



# **SUCCESS STORY – POOJA SHAH**

## **GSL 1062 VIRAR,**

### **WHAT I WAS, BECAME, WILL DO IN FUTURE**

**Every story begins with..... Some tragedy, difficulties, problems and sorrow that we have to go through in life!!! Even mine is one.**

I was a shy and timid eight year old girl when I was sponsored by Chalice program by Sr. Dianna. I still have a very vivid memory of walking down the convent stairs with my mom held by the tender hands that lead me to find hope and helped me to put together the scattered pieces of my life and make it a success story.

The chalice through my loving and caring sponsors: Kelly & Rory Herget supported me for the past 11 years, made me what I am today – a confident, enthusiastic, well defined personality - no more a shy and introvert person but rather a girl who can even make a dull atmosphere bright.

I was in 4th grade when I lost my father, the 2nd most important person in my life. So early in life I started experiencing the struggles of life and I understood

that money is as important as hard work. I realized that I was fortunate to have my mom to support me which some others did not have.

I was enrolled in Carmel Convent High School where I had nuns and a priest coming around. I learnt how to face the problems of life, how to be spiritual and thank God for everything that He has given me. I learnt that life is not all about living for oneself, but its true meaning lies in living for others. I was studious, hardworking and was eager to learn new things. Hence I started taking interest in extra-curricular activities such as dance, sports, acting, and talent hunt.. I participated in everything and won in a few events. I was satisfied that I could do all these things. I helped my mom in some household chores as well as earned a little amount by bringing water for the neighbourhoods on cycle.

I would always remain thankful to Good Shepherd Sisters and Chalice Family. If it were not for them, it wouldn't have been possible for me get a place in School/College or live as I do today. They supported me not only with education but also with health care, nutrition and personality development for 11 long years. The indebtedness I feel cannot be expressed in words. I continued to be disciplined and active throughout my college studies and won many laurels for our college. . Street play was one of those memorable events which I couldn't forget, the stage fear I had somehow vanished and I did manage to bag 1st prize in it too. The success was now coming on my way, the result of my hard work put in all these years – the name, fame and happiness.

Chalice supported me all these years and now it was my turn to pay back in my own small ways. So, I took tuitions for the chalice children, helped Sister with the accounts, maintained various books and became secretary for the Chalice program. I enjoyed this role a lot and in turn made me more active and be aware of happenings around the world.

Then I got a good job in a reputed Tours & Travel Agency, known as EQUINO FUN HOLIDAYS as Front Desk Executive & Administrative Head with a pay of Rs. 12,000/- . I voluntarily took retirement from Chalice program as I now have a good job, but continued studying. I am currently doing my Master's in Commerce (Accountancy) along with preparation of NET/SET examination by UGC Delhi. Other than the academic studies, I take up tuitions for college students. In the firm too, I have made success stories....brought about various positive changes, gained some good friends and hope to make many more. My future goals include completing my masters and doing PhD and opt for teaching in a reputed college and opening up coaching classes for the college students.

My dear sponsors Kelly Herget & Rory Herget family have played the role of the miraculous angels in my life!!! Without the help and support of my caring sponsor parents, Chalice, Good Shepherd Sisters and most importantly my mom....the story of my life journey would have been different.

If I get an opportunity to help a child, I shall definitely do it just as I received from Chalice. I hope and pray that all my benefactors be happy and live long and may God be always with them helping many others to write more success stories

