



Madhavi Wijesinghe

Australia is a multicultural society, where people that come from different backgrounds are able to live together harmoniously. I myself have been able to meet people that have grown up with customs, traditions and values which vary from mine. Through these encounters I have learned something that would help me look at the system differently; I learned that there is not one correct way to live life and instead lifestyles vary de-

pending on what people from each culture believe is morally correct. We cannot discriminate a person based on their routines and beliefs; we have to be more open to diversity. Through this I have become more accepting towards people that may have a different outlook on life than me.

Through looking into different cultures I have been able to learn about different religions, taste different foods, experience different festivals (the most recent being Oktoberfest which I visited in the city) and seen some of the most beautiful cultural clothing. Furthermore I have al-

ways been intrigued about the history behind different cultures and religions and different stories within these cultures (such as 'dreamtime' stories which are a part of the aboriginal culture). In addition to this through documentaries I have been able to learn about the varying standards and types of education in different cultures and the diversity of which how children are raised (this always intrigued me as I was able to compare how children were brought up in different religions to how I was raised in my home). We are lucky that we live in a multicultural society because we are able to experience the whole world in one country. There are many stores that sell goods that come from different countries that we may not have been able to get hold of without the diversity. An example may be food items that we purchase from international stores which have become a part of our everyday lives and we use frequently in our cooking.

I was born in Sri-Lanka and moved to Australia at the age of six. When I first moved here I felt that everyone living here was very friendly and welcoming and in no time I was able to adapt to life here in Australia. When I first moved to Australia one thing I noticed was there were so many people from different backgrounds and I was able to experience new things (such as food from different countries) that I had not previously had access to. I am able to be a part of a larger multicultural community where I can learn about others and where I am also accepted as a person no matter what beliefs I have.

I feel like through all this exposure to different cultures I am becoming more aware of the diverse world we are living in, and I am also able to become more appreciative and ac-

cepting of these different cultures. In the future I want to travel more to be able to see different countries, experience different lifestyles and broaden my knowledge; I believe that I still have a lot to learn from other cultures. I want to end with a quote by Paulo Coelho which is "culture makes people understand each other better. And if they understand each other better in their soul, it is easier to overcome the economic and political barriers. But first they have to understand that their neighbour is, in the end, just like them, with the same problems, the same questions." I believe that for the world to grow together we must be understanding and open to all other religions and live alongside each other harmoniously.

Little Tanuri's Story

Big Dreams & Unknown Future

An opportunity to save a little life

When she was just 3 months old she was diagnosed with "Thalassemia major", a potentially life-threatening illness. Thalassemia major causes large numbers of red blood cells to be destroyed, leading to liver and heart problems. Due to her condition, each month Tanuri must undergo a complete blood transfusion. In addition, every night she must endure a painful injection in her stomach as part of her treatment. These measures only stave off advancement of the disease and offer no long term solution.

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Her father has dedicated his life to protecting Sri Lanka by serving in the Sri Lankan Special Task Force. From 1995 until 2013 (17 ½) he courageously risked his life fighting against the separatist terrorists to pro-

tect innocent civilians and the country he loves. He is now retired and unfortunately he is still fighting, only now it is to keep his daughter alive. Sadly, he is running out of resources to continue the fight and the situation is looking bleaker by the day.

Tanuri is an intelligent girl and realizes the direction her future could go if the condition goes untreated. When asked where she plans to attend middle school she replied, "I don't know because I don't know what will happen to me." Tanuri is courageous and despite her difficult situation continues to smile and remain positive.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Tanuri has a two year old sister that is perfect match for a bone marrow transplant. With your support, she can afford the life saving operation and live out her dream of becoming a doctor. Why does she want to be a doctor? Tanuri is aware of her condition and she wants to improve the lives of those living with Thalassemia.

Won't you help this bright young girl live out



her dream? Or let her disappear with her dreams? Your small donation can save a life and it will make a big difference.

Any donations made are greatly appreciated by Tanuri and her family.

"Fund raising night yet to be scheduled to be held in Melbourne in April 2016"

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Sampath Bank - Anuradhapura Super Branch
Account Number: 1021 5496 7095

Commercial Bank - Anuradhapura Branch
Account Number: 8530044568

DFCC Bank- Anuradhapura Branch
Account Number: 009107049603