrote about what she's gone through during her first few months at college. We'd like to share that with you.

"I lived at Karunya Mane for 11 years. From the last six months, I am studying for my B.A. degree at Teresian College, Mysuru. Now, from the outside, I have observed people, friends, and others' behaviour and their feelings, conduct, and everything. When I moved from KM to college, there were many changes in me. At first, when I saw the big college, I felt scared and uncomfortable.

When I joined the new college, for some days I didn't talk or interact with anyone there. Then, I felt like talking and was comfortable with everyone. In six months, there were many changes in me. I have many friends I share my feelings with. Also, my feelings changed.

Especially, I didn't know how to spend money. People who are older than me taught me how not to spend money unnecessarily but spend money when necessary. I got to know that I should spend money sensibly thereafter. I observed the girls in college, how they speak and learn from others' behaviour.

I didn't expect all of these changes to take place in my life. I understand how I should be in my life. I have a big dream. I believe that I will achieve that dream."
--Prema G.



Prema (left) and Mamatha at college 🥰

There Are More to Help!

Surely, without your help and the guidance of our teachers and staff, Shanti and Prema, and many of our other formerly destitute kids, would now be homeless, begging, or working menial jobs in the slum or on the streets.

Please consider a donation to close out 2019 and to support our continuing efforts in 2020.

Thank you and happy holidays to everyone! 🎄🎁

The Operation Shanti Team

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