

# Finding Hope *in a* Community *of* Care

**S**onia Kachtap came to the Nav Jyothi Girls' Haven (NJGH) in Bihar when she was 9. Her father struggles with alcohol abuse and is unemployed. Her mother works hard to provide for the family but was financially stretched to care for Sonia and her two brothers. For Sonia, going to NJGH not only relieved her family of a financial burden, it also gave her the opportunity for a life-changing experience.

NJGH is one of the New India Evangelistic Association's (NIEA) 16 homes for children and youth without adequate parental care, located across India. Some children in these homes are orphans. Other have been abandoned and left destitute. Still others, like Sonia, come from families with other problems that prevent them from being able to provide well for their children. These homes provide a place where they can live well and receive a good education.

Children's home parents play a critical part in creating a welcoming environment. Living in community with other children helps each child learn to play, study and fellowship with others over meals. Both the community of children and children's home parents develop a special bond with one another that helps each child become more of who God intended them to be.

Sonia came alive through her experience with the NJGH community. She grew in character, exhibiting disciplined behavior and the ability to give and receive love. She excelled in her academics and in sports (especially badminton). She became an avid reader. Now 15, Sonia hopes to one day serve God as a police officer.

Her spiritual life also changed. She became a follower of Jesus and now regularly takes time in the mornings and evenings to pray. She is eager to learn more about God and continues to develop her relationship with Jesus.

With the help and support of the staff and students at NIEA children's homes like NJGH, more than 620 children across India are finding hope for their future's and are being equipped to pursue God's purposes for their lives.

